

**RCW 77.135.240 Aquatic invasive species local management grant program.** (1) Money in the aquatic invasive species management account created in RCW 77.135.200 may be appropriated to the department to establish an aquatic invasive species local management grant program. The department shall enter into agreement with the recreation and conservation office to administer the grant funds or other financial assistance, assist the department in developing grant program policies and funding criteria, and consult with the department prior to awarding grants. State agencies, cities, counties, tribes, special purpose districts, academic institutions, and nonprofit groups are eligible for competitive grants to:

- (a) Manage prohibited level 1 or level 2 aquatic [invasive] species at a local level;
- (b) Develop rapid response management cooperative agreements for local water bodies;
- (c) Develop or implement prohibited species management cooperative agreements for local water bodies; and
- (d) Conduct innovative applied research that directly supports on-the-ground prevention, control, and eradication efforts.

(2) The department may give preference to projects that have matching funds, provide in-kind services, or maintain or enhance outdoor recreational opportunities. [2017 3rd sp.s. c 17 s 302.]