



ALEA

AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT - VOLUNTEER COOPERATIVE GRANT PROGRAM



FISH AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION BRIEFING
DECEMBER 12, OLYMPIA

TODAY'S BRIEFING

- ALEA Grant Program Overview
- Project Highlights
- Proposed Rule Change

ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program provides funding to individuals and organizations utilizing volunteers to conduct projects throughout Washington State that:

- Protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and their habitats
- Enhance sustainable fish and wildlife recreational opportunities
- Educate the public about our fish and wildlife resources
- Improve public access to the outdoors
- Collect and disseminate fish and wildlife science

ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FUNDING SOURCE

Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account

FUNDING LEVEL

\$1.36 million per biennium

APPLICATION PERIOD

December 1 - February 28, annually

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Citizens, non-profits, conservation districts, schools and tribes

PROJECT TYPES

Eductation/outreach, habitat enhancement, artificial production, facility development, research/citizen science and others are considered

ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

REVIEW AND SCORING

- Applications reviewed and scored by The ALEA Grants Panel
- 18 WDFW staff consisting of Regional and HQ personnel
- Panelists review and score applications using Fluidreview™
- 6-8 week scoring period + meeting
- Projects approved by Director and the Executive Management Team

ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Consistency with WDFW Goals and Objectives
- Public Benefit
- Volunteer Effort
- Focus on Priority Habitats and Species
- Applicant Qualifications
- Measurable Objectives
- Overall Costs/Benefits



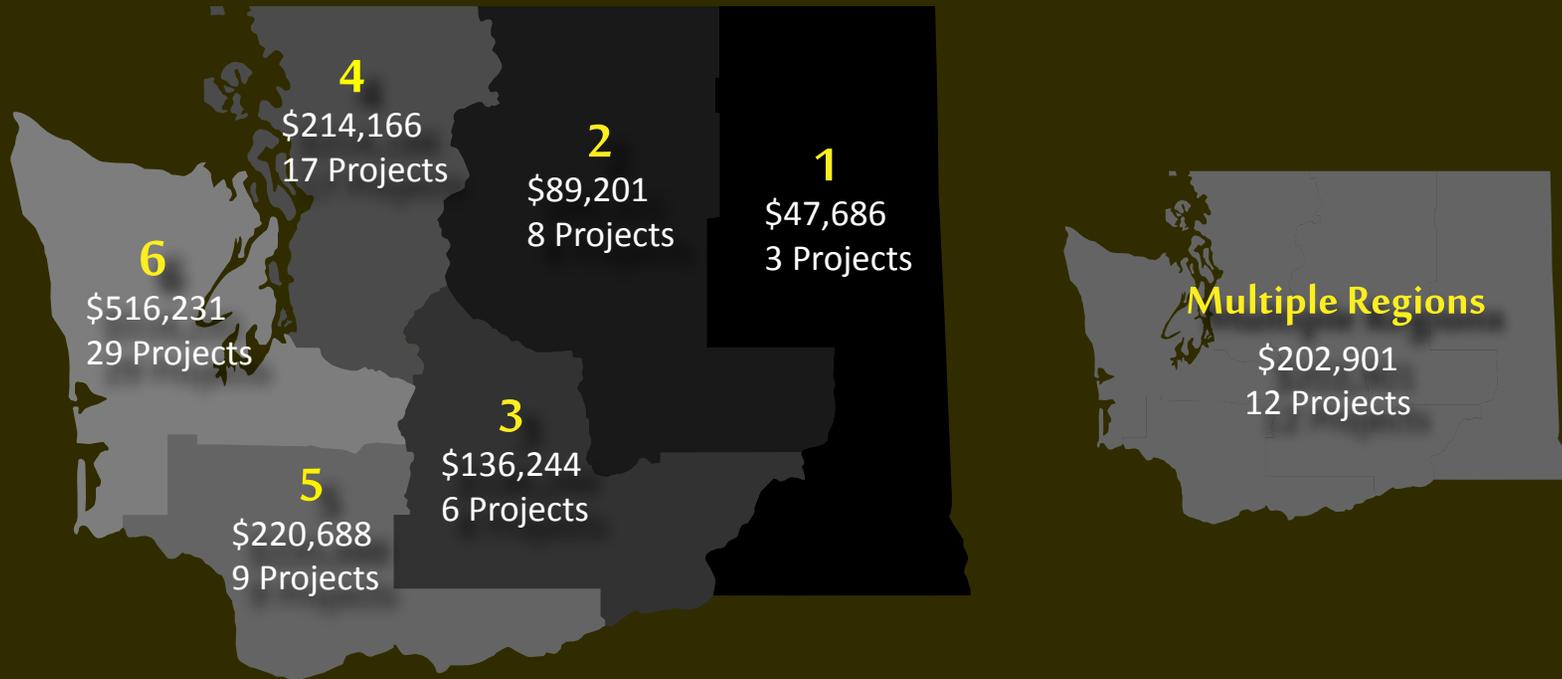
ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2013-2015 GRANT AWARDS



ALEA GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW

2013-2015 GRANT AWARDS BY REGION



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 1

Project: Colville Fish Hatchery Skills Center

Sponsor: Washington For Wildlife

Project Type: Artificial Production/
Youth Education

Grant Award: \$44,600



- 🐟 Vocational program, training area high school students in fisheries and wildlife science
- 🐟 Operates the Colville Fish Hatchery
- 🐟 Conducts aquaculture training program
- 🐟 Produces trout for release into local lakes

