

From: Brown, Wendy (RCO) <wendy.brown@rco.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 8:29 AM
To: RCO DL Everyone <RCODLEveryone@rco.wa.gov>
Subject: 2020 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Good Morning, RCO.

The 2020 Legislative Session ended yesterday on the 60th and final day of session.

For RCO, the final budget includes funding for a new position in GSRO (not two), several new individual projects, work on carbon sequestration, and three separate policy projects with deliverables due by the end of the year. The policy projects include creating a tool to measure the performance outcomes and stewardship needs on WWRP acquisition projects; developing a bold vision and twenty-year legislative strategy to invest in, promote, and support state outdoor recreation in Washington State; and creating a new community forest grant program and project list. These are all exciting projects that I look forward to being a part of, but it does mean that the existing policy work plan for the agency will be changing.

The final budget includes an appropriation of \$50 million into the newly-created Climate Resiliency Account. Associated with that account is direction to RCO and other natural resource agencies to work with OFM to 'prioritize actions and investments that mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the resiliency of communities and the natural environment.' OFM will submit a list of climate resiliency projects by November 1, 2020, to be considered for funding from the climate resiliency account. The budget also includes funding to WDFW to contract with the Washington Academy of Sciences to evaluate how to incorporate a net ecological gain standard into state land use, development, and environmental laws and rules. More on the WDFW budget is below.

The big deal this session for legislators was around the transportation budget and how to adjust for tax cuts from Initiative 976. Although the initiative hasn't yet taken effect because of a legal challenge, legislators had the mindset that they needed to budget assuming it would eventually take effect. In the end, the final budget of \$10.4 billion relies largely on money in existing budgets not yet spent, thus avoiding large cuts to road projects and transit.

We had one board member confirmed this session – Shiloh Burgess, RCFB. We will begin again next session to get our other five board members needing confirmation through the process.

Here is a summary of the final 2020 supplemental budget provisos and bills that passed that relate to RCO.

BUDGET:

RCO BUDGET PROVISOS	Governor	House	Senate	Final
Operating:				
Orca Recovery Implementation FTE	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000	\$140,000
Riparian Coordinator FTE	\$140,000	\$140,000	-	\$0

HB 2311 Implementation	-	\$68,000	-	\$68,000
Hood Canal Bridge Project	-	-	\$275,000	\$275,000
WWRP Stewardship Project	-	-	\$300,000	\$300,000
Outdoor Recreation Advisory Group	-	\$75,000	-	\$75,000
Capital:				
YAF Proviso	Approval from Gov and Leg	Leap lists with Alternates	Approval from Gov and Leg	Leap lists with Alternates
RRG Trails Projects	\$0	\$1,450,000	\$0	\$1,450,000
Community Forest Proviso	No	Yes, \$50,000	No	Yes, \$50,000

Orca Recovery Implementation Position:

Ongoing funding (\$300,000) is provided for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office to coordinate ongoing work to recover Southern Resident orcas and monitor progress toward implementation of recommendations from the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force final report. We did not receive funding for the Riparian Coordinator position.

HB 2311 Implementation:

Funding is provided in FY2021 and FY2022 to incorporate carbon sequestration into agency operations, contracting, and grant-making, as described in Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 2311 (Greenhouse gas emissions).

Hood Canal Bridge Solutions Design

\$275,000 in one-time funding is provided for a grant to Long Live the Kings to further the assessment work and design of solutions to mitigate steelhead mortality at the Hood Canal Bridge.

WWRP Stewardship:

\$300,000 is provided to work with State Parks, DNR, and WDFW to develop a standardized method to measure and report stewardship needs and performance outcomes on lands purchased by the agencies with grants from the WWRP.

