



**KING COUNTY**

1200 King County Courthouse  
516 Third Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98104

**Signature Report**

**December 12, 2006**

**Motion 12423**

**Proposed No.** 2006-0481.2

**Sponsors** Constantine

1           A MOTION identifying projects to be funded under the  
2           reauthorization of Public Law 106-393, Title III, the Secure  
3           Rural Schools and Self-Determination Act of 2000, and  
4           allocating to those projects the funds to be received from  
5           the federal government for federal fiscal year 2007, which  
6           begins October 1, 2006.

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9           WHEREAS, in 1908 the United States Congress enacted and subsequently  
10          amended a law that requires that twenty-five percent of the revenues derived from  
11          national forest lands be paid to states for use by the counties in which the lands are  
12          situated for the benefit of public schools and roads, and

13          WHEREAS, the sharing of revenues from the national forest lands is, in part, a  
14          recognition that these lands are not subject to local taxation, and also that counties  
15          provide services that directly benefit the lands and the people who use the lands, and

16 WHEREAS, the principal source of revenues from national forest lands is from  
17 the sale and removal of timber, which has been sharply curtailed in recent years, with a  
18 corresponding decline in revenues shared with counties, and

19 WHEREAS, the United States Congress in the Secure Rural Schools and Self  
20 Determination Act of 2000, P.L. 106-393, recognized a need to stabilize education and  
21 road maintenance funding through predictable payments to the affected counties, job  
22 creation in those counties, and other opportunities associated with restoration,  
23 maintenance and stewardship of federal lands, and

24 WHEREAS, it is expected that the Congress will re-authorize P.L. 106-393 to  
25 cover federal fiscal year 2007, and

26 WHEREAS, P.L. 106-393 provides for guaranteed minimum payments for the  
27 benefit of affected counties, as well as an opportunity to invest a portion of the  
28 guaranteed minimum payments in projects on federal lands or that benefit resources on  
29 federal lands, or in county projects or activities, and

30 WHEREAS, Title I, Section 102 of P.L. 106-393 gives each eligible county the  
31 right to elect to receive either its traditional share of revenues from the national forest  
32 lands or instead to receive the guaranteed minimum amount, also known as the "full  
33 payment amount," and

34 WHEREAS, the full payment amount for King County for federal fiscal year  
35 2007 is approximately two million three hundred sixty-three thousand five hundred  
36 thirty-four dollars, and

37           WHEREAS, any county electing to receive the full payment amount must further  
38           elect to expend an amount not less than fifteen percent nor more than twenty percent of  
39           its full payment amount as project funds, and

40           WHEREAS, counties electing to receive the full payment amount must allocate  
41           its project funds for expenditure between projects in accordance with Title II of P.L. 106-  
42           393 and projects in accordance with Title III of P.L. 106-393, and

43           WHEREAS, Title II of P.L. 106-393 provides for special projects on federal lands  
44           or that benefit resources on federal lands, which projects are recommended by local  
45           resource advisory committees, and

46           WHEREAS, Title III of P.L. 106-393 provides for county projects or services,  
47           some of which are associated with the federal lands, with Title III authorizing  
48           expenditures for search, rescue and emergency services, staffing of community service  
49           work camps, the purchase of easements, forest related educational opportunities, fire  
50           prevention and county planning and community forestry pursuant to the Cooperative  
51           Forest Assistance Act of 1978, and

52           WHEREAS, King County elected to receive the full payment amount, and further  
53           elected to expend twenty percent of the full payment amount on projects, communicating  
54           these elections by letter to the Washington State Association of Counties, forwarded to  
55           the governor of the state of Washington, and

56           WHEREAS, Motion 12226, passed December 12, 2005, describes the county  
57           elections to date, and approved the Title III projects for federal fiscal year 2006, and

58 WHEREAS, twenty percent of the full payment amount for federal fiscal year  
59 2007 is approximately four hundred seventy-two thousand seven hundred six dollars and  
60 this amount can be divided between Title II and Title III projects, and

61 WHEREAS, the executive budget proposal for 2007 appropriates funds to  
62 departments to pay for the Title III projects described in this motion, all of which meet  
63 the requirements of Title III, and

64 WHEREAS, Title III of P.L.106-393 requires a forty-five day public comment  
65 period before approval of Title III projects by the county, and King County published  
66 descriptions of the proposed projects forty-five days before the passage of this motion;

67 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

68 A. King County hereby elects to allocate eighteen percent of the full payment  
69 amount from the federal fiscal year beginning October 1, 2006, which is approximately  
70 four hundred twenty-five thousand four hundred thirty-six dollars to Title III projects  
71 described in subsections C, D, E and F of this motion.