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 2

Project: Pygmy Rabbit Recovery on Lancaster Property
Sponsor: Peter Lancaster
Project Type: Other
Grant Award: \$33,600



- 🐰 10-acre predator-proof breeding enclosure for pygmy rabbits
- 🐰 Modeled after successful Sagebrush Flats structures

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 3

Project: Oak Creek Wildlife Education Corps
Sponsor: Wildlife Education Corps Volunteers
Project Type: Education/Outreach
Grant Award: \$36,670



- Staff the visitor center throughout winter
- Provide maps and guidance to hunters
- Operate public tours
- Assist with cleanup of the wildlife area

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 4

Project: Salmonid Population Monitoring
Sponsor: Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association
Project Type: Research/Citizen Science
Grant Award: \$11,605



- 👉 Spawning grounds surveys on Nooksack River Basin streams
- 👉 Counting fish by species, redds, and otolith sampling
- 👉 Surveys by volunteers following WDFW protocols
- 👉 Data forwarded to WDFW and co-managers

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 5

Project: Klineline Kids Fishing
Sponsor: Klineline Kids Fishing Non-Profit
Project Type: Youth Education
Grant Award: \$26,203



- Multi-day community event at Klineline Pond, Vancouver
- Focused on youth fishing and fish, wildlife and environmental education activities
- Served approximately 2,600 youth at the 2013 event

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

REGION 6

Project: Tarboo Watershed Plant-A-Thon
Sponsor: Northwest Watershed Institute
Project Type: Youth Education/Habitat
Grant Award: \$12,875



- 🐟 9th annual Plant-A-Thon at Tarboo Creek
- 🐟 4,000+ native trees and shrubs planted over 5 acres
- 🐟 In-class education about the ecological connections between salmon and their habitat

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

BACKGROUND

Grant applications are currently accepted and reviewed annually, during two funding periods (rounds).

Our review and scoring process is thorough, fair and effective, but it does require a significant investment of staff time to conduct.

SECOND GRANT ROUND STAFF COMMITMENT

| | |
|------|---|
| 57 | Proposals |
| 32 | Panel member commitment (average hours) |
| 576 | Panel member total hours |
| ~120 | Administering the 2nd grant round |
| ~700 | Total staff hours |

PROPOSED CHANGE

Accept grant applications once per biennium, prior to the start of a biennium. Conduct the review and scoring process once per biennium and award all funds at that time.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

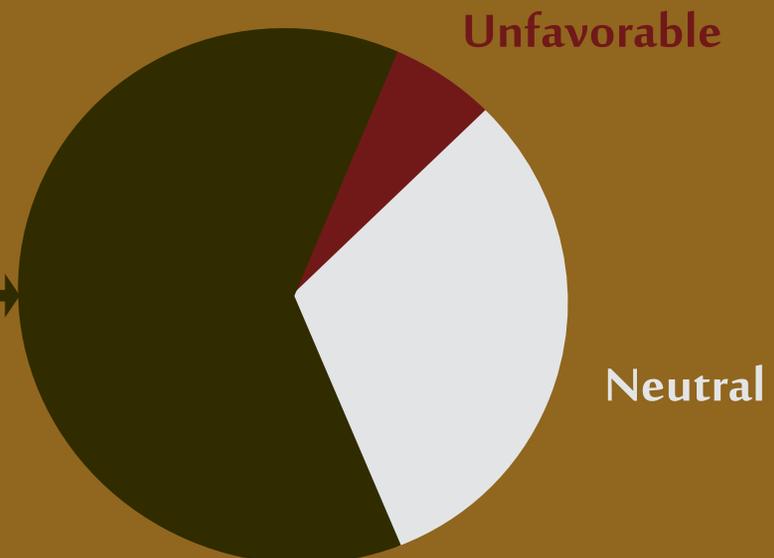
EXPECTED BENEFITS

- 🦀 Staff time saving ~ 700 hours
- 🦀 Cash savings of \$3,950 (annual Fluidreview subscription)

PUBLIC COMMENT

An email was sent to all 2013-2015 grantees requesting input on this potential change.

Responses were predominantly **Favorable** →



PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

PROPOSED WAC LANGUAGE

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 07-22-097, filed 11/6/07, effective 12/7/07)

WAC 220-130-040 Review and selection process. (1) The application method is on application forms provided by the department specifically for this purpose. Application forms will be available by request from the Olympia headquarters and at all regional offices of the department.

(2) Applications for projects will be accepted (~~each year~~) at least once per biennium during the open application period of December 1 through February 28.

(a) Applications accepted prior to the start of a biennium may be for project funding for one or both years of the ensuing biennium.

(b) If applications are accepted (~~during the first year of a~~) after the start of the biennium, they will be for project funding in the second year of a biennium.

(3) The funding decision deadline is May 31 of the year of application.

PROPOSED RULE CHANGE

NEXT STEPS

- December 12 Commission briefing,
public hearing
- December 19 Commission conference call,
request adoption

ALEA GRANT PROGRAM BRIEFING

Questions?

Thanks for your time and consideration.