Outdoor Recreation Advisory Group:

RCO is provided \$75,000 to work in collaboration with DNR, State Parks, and WDFW, to convene and facilitate an advisory group that includes recreational industry, and non-profit, motorized, non-motorized and other outdoor recreation groups to do the following and submit a report to the Legislature by November 30, 2020:

- Engage affected state agencies, partners and stakeholders in the development of a bold vision and twenty-year legislative strategy to invest in, promote, and support state outdoor recreation in Washington State.
- Review the investment strategies and approaches taken by other states, including but not limited to Colorado and Oregon, to invest, promote and support outdoor recreation.
- Identify strategies, investment priorities, and funding mechanisms that might be useful to implement in Washington.
- Solicit feedback on potential recommendations from the general public and interested outdoor recreation stakeholders.
- Incorporate the review and recommendations into a strategy for the future investments in outdoor recreation.

No Child Left Inside and Invasive Species and Columbia River Endorsement at WDFW:

- \$500,000 to State Parks for the No Child Left Inside grant program
- \$375,000 for enhanced northern pike control in Lake Roosevelt
- \$400,000 for invasive species inspection stations
- \$659,000 for the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement Program (ongoing)
- \$783,000 for invasive green crab control

Youth Athletic Facilities Program:

The final compromise budget follows the House version where LEAP lists for the YAF large and small grant programs, which include the alternate projects, are included. These are the same lists that were approved by the board in 2018. This was our preferred approach.

Recreation and Conservation Office Recreation Grants:

The House capital budget includes four new trail projects to be funded with re-appropriations in the RRG grant appropriation from 2015. These projects include:

- \$302,000 for the state route number 547 pedestrian and bicycle safety trail near Kendall
- \$448,000 for the Stanwood Port Susan trail project
- \$300,000 for the Ebey Waterfront trail near Marysville
- \$400,000 for trail lighting on the cross Kirkland Corridor at the I-405 underpass in Totem Lake

Community Forest Proviso:

The House capital budget contains direction to RCO to develop funding criteria and a ranked project list to establish community forest projects for funding consideration in 2021-23. We are directed to submit the criteria and ranked list to the Legislature by December 31, 2020. \$50,000 in funding is provided.

Miscellaneous:

Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board Provisos – Capital and Transportation Budgets:

Direction is provided to WDFW and the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to develop a comprehensive statewide culvert remediation plan that works in conjunction with the state approach and that fully satisfies the requirements of the *United States v. Washington* permanent injunction and makes both local and state funding recommendations for additional nonstate barrier corrections across state culvert correction programs that maximize the fisheries habitat gain and other benefits to prey available for southern resident killer whale and salmon recovery. In the transportation budget, there is direction to WSDOT to work with the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board and provide updates on the development of the statewide culvert remediation plan to the Legislature by November 1, 2020, and March 15, 2021. The first update must include a project timeline and plan to ensure that all state agencies with culvert correction programs are involved in the creation of the comprehensive plan.

The **Lakebay Marina Acquisition and Preservation Project** was funded at \$100,000 on the Local and Community Projects list (Commerce).

WDFW Budget

Going into session, WDFW was seeking \$26 million of state general funds and \$21.3M in new capital funds for five projects. The final budgets provide them with \$27 million in state general operating funds, which will fund their core services through June of 2021 and allocates significant resources for new work. The capital budget provides \$4.6 million, including funding for the Soos Creek Hatchery, the Pier 86 marine terminal, and the Wiley Slough dike raising. This is a great outcome for the agency and a result of a lot of hard work.

BILLS THAT PASSED:

