WASHINGTON STATE RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE
Washington Invasive Species Council

Washington Invasive Species Council Decision Memo

Item **2**

Meeting Date: September 16, 2021

Title: Flowering Rush Cost-Share Program, and Recreation and Conservation Office Supplemental Budget Request

Prepared By: Justin Bush

Summary

The council will be briefed by Stephen Phillips, senior program manager with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Flowering Rush Cost-Share Program.

Following this information briefing, Justin Bush, executive coordinator of the Washington Invasive Species Council will summarize a Recreation and Conservation Office budget request and seek a decision of approval from the council.

This memo summarizes a request for council approval of the Recreation and Conservation Office supplemental budget request of $28,000 to administer the Flowering Rush Cost-Share Program for the State of Washington.

Council Action Requested

This item will be a:

☒ Request for Decision

☐ Request for Direction

Request for Decision

Background

Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) is a Class A Noxious Weed [invasive plant] must be eradicated by state law. Flowering rush significantly damages aquatic ecosystems. It clogs irrigation pipes and dams, harbors predators of salmon and destroys habitat, and limits recreation.

Since 2019, Congress has appropriated $3 million to the Corps of Engineers for a cost-share program to address this problem. The Recreation and Conservation Office, administrative host of the Washington Invasive Species Council is seeking to administer

this cost-share program, working with tribal nations, counties, Public Utility Districts, and others to stop the spread.

A 2022 state supplemental operating budget request of $28,000 will leverage more than $361,000 in federal funds and $371,000 in non-federal matching funds for flowering rush removal in six counties and three tribal nations.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has entered into an agreement with Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to administer the federal cost-share program. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has set up the cost-share program through an agreement with one state agency per state to administer all work within that jurisdiction.

In Washington, the state natural resource agencies discussed the most efficient and cost-effective approach. It was determined that the Recreation and Conservation Office should be the administering agency in Washington due to a low administrative rate and pre-existing grant and agreement management systems.

Decision Point

Decision to approve the Recreation and Conservation Office submitting a 2022 state operating budget request for $28,000 to administer the Flowering Rush Cost-Share Program for the State of Washington.

a. **Staff Recommendation:** *Approve request. Since 2019, Congress has appropriated $3 million the federal flowering rush cost-share program. With the environmental assessment and federal agency consultations complete, the program is ready to begin but the state program must be administered.*

Additional Resources

1. Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board Flowering Rush Information
2. Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board
3. Washington State Department of Agriculture Regional Flowering Rush Map
4. Columbia Basin Flowering Rush Management Plan
5. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Biological Assessment
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Letter of Consultation
7. U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service Letter of Consultation
8. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Final Finding of No Significant Impact