

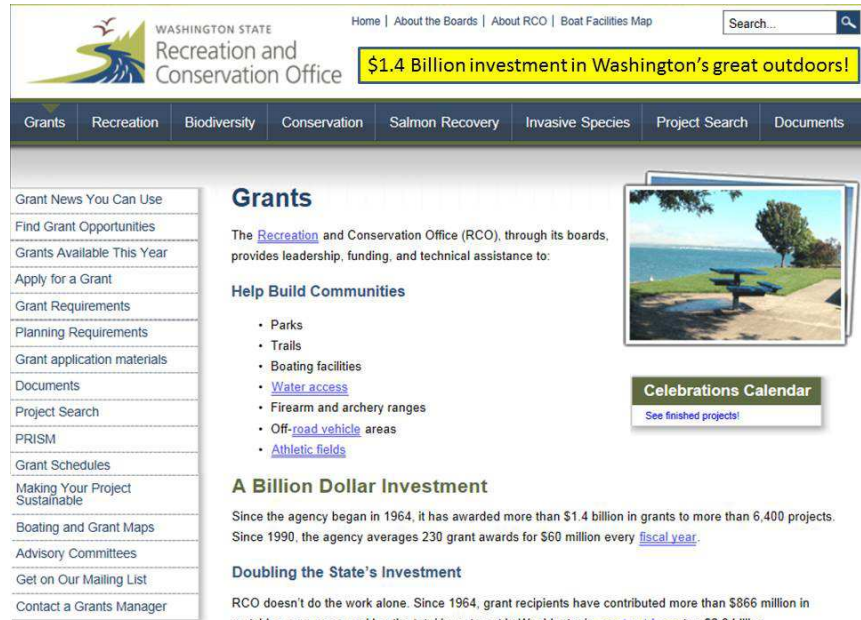
Breaking News! Tuesday February 11, 2014

Benton County Commissioners APPROVED a partnership with Friends of Badger Mountain (FOBM) for a matching grant application to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO).

The Washington State, RCO typically awards about \$60 million to an average of 230 projects every grant cycle. Benton County will apply for a \$750,000 matching grant in May of 2014 to help create a new Candy Mountain Preserve.

As Benton County's partner to create a new Candy Mountain Preserve FOBM will

- FOBM will raise the \$750,000 required to match the RCO grant.
- FOBM will purchase land to donate to Benton County.
- FOBM will lead the volunteer effort to building the public trails.
- FOBM will be the stewardship partner to maintain these public trails.

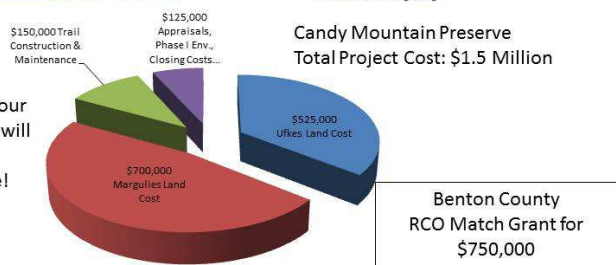


Future Candy Mountain Preserve Cost

Benefits to the Tri-Cities:

- **Quality of life** with accessible outdoor recreation that promotes health and fitness.
- **Preservation** so native vegetation and wildlife habitat is protected and the community's natural beauty and viewpoints are maintained and enjoyed.
- **Economic growth** through preserving open spaces that increase surrounding land value, attract top talent and boost tourism.

www.friendsofbadger.org



A new park is a gift to our entire community that will be enjoyed for all generations to come!

The land owners came to FOBM about 2.5 years ago with a vision to create a public preserve on Candy Mountain. Now FOBM has an agreement with each of these willing land owners to purchase their land to make an open space preserve and make this dream a reality.

A new preserve is a gift to our entire community that will be enjoyed for generations to come!

For more information here is the link to the Tri-City Herald article :

<http://www.tri-cityherald.com/2014/02/11/2821656/benton-county-to-see-grant-to.html>