Bill Number	Description
HB 1154	Concerning the financing of Chehalis Basin flood damage reduction and habitat restoration projects. Chehalis Basin to develop a project list and submit a report containing a strategic plan with an implementation plan, a Chehalis Basin Taxable Account, and sets the expectation that future funding requests will be consistent with an implementation plan.
HB 1187	Revising hydraulic project eligibility standards under RCW 77.55.181 for conservation districts-sponsors. Bill from last session that streamlines the HPA process for conservation districts conducting fish habitat work.
HB 1261	Ensuring compliance with the federal clean water act by prohibiting certain discharges into waters of the state. Prohibits discharges of pollutants into waters designated as critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, or bull trout.
HB 1783	Creating the Washington state office of equity. Creates the office of equity, establishes a task force to study equity issues, and requires state agencies to implement equity assessment tools as appropriate.
HB 1888	Protecting employee information from public disclosure. Exempts birth dates of state and local government employees from the state's public records law, but allows the media to continue to have access to them.
HB 2311	Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change. Requires state agencies to be required to seek all practicable opportunities, consistent with existing legal mandates and requirements, to effectively maximize carbon sequestration in our operations, contracting, and grant-making activities.
HB 2587	Establishing a program for the designation of state scenic bikeways. Directs the State Parks and Recreation Commission to establish a bikeways program for the designation and promotion of bicycle routes of notable scenic, recreational, or historical value.

HB 2739	Adjusting certain requirements of the shared leave program. This bill allows an employee to maintain reserve and still be eligible for shared leave, use shared leave if isolated or quarantined from COVID-19 on a nonconsecutive basis, etc.
HB 2965	Concerning the state's response to the novel coronavirus. Appropriates \$200 million from the Budget Response Account for the purpose of providing funding to state and local agencies for response to COVID-19.
SB 5323	Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail stores. Starting January 1, 2021, retailers are prohibited from providing single-use plastic bags or paper or reusable plastic bags that do not meet minimum requirements. Until Dec 31, 2025, certain taxes will be charged on reusable plastic or carryout paper bags.
SB 5811	Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clear car program. The restriction on the clean car emission vehicle program regulations is removed. Requirements regarding the advisory group, review and approval of regulations for final adoption are removed. The types of vehicles required to meet California standards is expanded to include light-duty trucks.
SB 6028	Adopting the uniform electronic transactions act and aligning statutory provisions relating to signatures. The Uniform Electronic Transactions Act (UETA). Does not require records or signatures be generated or stored in electronic form. Electronic records and signatures be given the same legal status as ink signatures and paper records.
SB 6208	Increasing mobility through the modification of stop sign requirements for bicyclists. Allows bicyclists to stop at a yield sign, except for stop signs located at highway grade crossings of railroads and stop signs used by school buses.
SB 6383	Concerning the retirement strategy funds in the plan 3 and the deferred compensation programs. Permits the state to invest compensation and PERS 3 plans to gain broader investment exposure to a diversified asset mix by including a commingled pension fund in the asset mix.
SB 6670	Encouraging access to state parks through cooperative programs with libraries. Allows State Parks to loan backpacks to libraries that will be part of a check-out program.
SGA 9384	Shiloh Burgess - Confirmed

Signing off until next session . . . But, as always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Wendy

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From: Rowe, Owen (PARKS) <Owen.Rowe@PARKS.WA.GOV>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 4:46 PM
To: Rowe, Owen (PARKS) <Owen.Rowe@PARKS.WA.GOV>
Subject: State Parks' 2020 Legislative Update

Dear State Parks' stakeholders:

During this challenging time while we all are dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak, state parks are open and are a good place for people to get outdoors and get some peace of mind. We are taking additional precautionary measures to keep our staff and visitors safe and we plan on continuing to operate camping and day-use areas at the parks.

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and following the Governor's social distancing recommendations for state agencies and public events the Commission cancelled their March meeting and the April grand re-opening of the Goldendale Observatory. Postponed Commission agenda items and other events will be rescheduled later in the year.

On a happier note, the legislature adjourned Sine Die last night bringing the 60-day supplemental session to a close. I'm pleased to report that the 2020 session was a very good one for State Parks both on the budget and policy fronts.

Operating budget highlights:

Maintenance and operations staff- \$3.4 million per year: The Commission's top budget priority this session, this funding will help support additional staff to operate and maintain park properties and facilities in the face of growing numbers of visitors.

