

# Supplemental Budget Request

**Public Works**

**Natural Resources**

Suppl ID # 5434

**Fund** 1908 **Cost Center** 19081304 **Originator:** Gary Stoyka

**Expenditure Type:** One-Time **Year 2** 2026 **Add'l FTE**  **Add'l Space**  **Priority** 1

**Name of Request:** MRC Supplemental Grant Funding 2026

<b>X</b>		
<b>Department Head Signature (Required on Hard Copy Submission)</b>		<b>Date</b>

Costs:	<b>Object</b>	<b>Object Description</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
	4333.6604	EPA-MRC NW straits prjts	(\$17,000)
	6120	Extra help	\$6,700
	6320	Office and operating supplies	\$7,000
	6610	Contractual services	\$3,300
	<b>Request Total</b>		<b>\$0</b>

**1a. Description of request:**

Whatcom County has been awarded additional grant funding by the Department of Ecology to support education/outreach regarding eelgrass preservation at Wildcat Cove at Larrabee State Park. This supplemental budget request will enable the Public Works Department to implement this grant.

**1b. Primary customers:**

Recreational users of Wildcat Cove.

**2. Problem to be solved:**

Recreational boat users often damage eelgrass beds at Wildcat Cove by driving over eelgrass beds at low tide affecting both marine life and the overall health of the coastal ecosystem. The Whatcom MRC has participated in eelgrass preservation efforts at Wildcat Cove in recent years. The MRC worked with a consultant to determine key messaging strategies that would foster a voluntary reduction of boaters driving over the eelgrass in Wildcat Cove. In 2024 and 2025, the MRC worked with the Northwest Straits Foundation to provide seasonal interns to conduct education and outreach to boat launch users. Building off of this work, the MRC requested funding to support additional interns to conduct continued education and outreach within Wildcat Cove during the 2026 summer season (June- September), particularly targeting low tide events. The interns will engage with launch users, educating folks about the importance of eelgrass habitats and encouraging best practices to reduce impacts to the eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove.

**3a. Options / Advantages:**

Funding is available to continue this work.

**3b. Cost savings:**

This work is fully grant funded.

**4a. Outcomes:**

Interns will engage with launch users, educating folks about the importance of eelgrass habitats and encouraging best practices to reduce impacts to the eelgrass beds in Wildcat Cove.

**4b. Measures:**

Continued eelgrass monitoring will determine if this program is effective at protecting eelgrass beds at this location.

**5a. Other Departments/Agencies:**

Larrabee State Park, NW Straits Commission

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**5b. Name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for:**

Austin Rose, Natural Resources Specialist II

**6. Funding Source:**

Washington Department of Ecology grant funds (County Contract #202601027)