

**Agency 365 – Washington State University
2009-2011 Operating Budget Request**

The Land Grant University for the 21st Century
Performance Level Decision Package – PL BW

Beach Watchers

Agency Recommendation Summary:

A \$1 million biennial budget appropriation is requested by Washington State University to sustain a proven seven-county volunteer citizen model for Puget Sound water quality restoration and environmental monitoring.

Fiscal Details:

By Fund	2009-10		2010-11		2009-11 Biennium
	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Dollars
General Fund State	7.0	500,000	7.0	500,000	1,000,000
Total	7.0	\$ 500,000	7.0	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000

PACKAGE DESCRIPTION:

This proposal seeks permanent state funding for the existing WSU Beach Watchers educators in seven counties (Island, Clallam, Jefferson, Skagit, Snohomish, San Juan, and Whatcom). These educators train and oversee a locally intensive and effective citizen monitoring program. New funding is required to continue this vital program. Existing federal funding for this program is scheduled to expire on July 1, 2009 and will not be renewed.

Beach Watchers is an educational, outreach and monitoring program which is cost effective and comprehensive. It is operated under the WSU Extension Program. The Beach Watchers program, as it exists in seven counties, builds upon the local partnerships and expertise established with university experts, agencies, tribes, government, schools, environmental groups, businesses and other volunteer organizations. This program is cost effective and efficient because it leverages hundreds of volunteers trained by the seven WSU county extension program educators funded by the project. Costs for coordination across the seven counties served by WSU Beach Watchers is not included in this request but is provided by WSU Extension.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement:

Trained WSU Beach Watcher volunteers will continue to align program delivery and meet performance expectations identified by the Puget Sound Partnership. Some of the functions and responsibilities of Beach Watchers volunteers include:

- Provide consistent coverage in seven counties equipped with trained volunteers and coordinated data collection and reporting system on beach monitoring to protect functioning of near shore and freshwater habitat, including but not limited to data collection on algae blooms, invasive species, noxious weeds, shorebird and marine mammal health.
- Provide trained volunteers to find, quantify and remove creosote debris and other activities to prevent toxic contamination.
- Provide for the protection of species diversity through volunteers trained to track juvenile salmon in pocket estuaries.
- Provide for the protection of threats to human health through data collection on clams and shellfish and identifying potential toxins and by testing of water samples at public beaches.
- Educate and increase the accountability of shore-line home owners through educational outreach leading to improved water quality and aquatic ecosystems.

Program Successes:

The program, WSU Beach Watchers, has addressed Puget Sound issues through education, outreach, and public engagement for the past 18 years. It has relied on temporary federal grant funding that will not be available next biennium. Successful funding of the proposal will continue a program that is expected to contribute 150,250 volunteer hours over the next five years to Puget Sound restoration, environmental monitoring and education. Education programs will reach 125,000 Puget Sound residents, train 500 citizen scientists, reach many of the Sound's marina operators and farmers.

The program's goal is to implement ecosystem-based and pragmatic local solutions leading to protection of near shore and freshwater habitat, identification and clean-up assistance of toxic contamination, protection of species diversity, and reducing harm from storm water runoff.

Possible Expansion to King, Pierce, Kitsap, and Other Counties:

This appropriation is required to position WSU to potentially expand the Beach Watchers Program to other counties through a proposal called the "Sound Future Initiative". WSU has been working through the Puget Sound Partnership with the University of Washington Sea Grant program on a proposal to expand the Beach Watchers program. This related request would expand the program to King, Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap and Mason counties. **However, WSU requires the successful funding of the continuing Beach Watchers program outlined in this state-general fund request before the program can be expanded to other counties.**

About Washington State University Extension:

Washington State University Extension is the outreach and engagement enterprise of the University, serving the people of Washington by creating, interpreting, and delivering knowledge to enhance and enrich the lives of everyone in the state. WSU Extension works in partnership with communities to identify issues that research and knowledge can address, and deliver educational programs that are designed to address those issues and

other critical needs in a community. WSU Extension has offices in every county of the state. Counties provide part of the funding along with federal grants and state funding. WSU Extension is a stakeholder in the Washington Sea Grant Program.

Outcomes:

- Successful funding of the proposal will continue a program that is expected to provide education programs to 125,000 Puget Sound residents
- Empower Puget Sound residents to contribute 150,250 hours over the next five years into public service activities like restoration, environmental monitoring and education. This volunteer contribution is conservatively valued at over \$2.4 million.
- Deploy 500 citizen scientists to collect information for use in the decision-making processes of local, state and tribal and federal agencies.
- Provide support to many farms, marinas, and maritime businesses to implement the best management practices for protecting the Sound and improving water quality.

Calculations:

FISCAL DETAIL TABLES - SUSTAINING WSU BEACH WATCHERS					
	2009-10		2010-11		2009-11
By Program	FTE	Dollars	FTE	Dollars	Biennium
Instruction	-	-	-	-	-
Research	-	-	-	-	-
Public Service	7.0	500,000	7.0	500,000	1,000,000
Primary Support	-	-	-	-	-
Libraries	-	-	-	-	-
Student Services	-	-	-	-	-
Institutional Support	-	-	-	-	-
Plant	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7.0	\$ 500,000	7.0	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000
By Object					
Salaries					
Faculty	-	-	-	-	-
AP	7.0	336,000	7.0	336,000	672,000
TA/GA	-	-	-	-	-
Classified	-	-	-	-	-
Benefits		106,000		106,000	212,000
Goods/Services		33,000		33,000	66,000
Travel		25,000		25,000	50,000
Equipment		-		-	-
Total	7.0	\$ 500,000	7.0	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000

For more information, contact Larry Ganders, Assistant to the WSU President, Olympia at 360-534-2333