



Washington State Outdoor Youth Learning Opportunities and Benefits

Governor’s Goal Areas: #1 World-class Education and #4 Healthy and Safe Communities

Public Performance Review Agenda

July 19, 2023 | 10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Time	Topic	Participants
10:30 a.m. – 10:37 a.m. <i>(7 minutes)</i>	Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandeep Kaundal, Director, Results Washington • Governor Jay Inslee
10:37 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Introduction Benefits of Nature-based Activities for Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pooja Tandon, M.D., MPH, Associate Professor, University of Washington; Pediatrician and Researcher, Seattle Children’s Hospital • Akshay Tandon, Student, Issaquah High School
10:45 a.m. – 10:53 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Governor’s Q&A	
10:53 a.m. – 11:01 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Progress and Initiatives Outdoor Education for All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheila Wilson, Outdoor Education Program Manager, Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction • Jaden Harper, Student, Lincoln High School
11:01 a.m. – 11:09 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Governor’s Q&A	
11:09 a.m. – 11:17 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Progress and Initiatives No Child Left Inside and Community Engagement Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Owen Rowe, Policy and Governmental Affairs Director, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission • Kyle Guzlas, Grant Services Section Manager, Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office • Terrell Dorsey, Director, Unleash the Brilliance
11:17 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. <i>(8 minutes)</i>	Governor’s Q&A	
11:25 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. <i>(5 minutes)</i>	Initiative Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maddy Thompson, Education Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor • Jon Snyder, Outdoor Recreation and Economic Development Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Governor
11:30 a.m. – 11:32 a.m. <i>(2 minutes)</i>	Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandeep Kaundal, Director, Results Washington
11:32 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. <i>(13 minutes)</i>	Governor’s Q&A and Final Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Jay Inslee
11:45 a.m.	Adjourn	



2022-23 OUTDOOR LEARNING GRANTS

HB 2078 OSPF Funding Allocation Quick Facts

Overnight Outdoor School Experiences

Administered by



\$ Funding \$5,902,000

Students Served: 23,554

5th and 6th grade overnight programs Opportunities for high school students as volunteer counselors

Outdoor Education Funding for School Districts

Administered through iGrants by



Washington Office of Superintendent of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

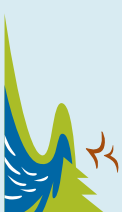
\$ Funding: \$1,951,500

Students Served: 37,669

Supports school districts in the development and implementation of outdoor education experiences for PreK-12 students.

Outdoor Learning Grants (OLG)

Administered by



WASHINGTON STATE
Recreation and
Conservation Office

\$ Funding: \$1,851,000

Students Served: 20,046

Competitive grant program open to outdoor education providers and federally-recognized tribes that partner with WA public schools and offer programming for PreK-12 students.

All programs prioritize students who are historically underserved in science education and outdoor learning opportunities.

Learn more at www.k12.wa.us/student-success/resources-subject-area/science/outdoor-education-all-program or scan the QR code at right.



Wild Washington Conservation Education Program



Goals

- Advance scientific literacy for K-12 students with focus on WA ecosystems.
- Provide opportunities for young adults to gain experiences in the natural resources field.
- Foster lifelong learning for people of all ages to build empathy and appreciation for the natural world.
- Remove barriers for underserved groups to connect with nature and participate in outdoor learning.
- Employ evaluation methods to continuously improve program.

Opportunities

The Department is working to secure funding to pursue the following opportunities:

- Increase local coordination with Educational Service Districts to support outdoor learning on WDFW wildlife areas across the state.
- Expand watchable wildlife grant program and school transportation grants.
- Enhance and increase workshops for educators.
- Offer incentives for Habitat at Home participation.
- Develop paid internship and apprenticeship program.

Contact information

Rachel Blomker

Public Engagement Manager

Rachel.blomker@dfw.wa.gov



Students test infiltration rate of soil at WDFW's Columbia Basin Wildlife Area.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) conservation education program equips learners with problem solving skills to address complex natural resource management challenges now and in the future.

