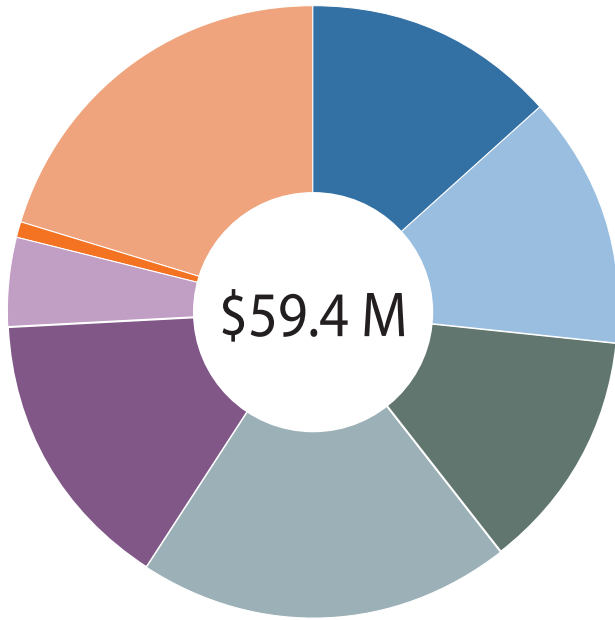




2019-21 Biennium Capital Budget Request



Budget Package Summaries

NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENTS - \$8,000,000

What it does: Provides funding for all 45 CDs to offer local cost share programs as an incentive for landowners to install best management practices (BMPs). BMPs advance progress toward natural resource objectives, such as fish passage and soil health, and are farm-friendly.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- Hundreds of landowners who have requested financial assistance with installing conservation BMPs will continue to be waitlisted or turned away.
- Natural resource concerns on private lands will go unaddressed due to inadequate project funding.

SHELLFISH FUNDING - \$8,000,000

What it does: Uses a targeted approach to invest in BMPs installed by CDs and landowners that build cumulative results for shellfish recovery. Priority is given to “project clusters” located within a watershed or stream reach where there’s a water quality concern.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- Washington will experience a huge set back in achieving the goal to restore and re-open shellfish harvest areas.
- Pollutants flowing into shellfish growing areas will go unaddressed, threatening both our shellfish industry — which generates an estimated 2,700 jobs — and our obligation to provide shellfish for tribal harvest.

CONSERVATION RESERVE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP) RIPARIAN FUNDING - \$7,500,000

What it does: Provides the state match required to continue this USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) program that advances salmon recovery in Washington. Funding also supports outreach, development of plans, and project management that’s required to enroll landowners in CREP and see each project through to completion.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- State partnership with the FSA will dissolve, resulting in the end of this program and putting the results achieved through CREP over nearly 20 years in jeopardy.
- Millions of federal dollars invested in our state through CREP each year for salmon recovery will be lost.

MATCH FOR REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM (RCPP) - \$11,800,000

What it does: Provides state match required in order to receive over \$30 million federal dollars for seven RCPP projects in Washington. Projects will generate hundreds of jobs and tackle priority natural resource issues in targeted geographic areas.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- State potentially will lose millions in federal and dedicated partner funding, hundreds of associated jobs, and the opportunity to make significant progress on critical natural resource and land use issues (e.g. salmon recovery, forest health, farmland preservation).

IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES - \$8,906,000

What it does: Provides grant funding to assist water right holders with increasing the efficiency of their on-farm irrigation systems. Saved water is returned to drought-prone streams that are home to ESA-listed fish species, without risk of relinquishing water rights.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- Washington's farming community will lose access to this successful and long-standing resource for improving irrigation efficiency.
- Opportunities to restore stream flow and reduce sedimentation in salmon-bearing streams will be lost.

ENGINEERING PROJECT DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION - \$2,700,000

What it does: Increases CD professional engineering capacity, resulting in an increase in constructed conservation projects per year. This includes projects such as manure storage structures, fish passage projects, and irrigation pipelines.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- The backlog of projects waiting to be designed and overseen by a licensed engineer will continue to grow, frustrating the landowners who have requested this work.
- By not allowing CDs to accelerate the pace of engineering projects, Washington will lose this opportunity to spur progress toward state natural resource objectives.

CREP PIP LOAN - \$499,000

What it does: Provides bridge financing to cover landowners' upfront costs for salmon restoration projects that are pending payment from federal agencies.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- Participation in CREP will be jeopardized, putting the entire program at risk.
- Any remaining participation in the program will be based on the ability of the landowner to carry upfront project costs, rather than the priority of the habitat to be protected.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION - \$12,031,000

What it does: Takes a geographic-based approach to preserving farmland through a variety of techniques, including acquisition of farmland easements. Blocks of farmland will be protected with multiple owners in order to maintain a critical mass of working farms within a project area.

If unfunded, what are the impacts?

- Washington will miss an opportunity to accelerate progress toward the state goal of preserving working farms.
- Efforts to preserve farmland will use a less efficient and less effective approach, with limited opportunity to demonstrate ways to improve the process.

CONTACT

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