No Child Left Inside- \$500K: Additional grant support for programs and organizations that get underserved youth outdoors and active on public lands. Total funding for the biennium is increased to \$2 million and demand for the program is at an all-time high.

One-time Litter Tax funding replaced with ongoing general fund support. This move to redirect the remaining \$2.5 million of Litter Tax funding in our budget to address the state's solid waste challenges was welcomed by State Parks. For nearly a decade the Commission has struggled with securing this one-time funding to support basic service levels.

Budget provisos:

The Recreation and Conservation was provided funding to support two important efforts involving state recreation agencies.

Long term-funding for outdoor recreation-

Funding was provided to convene and facilitate an advisory group that includes state agencies involved in recreation and other outdoor recreation groups in the development of a bold vision and twenty-year legislative strategy to invest in, promote, and support state outdoor recreation in Washington State. A report to the Legislature is due by November 30, 2020.

Standardized method to report stewardship needs on public lands-

Funding was provided for the Recreation and Conservation Office, State Parks, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Natural Resources to work with a facilitator to develop a standardized method to measure and report stewardship needs and performance outcomes from lands purchased with Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program grants.

Capital budget:

Nisqually State Park- maintenance building (\$832K)- This building will provide a base of operations for park staff and a safe place to store equipment as we continue to work with the Nisqually Indian Tribe on the development of the next state park. The presence of staff to protect natural and cultural resources at the park is a critical component of furthering the partnership between the agency and the Tribe on this project.

Selected policy bills that passed the legislature:

HB 2601- Concerning the authority of the Parks and Recreation Commission to approve leases

By request of the State Parks and Recreation Commission. The bill eliminates a unanimous voting requirement for the Governor appointed 7-member Commission to approve long-term leases on state park properties and replaces it with a super-majority of at least 5 affirmative votes. The legislation also increases the upper limit on duration of leases the Commission can approve from 50 to 80 years. Long-term leases are an important tool the Commission uses to improve park properties like the Public Development Authority at Fort Worden Historical State Park, the ski area at Mount Spokane State Park, and the Lodge at St. Edward State Park.

HB 2587- Establishing a program for the designation of state scenic bikeways

This bill came as a bit of a surprise to State Parks this session. The state scenic bikeways program is modeled after a successful program in Oregon. The bill directs the State Parks Commission to work with the State Department of Transportation and trail proponents to designate and promote scenic bikeways of notable scenic, recreational, cultural, and historic value. Since the program was created in Oregon over 10 years ago, 17 scenic bikeways of varying length and difficulty have been approved by the Oregon Parks Commission. The program will increase bicycle tourism and related spending in rural communities across the state.

Here is a link to Oregon's website for more details on the program:

https://oregonstateparks.org/index.cfm?do=thingstodo.dsp_scenicBikeways

SHB 6670- Encouraging access to state parks through cooperative programs with libraries

The bill directs the Commission to provide two Discover Passes to libraries that provide the pass on a loan basis to their patrons. The legislation memorializes in statute last year's successful pilot program funded by the State Parks Foundation and supported by the Discover Pass agencies and the State Library. The state budget provides enough funding to provide two passes to every library in the state; there are 350 libraries statewide. Library Discover Passes are valid not only at State Parks but also Department of Fish and Wildlife's and Department of Natural Resources' recreational lands.

SHB 1293- Concerning the distribution of monetary penalties to local courts and state agencies for the failure to comply with Discover Pass requirements

This bill passed this year after being introduced over the last several sessions and allows county district courts to retain 25 percent of the penalty money received from Discover Pass and Day-Use Permits. The bill recognizes that District Courts are partners in Discover Pass Program compliance and provides monetary support to county court systems for processing parking infractions on state recreational lands.

Take care of yourselves, friends, and family members and consider visiting your state parks as a way to get out of the house and reduce stress.

Thank you for your interest and support of our remarkable state park system. Hang in there everyone.

