

2023-2024 Budget Preparation - Regular Additional Service Request

Parks & Recreation

ASR # 2023- 6919	Fund	Cost Cente	Originator: Christ Thomsen
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Expenditure Type: One-Time **Add'l FTE** **Add'l Space** **Priority** 1

Name of Request: Range Lead Reclamation & Capital Improvements

Costs:	Object	Object Description	2023 Requested	2023 Approved	2024 Requested	2024 Approved
	6190	Direct Billing Rate	\$97,000	\$97,000		\$0
	7380	Other Improvements	\$558,000	\$558,000		\$0
	8301.326	Operating Transfer In	\$0	(\$655,000)	\$0	\$0
	Totals		\$655,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

1. Description of Request:

a) Describe the proposed activity or service, and indicate whether it is a higher or lower priority than existing services in your department budget.

This request is to establish a project-based budget for a multi-year project at Plantation Range. This project recovers and recycles lead from the outdoor ranges at Plantation Range and is the number one priority capital improvement project for the department. The affected area for lead recovery is estimated at approximately 4.5 acres. Once lead reclamation is complete, modifications are needed to improve lead shot containment, to control and direct stormwater runoff, to protect surface waters from direct deposition of lead from firearms activities, and to make other improvements at Plantation Range.

b) Who are the primary customers for this service?

The citizens of Whatcom County and users of Plantation Range, including recreational shooters, local law enforcement agencies, and others.

2. Describe the problem this request addresses and why Whatcom County needs to address it.

The EPA's manual Best Management Practices for Outdoor Shooting Ranges provides guidance for managing the environmental impacts of lead at outdoor shooting ranges. The manual provides a four-step model for BMPs. They include 1) Control and Contain, 2) Prevent Migration, 3) Remove and Recycle, and 4) Document Activities and Record Keeping. Plantation Range design and management has implemented many aspects of the BMPs.

The manual identifies lead reclamation as an important BMP for lead management. Lead reclamation (removal and recycle) has not occurred at Plantation Range since operations started about 1971.

Additionally, as time progressed uses and configuration of the range have changed and environmental regulations have evolved. A need exists to evaluate current activities and environmental conditions. Capital improvements for modification of the outdoor range(s) are likely required to provide appropriate environmental protections while providing for continued operation of the outdoor ranges. Modifications may include changes to firing lines, berms, and other features to contain and control lead, and changes to the grounds to protect water quality. Modifications may also be implemented to make future lead reclamation efforts more cost efficient.

In 2020, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) conducted an investigation at Plantation Range over concerns of potential environmental impacts resulting from lead in the environment resulting from use of firearms. These efforts have culminated in the County and DOE working collaboratively on lead reclamation efforts.

The initial funding request provides for typical lead reclamation efforts and to hire a team to assess the range for capital improvement needs. Additional funding requests will be considered as more information is gathered.

3. Options

a) What other options have you considered? Why is this the best option?

Lead reclamation is a regulatory required activity. How clean-up is accomplished can take a variety of

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forms. Options will be assessed as the work between Whatcom County and DOE progresses.

b) What are the specific cost savings? (Quantify)

Lead reclaimed during the project will be recycled providing off-setting revenue. No other cost savings are expected initially, however, capital improvement components may make future lead reclamation more cost and resource efficient.

4. Outcomes / Objectives

a) What outcomes will be delivered and when?

Lead reclamation is complete at Plantation Range. Analysis of potential capital improvements needed to sustain long-term Range operations is complete, and preferred alternatives have been identified., and capital improvements are initiated. This work is planned to be complete by the end of 2024.

b) How will you know whether the outcomes happened?

Department of Ecology certifies lead reclamation is complete at Plantation Range. Analysis documents are complete for capital improvements and capital improvements are initiated.

5. Other Departments/Agencies

a) Will this ASR impact other departments or agencies? If so, please identify the departments and/or agencies impacted and explain what the impact(s) will be.

Planning and Development Services is responsible for processing permit applications. Department of Health is participating in consultant role regarding drinking water quality and solid waste management.

b) If another department or agency is responsible for part of the implementation, name the person in charge of implementation and what they are responsible for.

Employees as assigned by the various departments.

6. What is the funding source for this request?

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