

New Grants for Farm & Riparian Lands

State WWRP Funds Available to Conserve Working Farms

In 2005 the Washington State Legislature created grants to conserve vanishing farmland and to protect the state's rivers, lakes, streams, and saltwater areas. The law adds two new categories—Riparian Protection and Farmland Conservation—to the highly acclaimed Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP).

Under the new **Riparian Protection** category local governments and lead entities for salmon recovery may apply for WWRP grants to protect and/or restore shorelines, rivers, streams, estuaries and other waterways. For more information see:

http://www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/riparian_habitat.htm.

WWRP **Farmland Conservation** grants are available to help cities and counties conserve working farms. In most Washington counties these grants will be the only funding source for farm conservation easements (other than a small share of the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program). For more information see:

<http://www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/farmland.htm>.

Local governments are also eligible to apply for WWRP grants for the acquisition or development of local parks, trails, water access areas and urban wildlife habitat. The WWRP is administered by the Washington State Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC). A letter of intent for 2007 funding is encouraged by **March 15, 2006**, but it is not required. Final applications are due **May 1, 2006**

Submitted by the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, the founder and chief advocate for the WWRP grant program. www.WildlifeRecreation.org