72 B. The remaining two percent of the full payment amount, which is  
73 approximately forty-seven thousand two hundred seventy dollars, is to be retained by the  
74 United States Secretary of Agriculture for Title II projects to be submitted by the resource  
75 advisory committee, established according to the terms of Title II.

76 C. King County hereby authorizes the use of one hundred seventy-five thousand  
77 four hundred thirty-six dollars of Title III funds to partially fund a youth forestry  
78 education program, administered by the Washington State University Cooperative  
79 Extension and EarthCorps, which will provide leadership training and technical skills in  
80 forest restoration to high school students.

81           D. King County hereby authorizes the use of one hundred thousand dollars of  
82 Title III funds to partially fund the urban forestry program in the water and land resources  
83 division, which will provide grants and technical assistance to communities and groups  
84 who incorporate forestry education for youth into their forest conservation and restoration  
85 projects.

86           E. King County hereby authorizes the use of one hundred twenty thousand  
87 dollars of Title III funds to partially reimburse the King County sheriff's office for  
88 expenses incurred performing search and rescue operations on federal land.

89           F. King County hereby authorizes the use of thirty thousand dollars of Title III  
90 funds to partially fund the fire safe forests initiative in the water and land resources

**Motion 12423**

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91 division forestry program, which will assist a selected community in a rural forested area  
92 to develop and implement a community fire safety plan.

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Motion 12423 was introduced on 10/23/2006 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 12/11/2006, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Constantine and Ms. Patterson

No: 0

Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



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Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

**Attachments** A. ORCA 4-H Youth Education Program--WSU King County Extension and EarthCorps, B. King County Urban and Community Forestry Program--Water and Land Resources Division--King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, C. King County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue, D. King County Fire Safe Forests Project--Water and Land Resources Division--King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

## **ORCA 4-H Youth Education Program WSU King County Extension and EarthCorps**

*"EarthCorps' community-based approach makes it easy and fun for young people to get involved, and also provides them with the leadership skills to continue their stewardship beyond the project. The Seattle Foundation is proud to recognize this fine organization for their outstanding efforts."*

- Anne Farrell, Seattle Foundation CEO

The Outreach and Restoration Community Apprenticeship (ORCA) 4-H Youth Education Program addresses the intersection of youth at risk<sup>1</sup> and forest environments at risk in King County. ORCA enables participants to learn about forest ecology, earn life and work skills, and return restored forest environments to their communities. ORCA directly benefits two age groups of young people as well as the larger community and the local environment.

*"Your program has allowed my students, 74% of whom are on free and reduced lunch, to become stewards of our forest and also the community. Through your work, these kids, many of whom are at risk, have something in their lives that is stable, and always there --- the forest. Your program has instilled in them responsibility for caring and nurturing something that they can have control over."* - Jan Hunt, Educator

### **ORCA 4-H Youth Education Program**

The ORCA 4-H Youth Education Program is a joint effort between EarthCorps and Washington State University (WSU) King County Extension. The program trains Apprentices (ages 18-24) to develop and lead projects around youth development in forestry education and restoration among underserved youth in King County. Apprentices focus on youth and community outreach, volunteer management, and the technical field skills associated with ecological restoration.

*"When something so spectacular happens in our park, it always seems that EarthCorps was involved."*

-Liz Kearns, Community Member

### **Goals of the ORCA 4-H Youth Education Program**

The foundation of the ORCA Youth Development Program is experiential learning. Participants learn through hands-on, field-based learning. Participants gain professionalism and accountability by being part of a working team, and adhering to program policies and high standards of quality.

#### **ORCA Goals:**

- 1. Provide project-based forestry/environmental education to underserved youth in King County.**
- 2. Develop life and work skills training for participants.**
- 3. Restore forest environments in King County.**
- 4. Enable underserved communities to take action and make positive changes in their neighborhood green spaces**

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<sup>1</sup> Youth targeted by this program are defined as youth that are at risk of not fulfilling their potential as responsible, productive, and contributing members of society. Some of the risk factors include but are not limited to circumstances such as non-traditional family structure, living below the poverty line, one or more parents not completing high school, or working parents lacking time to nurture the growth and development of their child. While youth at risk are targeted, this is not a requirement for participation in program activities.

**King County Urban and Community Forestry Program**  
Water and Land Resources Division  
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

The Urban and Community Forestry Program seeks to improve watershed health at the neighborhood level while teaching forest stewardship to youth. The expansion of residential and commercial land uses has affected the health of watersheds on a variety of scales by removing forests, increasing the levels of pollutants entering waterways and damaging salmon and wildlife habitats. Despite the importance of forests to King County, forest management is not well understood by much of the general public. And, with 80% of our population residing in urban areas, many children lack access to forested environments and growing up without a connection to the land.

