



2023-25 Operating and Capital Budget Proposals

OPERATING

	<u>Final Budget</u>	<u>WSCC Request</u>	<u>Governor Proposed</u>
Fiscal Year 2022 Appropriation	11,189,000		
Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation	19,405,000		
Fiscal Year 2024 General Fund State			22,787,000
Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund State			24,162,000
 <u>Funding from other accounts (not included in FY total above):</u>			
Climate Account – Community Engagement Plan			250,000
Voluntary Stewardship Program			8,545,000
Toxics Account			1,110,000
Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, Community Resilience			5,000,000

2023-25 Operating Budget Proposals

Community Engagement Plan	n/a	250,000
Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)	10,000,000	10,000,000
Riparian Restoration Projects	3,000,000	3,000,000
Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency	5,000,000	5,000,000
Ag Science Program	1,250,000	1,250,000
Disaster Assistance Program (DAP)	1,950,000	600,000
Voluntary Stewardship Program - Monitoring	1,420,000	1,420,000
Salmon Riparian Education and Communications	n/a	2,000,000

Governor Operating Budget Provisos:

Community Engagement Plan

SCC: n/a

Gov: \$250,000

\$250,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 is provided solely for the agency to complete the required community engagement plan as outlined in RCW 70A.65.030, the climate commitment act.

Conservation Technical Assistance

SCC: \$10,000,000

Gov: \$10,000,000

Funding is provided solely to increase technical assistance and operational capacity of conservation districts.

Riparian Restoration Projects

SCC: \$3,000,000

Gov: \$3,000,000

Funding is provided solely to support the outreach, identification, and implementation of salmon riparian habitat restoration projects.

Forest Health and Community Wildfire Resiliency

SCC: \$5,000,000

Gov: \$5,000,000

Funding is provided solely to the commission to work with conservation districts to address unhealthy forests and build greater community resiliency to wildfire.

Ag Science Program

SCC: \$1,250,000

Gov: \$1,250,000

Funding is provided solely to connect scientists, practitioners, and researchers and coordinate efforts to monitor and quantify benefits of best management practices on agricultural lands, and better understand values and motivations of landowners to implement voluntary incentive programs.

Disaster Assistance Program (DAP)

SCC: \$1,950,000

Gov: \$600,000

Funding is provided solely to support the continued development of the disaster assistance program established in RCW 89.08.645, to provide short-term financial support for farmers and ranchers during disasters.

Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP)

SCC: \$1,420,000

Gov: \$1,420,000

Funding is provided solely to support monitoring and reporting efforts necessary to evaluate the implementation and effectiveness of voluntary stewardship program work plans.

Salmon Riparian Education and Communications

SCC: n/a

Gov: \$2,000,000

Funding is provided solely to develop and implement an educational communication plan to the general public and landowners in urban, suburban, rural, agricultural, and forested areas regarding the importance of riparian buffers and the actions they can take to protect and enhance these critical areas.

Proposed 2023-25 Capital Budget

<u>2023-25 Capital Budget Requests</u>	<u>WSCC Request</u>	<u>Governor Proposed</u>
Riparian Grant Program	n/a	100,000,000
Natural Resource Investments (NRI)	9,800,000	4,000,000
Riparian Restoration Projects	10,000,000	see new grant
Farmland Preservation and Land Access (FPLA)	4,000,000	4,000,000
Irrigation Efficiencies (IEP)	6,000,000	3,000,000
Shellfish	4,000,000	4,000,000
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPPI)	3,000,000	3,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP Cost Share & TA)	7,725,000	15,000,000
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP PIP Loan Program)	100,000	100,000
Voluntary Stewardship Program Project Funding (VSP)	3,000,000	3,000,000
Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI)	1,500,000	1,500,000

Governor Budget Proviso Language and Activity Description

Riparian Grant Program

SCC: \$10,000,000

Gov: \$100,000,000

Gov Proviso:

