



Investing in Conservation



REQUEST FOR \$948,000 TO FOSTER PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL INTERESTS

Washington is rich with natural features, including rare and high-quality native ecosystems and the species that inhabit them, including us. Stewarding these lands for their ecological, social and cultural values is what the Natural Heritage Program and the Natural Areas Program are all about.

These programs currently manage a natural areas network of 158,000 acres in 92 sites, fulfilling the Legislature's vision to create an irreplaceable investment protecting our natural heritage.

Private community-based conservation organizations have blossomed. DNR's Natural Heritage Program has provided conservation science supporting these private efforts, and now needs funding to incorporate local priorities into statewide conservation efforts.

This request for \$948,000 would allow DNR to cultivate public-private partnerships to secure our natural heritage for current and future generations.

Specifically, this funding will produce the following results:

- Local government and land trust priorities and needs will be incorporated into statewide conservation efforts;
- Proactive partnerships with local groups for management of natural areas;
- Increased opportunities for public access to natural areas for research, education, and enjoyment;
- Increased active management of natural areas on the Olympic Peninsula and in the northern tier of the state; and
- Increased capacity to control weeds in natural areas statewide.

DNR's Natural Areas help conservation-minded citizens, scientists and others preserve Washington's natural heritage through research, inventories, monitoring and restoration of special sites.

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