Owen



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From: Falkenburg, Nelson (DFW) <Nelson.Falkenburg@dfw.wa.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 13, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Doug Levy <Doug@Outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com>; Jahshan, Amanda (DNR) <Amanda.Jahshan@dnr.wa.gov>; Rowe, Owen (PARKS) <Owen.Rowe@PARKS.WA.GOV>
Subject: RE: 2020 Legislative Session Wrap-Up

Hi Doug,

Thanks for reaching out. Below is WDFW's Session Wrap-up. It's a little lengthy, but there's a lot to share regarding overall budget successes and a long list of provisos.

Thanks!

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Good morning WDFW:

The 2020 legislative session is concluding this afternoon, and I'm pleased with the results.

The State legislative sessions in even-numbered calendar years are 60-day "sprints," and this one certainly lived up to that reputation.

As you know, WDFW entered this session with a lot on the line. Our operating budget faced a major structural deficit from the result of legislatively-approved cost increases that were not backed by revenue over multiple past biennia. Our proposed recreational license fee bill did not pass in 2019, further exacerbating our inability to fund basic services on an ongoing basis. Instead, in 2019 the legislature appropriated \$24M of one-time State General Fund to maintain services for 2019-21, but unfortunately that amount didn't cover the gap (\$31M) for the entire biennium. Further, the legislature approved new costs in 2019 that also weren't backed by revenue, which deepened the hole even more.

Therefore, last fall we submitted a request for \$26M of State General Fund—money that comes from general taxpayers across the state. Most of it was requested as an ongoing appropriation, so that we wouldn't have to request funding to back-fill the same activities again in the 2021-23 biennium and beyond. While \$6.8M of our request was for new, emergent needs; most of our

request was to maintain core and essential services. We did not request a recreational fee bill in 2020 to generate additional revenue.

In addition, we requested \$21.3M in new capital funds for five projects.

I'll provide more detail below, but the **primary take-away** is that the legislature has provided WDFW with \$27M in State General Fund in this supplemental operating budget, which will fund the Department's core services through June of 2021 and allocates significant resources for new work. The ongoing dollars are close to fully funding today's needs in outyears. It is a huge improvement, especially in a supplemental year.

In the supplemental capital budget, we received \$4.6M, including funding for the Soos Creek Hatchery, the Pier 86 marine terminal, and the Wiley Slough dike raising (see below for more information).

While resolving the immediate budget gap was our primary objective for the 2020 legislative session, both of our agency-request bills passed. First, [HB 2571](#) is our enforcement civil authority bill which provides officers the option to cite low-level fish and wildlife violations as an infraction, versus referring a misdemeanor case to a prosecutor. Second, [SB 6072](#) separates the state wildlife account into a flexible account and a restricted account on July 1, 2021 which will help with the visibility of structural budget challenges in the future.

The Department enjoyed unprecedented partner support during this past legislative session. Over 60 different organizations signed letters supporting the Department's budget. Many wrote op-eds or came to Olympia and testified about our work and how it affects their quality of life. I am so appreciative of these leaders for taking the time to advocate for the value of WDFW and recognizing the services we provide to conserve fish and wildlife and sustain a robust outdoor economy.

I also want to extend a huge thank you to our Executive Management Team and our Budget and Government Affairs Team for all their work during this past session in supporting and advocating for the Department.

Below you'll find additional detail about the supplemental budget and legislative highlights.

I hope you can join us on **March 16 at 4 p.m. for our staff webinar** about the highlights of the 2020 legislative session and I can field questions at that time. Additional information regarding how to log-in to the webinar will be sent under a separate email.

I want to close by thanking all of you. You've been through a lot over the past several years, with an uncertain budget and working through some lean times. Despite those uncertainties, you continued onward; making us one of the premier fish and wildlife agencies in the country.

Sincerely,

Kelly

Supplemental Operating Budget—Funding Core/Existing Work

The legislature funded our at-risk activities and the cost increases adopted in 2019 (that were not backed by revenue) on an ongoing basis. As you know, the Columbia River Salmon and Steelhead Endorsement expired on July 1, 2019. The legislature back-filled this important revenue source on an ongoing basis with State General Fund.