The appropriation is provided solely for the commission to run a voluntary riparian grant program for priority riparian restoration and protection. The state conservation commission shall set a minimum standard for riparian buffers through consultation with the department of ecology and department of fish and wildlife and set tiered incentive rates tied to increasing width and functionality of riparian buffers up to a fully functioning riparian corridor standard. The commission shall engage the department of ecology, recreation and conservation office, department of fish and wildlife, and tribes to identify critical areas within watersheds to prioritize project investments. Direct project management costs are allowable for monitoring and adaptive management. No more than four percent of the appropriation may be used for administrative expenses. No more than two percent of the appropriation may be used for targeted outreach activities that focus on critically identified geographic locations for listed salmon species, water quality, or water temperature to produce identified project lists. The commission shall provide a report to the appropriate committees of the legislature and the governor on progress, monitoring, metrics, and recommendations for next steps by October 1, 2024.

Natural Resource Investments (NRI) SCC: \$9,800,000 Gov: \$4,000,000

Gov Proviso: None

SCC Activity Description: Funding enables conservation districts to help local landowners pay for and construct conservation projects that address the most pressing state and local priorities.

Farmland Preservation and Land Access (FPLA) SCC: \$4,000,000 Gov: \$4,000,000

Gov Proviso: None. Use proviso from prior appropriation.

SCC Activity Description: The FPLA program facilitates land access to underserved producers including young and beginning farmers, people of color, and veterans. Funding is used to secure conservation easements on working lands.

Irrigation Efficiencies (IEP) SCC: \$6,000,000 Gov: \$3,000,000

Gov Proviso: None. Use proviso from prior appropriation.

SCC Activity Description: The Water Irrigation Efficiencies Program (IEP) is a statewide effort to improve how water is delivered and applied on agricultural lands. Projects funded through this program provide improved on-farm water application and delivery so water use is more efficient, while still allowing the producer to grow crops.

Shellfish SCC: \$4,000,000 Gov: \$4,000,000

Gov Proviso: None. Use proviso from prior appropriation.

SCC Activity Description: The SCC Shellfish Program helps fund voluntary, watershed-based efforts that are proven effective at protecting shellfish growing areas by providing cost-share for the implementation of BMPs that support manure management, livestock exclusion, stream restoration, and other projects that improve water quality. The program also supports Governor Inslee's Shellfish Initiative and the Puget Sound Action Agenda strategic initiative to recover shellfish beds.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

SCC: \$3,000,000

Gov: \$3,000,000

Gov Proviso: None.

SCC Activity Description: Covers state match needed to bring millions of Farm Bill dollars to Washington for RCPP projects that unite multiple partners in solving natural resource issues. The SCC has been designated to pass-through required state capital match for five RCPP projects. RCPP projects create jobs and make measurable progress on urgent issues, including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat restoration, drinking and irrigation water supply, forest health and wildfire resiliency, and farmland preservation.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP Cost Share & TA)

SCC: \$7,725,000

Gov: \$15,000,000

Gov Proviso: Governor's budget provides \$11,000,000 from the Natural Climate Solutions Account, part of the Climate Commitment Act funding. The budget also provides \$4,000,000 from the state building and construction account for these activities.

SCC Activity Description: This request is to provide matching state funds for program management and project implementation to continue the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) with private landowners.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP PIP Loan)

SCC: \$100,000

Gov: \$100,000

Gov Proviso: None.

SCC Activity Description: This request is to provide agency spending authority for funds currently in a revolving account for the CREP to loan private landowners funds that bridge a payment gap in the program.

Voluntary Stewardship Program Project Funding (VSP)

SCC: \$3,000,000

Gov: \$3,000,000

Gov Proviso: None.

SCC Activity Description: This new funding continues the VSP cost-share program with private landowners first funded in the FY 2022-23 supplemental budget.

Washington Shrubsteppe Restoration Resiliency Initiative (WSRRI)

SCC: \$1,500,000

Gov: \$1,500,000

Gov Proviso: None.

SCC Activity Description: Requested capital funding would continue wildlife friendly fencing projects that are currently being completed with pass through funding from WDFW. The projects would still be guided, evaluated and selected through the WSRRI process but would move a portion of the grant program implementation directly to SCC.