State of Washington
Decision Package

Agency: 490 Department of Natural Resources
Decision Package Code/Title: EG Access to Biodiversity Information
Budget Period: 2009-11
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Biodiversity Conservation Strategy in Washington state focuses on bringing citizens and scientists together, using incentives and market approaches for landowners, and collaborating on priorities for conservation investments. Key to that approach are the new Conservation Opportunity Framework maps, which show conservation priority areas and their vulnerability level across the state. For the public, easy web access is needed to learn about the important plants and animals in their home area, and to connect to the agencies' databases from one source location. By linking to the National Geographic's Landscape America project, on trial already in our state, these maps can come alive for any level of interest.

Fiscal Detail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Expenditures</th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001-1  General Fund - Basic Account-State</td>
<td>125,300</td>
<td>117,100</td>
<td>242,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Cost</td>
<td>125,300</td>
<td>117,100</td>
<td>242,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTEs</td>
<td>FY 2010</td>
<td>FY 2011</td>
<td>Annual Average</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.0</td>
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Package Description:

This proposal leverages work already underway by DNR's Natural Heritage Program, in partnership with National Geographic, NatureServe, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Biodiversity Council, The Nature Conservancy and others to make biodiversity information broadly and easily available to the public via an Internet viewer. From the Landscape website, the public, local government planners, land trusts and decision-makers will be able to connect to conservation information now housed in separate agency databases, and learn about conservation needs and actions at the level of detail they need.

The primary product will be a web-based map viewer linked to and accessible within the Landscape America website, which will become the foundation for delivering the data behind the Biodiversity Council's new Conservation Opportunity Framework map. The primary outcomes will be better informed local land-use decisions, support for citizen science and environmental education, avoidance of inadvertent negative ecological impacts, and a common framework for priority setting and conservation actions that facilitates collaboration toward a common set of goals for the state. All of these results support the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (Strategy 1.1.) to"...use the conservation opportunity framework to guide investments and other conservation actions."

The proposal will create the web-based viewer tool and deliver useful data products focusing first priority on the Columbia Plateau eco-region and the shrub and steppe ecosystems, and expand to other eco-regions across the state with the time available.

September 5, 2008
Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

This project will provide land-use decision-makers with current information delivered in a timely and accessible way. This will result in more efficient and effective conservation actions.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: A022 Natural Heritage

No measures submitted for package

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency’s strategic plan?

This proposal supports the Department of Natural Resources’ strategic plan as follows:

Strategic Priority: Protect, restore and enhance Washington's working landscapes (forests, farms and fishing) and biodiversity.
- Supporting the Washington Biodiversity Council’s 30-year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy 1.1 to use the conservation opportunity framework to guide investments and other conservation actions.

Goal: Upland resources provide substantial levels of trust revenue, conservation, and public benefits consistent with our fiduciary duty and legal commitments.
- Provide protection for ecologically sensitive lands and functions
- Work to restore and maintain natural resources health

Goal: The public we serve widely and consistently hold DNR in high esteem.
- Provide accurate, useful, and timely information and assistance

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

Yes, this request provides essential support to several of the Priorities of Government:
- Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources:
  This project would provide a common framework for priority setting and conservation actions that facilitates collaboration toward a common set of goals for the shrub-steppe habitats in eastern Washington. It would result in improved access to information relevant for land-use decision-making.

- Improve the ability of state government to achieve results efficiently and effectively:
  This project would make important information about biodiversity within shrub-steppe more widely available. As a result, not only would conservation actions be more effective, development decisions would less likely result in negative ecological impacts.

Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?

Yes, this request contributes to the following statewide results:

Improve the quality of Washington's natural resources
- Preserve, maintain and restore natural systems and landscapes
- Provide good science and resource monitoring data to support decision-making
- Improve individual practices and choices about natural resources

Improve the ability of state government to achieve results efficiently and effectively
- Improve decision support for government decision makers

September 5, 2008
What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This package will help the Washington Biodiversity Council explore the best ways to make use of the conservation opportunity maps contained in the Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. The work undertaken as part of this package will take advantage of similar work currently underway within north-central Washington to provide the public with the biodiversity data that underlies the conservation opportunity maps.

There is no direct connection between this package and Puget Sound. However, lessons learned from using the conservation opportunity maps will eventually be applied to Puget Sound, i.e., the biodiversity data behind the conservation opportunity maps for the Puget Sound region would be made available over the Internet.

There are no significant concerns regarding impacts to other agencies. Impacts will generally be positive, since the information gathered and analyzed will be available to all, including all ownerships, etc.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

There is a clear need to consolidate various sources of information and to make more conservation-related information available and understandable. Delivering information over the Internet can reach the widest audience and can therefore have a significant impact on decision-making. This project also will leverage existing efforts to make biodiversity information available on an Internet map viewer.

What are the consequences of not funding this package?

Decisions will continue to be made regarding the future of the land-base without the benefit of solid information about the conservation values. As a result, there will likely be significant ecological impacts, more conflict over land-use issues, additional listings of species under the federal Endangered Species Act, and inefficient use of limited conservation dollars (both public and private funds).

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

There is no direct relationship to the capital budget. However, the outcomes of this project may be used to support conservation-related land acquisitions and restoration efforts in future biennia.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

There are no changes required to existing statutes, rules or contracts to undertake this proposal.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

Salary and benefit costs for 1.0 FTE (Information Technology Specialist 3) to help create and deliver useful data products, including designing and implementing a means of accessing biodiversity data via a web-based map viewer.

This person would work with staff from WDFW, the Biodiversity Council, TNC and others to develop a means of delivering over the Internet the biodiversity data that underlie the "Conservation Opportunity Framework" maps in the 30-year Biodiversity Conservation Strategy. This work would begin for shrub-steppe ecosystems (Columbia Plateau Ecoregion), but, depending on how quickly the work goes, could expand to other ecoregions.

This effort would build upon current LandScope America efforts underway within the Natural Heritage Program. That project, a partnership with NatureServe and National Geographic, includes a component to develop a web-based map viewer. The user will be able to display various conservation priority layers and to access data related to those priorities. This approach would allow us to take advantage of the design work for LandScope for delivery of the Conservation Opportunity Framework data, rather than having to start from scratch. The development of this web-based tool could become the foundation for delivering the data behind the Conservation Opportunity Maps.

Goods and services and travel are based on program averages. Equipment includes $1,200 for one computer.

September 5, 2008

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Agency administrative cost is calculated at 27% and shown as object T. FTE associated with agency admin is estimated at .3 of a position.

There are no revenue changes due to this proposal.

*Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?*

Most costs are ongoing. The ITAS3 position would be responsible for creating data products, in particular those related to delivering conservation information via the Internet. This work will be on-going, as new data are gathered and as new conservation assessments are completed. Also, this package focuses on delivering biodiversity data for shrub-steppe using the Biodiversity Council's conservation opportunity maps. This ITS3 position will be responsible for eventual delivery of similar information for the remainder of the state for a future ongoing cost of $233,200.

One-time costs consist of $1,200 for one computer and $7,000 for one workstation.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object Detail</th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A Salaries And Wages</td>
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<td>64,700</td>
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<td>B Employee Benefits</td>
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<td>E Goods And Services</td>
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<td>G Travel</td>
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<td>6,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>J Capital Outlays</td>
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<tr>
<td>T Intra-Agency Reimbursements</td>
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<td><strong>Total Objects</strong></td>
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