Put another way, we will not need to have a reduction in force for the core work that had been previously identified as being at risk this biennium. We won't have to cut conservation activities, hatcheries or fish management capacity, work to support hunting, our wildlife conflict response efforts, land management activities, sanitary shellfish patrols, or customer service. This is a huge relief for all of us.

The legislature also funded many of our maintenance level costs such as: post-fire habitat recovery on our wildlife areas for \$517K and the Enforcement Program Records Management System at \$2M, among others.

Supplemental Operating Budget—New Work

Ongoing Appropriations

The legislature appropriated \$861K per year for Puget Sound salmon monitoring. This funding also requires us to conduct a predator study in the Lake Washington Canal and improve processing of catch record cards.

The legislature appropriated \$225K per year to the Department's Enforcement Program to increase vessel patrols in Central and Southern Puget Sound to protect Southern Resident Killer Whales. Further, they provided us \$172K from the crab pot buoy account for SFY21 (and \$172K per year ongoing as State General Fund) to work with the crab fishing industry and the Washington Whale Working Group to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and minimize the risk of whale entanglements.

The Department was appropriated \$400K per year, beginning in SFY2021, to operate invasive species inspection stations and to conduct outreach to boaters on the use of the stations. *Thank you, Puddles!*

The legislature appropriated \$252K in SFY2021, with most of it ongoing, to fund new bargaining rules for Enforcement officers and sergeants under [E2SSB 5481](#).

Finally, we received an ongoing appropriation for \$112K per year to incorporate carbon sequestration into agency operations, contracting, and grant-making, per [ESSHB 2311](#).

One-Time Appropriations

There are a number of new initiatives funded on a one-time basis, including:

- \$800K in SFY21 to create the HPA permittee assistance program to provide technical assistance to landowners during construction to reduce harm to aquatic life.
- \$573K in SFY21 for a reverse auction of Columbia River salmon gill net licenses.
- \$139K in SFY20 and \$139K in SFY21 to serve as federal grant match to buy an orca patrol vessel.
- \$90K in SFY20 and \$166K in SFY21 to partner with the Washington Academy of Sciences to assess how to incorporate a net ecological gain standard into state land use and environmental laws.
- \$500K in SFY21 to develop an infrastructure master plan to increase hatchery production to benefit Southern Resident Killer Whales, including preference for a new hatchery on the Cowlitz River.
- \$142K in SFY21 to address fish passage barriers (see capital proviso described below).
- \$462K in SFY21 to implement lethal removal of sea lions in the Columbia River under an expanded permit. The funding is only available once the permit is issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- \$95K in SFY21 as pass-through funding to the Woodland Park Zoo to investigate shell disease in western pond turtles.
- \$300K in SFY21 is provided for elk fencing and other conflict management tools in the Skagit Valley.
- \$783K in SFY21 is provided for controlling invasive European green crab.
- \$357K in SFY21 to eradicate northern pike in the Upper Columbia and to partner in those efforts with tribes in northeast Washington.

The legislature adopted an unfunded proviso for the Department to convene an independent nine-member science review council working with the Washington Academy of Sciences to advise co-managers on critical anadromous fish management decisions.

Overall, I view this impressive list of new, funded assignments as a testament to the legislature's confidence in WDFW—they are looking to us to solve problems and are providing the resources to be successful.

Supplemental Capital Budget

The legislature provided an additional capital appropriation of \$2.9M for us to complete the Soos Creek hatchery restoration project in King County. They also funded the design and permitting phases to raise dikes along Wiley Slough in Skagit County in the amount of \$972K. Our other requests for the Hurd Creek and Beaver Creek hatchery projects were not funded. We also requested \$1M to plan for salmon hatchery infrastructure to benefit Southern Resident Killer Whales; we did not receive any capital funding for this project but were appropriated \$500K in the supplemental operating budget.