Urban and community forestry fosters a sense of forest stewardship among youth, helping them learn more about natural resources and their management. We offer grants for projects that provide youth with habitat restoration experience and forest management know-how. By directly involving young people in improving natural resources in their own communities we help them gain a better understanding of the function and importance of forests in watersheds throughout King County.

The Title III-funded Urban and Community Forestry Program serves both rural and urban areas and supports youth education and training in forest management, forest habitat restoration and forest ecology. We partner with other agencies through King County's Natural Resource Stewardship Network to provide technical assistance to those who need training or consultation to successfully complete their projects. Among the many projects funded in prior years are:

- Inner city youth gained job skills and planted over 300 native trees and plants at White Center's Lakewood Park as part of the New Start Re-Entry School Program's science curriculum;
- Youth experienced sustainable forest management in Vashon's Island Center Forest and learned a full range of low impact forest management skills. Participants observed operations on the Vashon Stewards' mill yard, which produces lumber from locally grown trees sustainably harvested as part of forest stewardship activities;
- The Denny Creek Neighborhood Alliance engaged students and volunteers to replace dying Douglas fir trees in the Juanita Woodlands with 200 disease-resistant western red cedars; and
- The Student -Teen Employment Preparation (STEP) Program provided inner city youth with education, job skills and career development training by engaging them in urban forestry activities in Seward and Colman parks.

Urban and Community Forestry projects are evaluated for effectiveness and are required to monitor and maintain project sites for three years. Periodic site visits ensure high quality project implementation and aftercare for habitat restorations.



**King County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue**

The King County Sheriff's Office is required by state law to provide search & rescue services to King County. This is a service unique in King County to the Sheriff's Office. In addition, this service enhances King County's ability to respond to other emergencies and disasters, including natural events and terrorist incidents. This proposal will allow the Sheriff's Office to continue to provide search and rescue services at an acceptable level, improve the Unit's technical capability to locate and rescue lost and injured people, and support King County Government and all other county government agencies in those situations. This proposal will also make these services more cost effective by reducing the time required to locate and rescue victims and to assess emergency and disaster situations.

This proposal is for \$120,000 of Title III funds under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000, Public Law 106-393. Funds will be used to reimburse the Sheriff's Office for a portion of the costs related to search, rescue, and emergency service activities on federal land. Historically, 65% of the Sheriff's search and rescue activity is on federal land.

**King County Fire Safe Forests Project**  
Water and Land Resources Division  
King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks

The Forestry Program proposes the Fire Safe Forests Project (also known as Firewise) to assist selected communities in the rural forested area to develop and implement community wildfire safety plans by involving small forest landowners and forest residents. Through this project, a forester will work directly with community residents through consultation sessions and visits to their forest properties. The forester also will assist community members to develop forest stewardship plans for their individual properties, which for many will be the first step in implementing fire safe forest management practices on their land. Studies have shown that a healthy forest with sufficient growing space for trees will be healthier, more drought tolerant and less susceptible to fire.

Through the project, King County will partner with other agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations and/or community groups to provide written information and training sessions for forest landowners. Community residents will be encouraged to share information with their neighbors. Residents of forested areas will be also be instructed to consult with local fire departments to determine factors such as ease of access to their home, appropriate home and street signing, and other risk factors that individuals and communities may need to address.

The project is designed to accomplish the following:

- Prevent the loss of lives, property and resources to wildfire while ensuring forest stewardship among landowners;
- Help prevent and control wildfire independent of professional fire fighting efforts;
- Leverage fire planning assistance offered by federal and state agencies;
- Encourage forest stewardship by owners of smaller acreage and/or residential forestland as per the Executive Order regarding the Implementation of Forestry Policies (March 15, 2002);
- Support the County Fire Marshall in promoting fire prevention best management practices called for in the 2005 Critical Areas Ordinance; and
- Promote DDES's new Fire Hazard Reduction Permit, which regulates vegetation removal to reduce fire hazards around rural residences.

Throughout 2006 the County's Forestry Program worked closely with rural residents, fire districts and the King County Fire Marshal to establish the Upper Green Community Fire Protection Planning Group. The planning area is defined, assessment software and hardware have been acquired, and volunteers trained in assessment protocols with community assessments on-going. In addition, an evacuation plan and atlas has been developed for the Tolt Triangle Fire Council, and additional forest fuel management has occurred on approximately 100 acres. A new brochure entitled 'Be Firewise – Create the First Zone of Defense!' with fire safety tips for rural homeowners has been printed and distributed throughout rural King County. The Fire Safe Forests Project will assist in completing the Upper Green Community Wildfire Protection Plan in 2007, and develop the demonstration project for tree removal to reduce fire Hazard in the Rural Area.