Wild Washington Lesson Plans: WDFW is working with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS)-aligned, interdisciplinary lesson plans for K-5 teachers. To support implementation into classrooms, WDFW is coordinating with Pacific Education Institute to provide teacher training workshops. Dozens of K-12 lesson plans are free and available to download on WDFW's website. In 2023, the Wenatchee and Spokane School Districts officially adopted WDFW's 3rd grade lesson plan series *State of Salmon*.

wdfw.wa.gov/wild-wa

Wild Washington Outdoor Classrooms: This year, WDFW will start a small grants program to help cover transportation costs for schools to visit WDFW wildlife areas. WDFW also secured a No Child Left Inside grant to pilot Wild Washington Outdoor Classrooms to serve students in Chelan and Douglas counties in 2024-25. Students will learn hands-on by rotating through investigation sites focused on biodiversity and cultural diversity.

Habitat at Home: Formerly known as the Backyard Wildlife Sanctuary Program, Habitat at Home is WDFW's effort to encourage Washingtonians to connect with nature where they live, work, and play. Program resources help people discover fun and effective ways to help support wildlife in any space, including school yards and shared spaces.

wdfw.wa.gov/habitat-at-home

July 2023



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



Educators participating in a forest management workshop in Skagit County visit an active logging site.

OPPORTUNITIES

DNR has set a long-term vision and is shaping a program to deliver resources and training:

- **Educator Natural Resource Conference** a week-long professional learning opportunity on the complexities of natural resource management
- **Youth Natural Resource Camp** a week-long summer camp providing career preparation and mentorship
- **Educator workshops** on topics in natural resource management
- **Field trips** to DNR-managed lands
- **Gear libraries** to support equitable outdoor learning

CONTACT

Clare Sobetski
YEOP Manager
(360)522-3614
Clare.sobetski@dnr.wa.gov

Youth Education & Outreach Program

DNR is launching a Youth Education and Outreach Program (YEOP) to facilitate place-based, outdoor learning experiences for youth and to inspire interest in natural resource sector careers.

The formation of YEOP is supported by strategic initiatives across DNR and RCW 76.04.521, which calls for development of educational programs for “elementary, secondary and higher education students that: (i) Inform people about the role of forestry, fire, vegetation management, and ecological restoration; (ii) increase the awareness of opportunities for careers in the forest sector and exposure of students to those careers through various work-based learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom; (iii) connect students in pathways to careers in the forestry sector; and (iv) incorporate opportunities for secondary students to earn industry recognized credentials and dual credit in career and technical education courses.”

In September 2022, DNR onboarded an Outdoor Education & Training Program Manager to develop a strategic plan to meet these outcomes. The resulting strategic plan for YEOP has 4 goals:

- **Goal 1:** Formal and non-formal educators have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to teach about the complexities of natural resource management.
- **Goal 2:** Washington youth have place-based, experiential learning opportunities on public land to explore careers in natural resources and develop the skills used by natural resource professionals.
- **Goal 3:** Collaborate with educators, industry leaders, nonprofits, and state agencies to inspire interest in and improve recruitment into natural resource sector careers for all youth, with a focus on demographic groups that have been historically excluded from the field of natural resource management.
- **Goal 4:** DNR staff have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to conduct successful outreach and education work with youth from diverse backgrounds across Washington.

Through its programming, YEOP will support and partner with ongoing work of community-based organizations and nonprofits with decades of experience in environmental education to achieve the following key outcomes:

- Social emotional learning
- Equitable access to public land
- Inquiry-based scientific exploration
- Cultivation of stewardship behaviors
- Project-based learning
- Utilization of youth input and ideas in decision-making processes
- Recruitment of a natural resource workforce reflective of state demographics
- Implementation of RCW 28A.320.170 requiring instruction on tribal history, culture, and government
- Implementation of SSHB 2078: Outdoor School for All