The Department received an additional \$750K through Department of Commerce's "Local and Community Projects" to conduct the Elliott Bay Dock and Marine Terminal (Pier 86) renovation project.

Finally, there is direction provided to the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to develop a comprehensive statewide culvert remediation plan that is consistent with the *US v Washington* permanent injunction to identify and make recommendations for nonstate barrier corrections to maximize habitat gain and benefits for Southern Resident Killer Whales and salmon recovery.

Sister Agency Provisos that Affect WDFW Work

Department of Agriculture

The legislature appropriated \$320K to the Department of Agriculture to increase range rider capacity in the Northeast Washington Wolf Cattle Collaborative. They also appropriated \$40K for Ferry and Stevens County for cooperative wolf conflict management.

Office of Financial Management

OFM was provided direction to consult with natural resource management agencies, including WDFW, to prioritize actions and investments that mitigate the effects of climate change and strengthen the resiliency of communities and the natural environment.

OFM was also provided direction to request State General Fund appropriations to implement collective bargaining agreements for WDFW in the 2021-23 biennium.

Recreation and Conservation Office

RCO was appropriated \$275K to provide a grant to a nonprofit to assess steelhead mortality at the Hood Canal Bridge and design solutions to mitigate for impacts.

RCO was appropriated \$300K to work with WDFW and other state land management agencies to develop a standardized method to measure and report land stewardship needs and costs on parcels purchased with state capital funding through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. An important aspect of this method is to assess both the current and desired ecological condition of those parcels.

RCO was appropriated \$75K to lead a workgroup comprised of DNR, Parks, WDFW, and broad stakeholders, to develop a vision and legislative strategy to invest in, promote, and support outdoor recreation. The report is due to the legislature on November 30, 2020.

RCO was appropriated \$140K ongoing to coordinate work to recover Southern Resident orcas and monitor progress toward implementation of recommendations from the Governor's Southern Resident Killer Whale Task Force final report.

Department of Transportation

The DOT received an additional \$155M to fix fish passage barriers with the intent to fully comply with the injunction under *US v Washington* by 2030. They are also tasked with working with the Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board to develop a comprehensive culvert remediation plan by November 1, 2020.

Legislative Bills

The Legislative Affairs team tracked 464 bills in the 2020 session. Yes, you read that number correctly—464 bills in a 60-day session. Whew! As mentioned above, both agency request bills passed. A few other bills of interest to the Department that passed include:

[SB 5481](#)

Establishing a coalition of commissioned officers, detectives, and sergeants of the Department of Fish and Wildlife for the purposes of collective bargaining, including interest arbitration: Prime sponsor Senator Warnick

This bill provides fish and wildlife officers below the rank of lieutenant with interest arbitration. It also removes these fish and wildlife officers from coalition bargaining and requires a comparison with like personnel of like employers for purposes of bargaining.

[HB 2250](#)

Concerning coastal crab derelict gear recovery: Prime sponsor Representative Blake

HB 2250 authorizes the Department to allow the recovery of coastal crab derelict gear mid-season, as early as May 1st, rather than waiting until after crab season after September 15th. This complements the gear removal policy that was recently adopted by the Fish & Wildlife Commission.

[HB 1261](#)

Ensuring compliance with the federal clean water act by prohibiting certain discharges into waters of the state: Prime sponsor Representative Peterson

This bill prohibits motorized or gravity siphon aquatic mining, or discharge of effluent from such an activity, within certain waters of the state designated under the Endangered Species Act as critical habitat for salmon, steelhead, or bull trout. Engaging in this activity under these circumstances would be a violation of the Clean Water Act.

[SSB 6613](#)

Concerning the inspection of marine aquatic farming locations: Prime sponsor Senator Rolfes
Allows WDFW to recover actual costs of inspection and testing on marine aquatic farms from the permittee.