

# Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)



## FACT SHEET

### Who may Apply?

- Local governments
- Federal agencies
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Tribes

### Types of Projects Funded

- Development
- Education and enforcement
- Land acquisition
- Maintenance and operation
- Planning

### Funding

Funding comes from off-road vehicle permits and part of the state gas tax paid by users of off-road vehicles and non-highway roads (roads not supported by state fuel taxes).

Funding is divided among categories by formulas established in state law:

- 70 percent for recreation facilities
- 30 percent for education and enforcement.

### Recreation and Conservation Office

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## Keeping Trails Open

Trails in Washington's rugged mountains and lush forests are used by an estimated one-third of the state's population.<sup>1</sup>

People take to these trails for a variety of recreational pursuits: 10 percent ride motorcycles and off-road vehicles on those trails, 8 percent ride bicycles, 3 percent ride horses, and many others use them for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing.

While trail experiences are popular, budget cuts at all levels of government have made developing new trails and keeping existing ones open to the public challenging.

## Purpose

One of the sources of funding for building and maintaining these trails and associated facilities, is the NOVA program, which provides grants to develop and manage recreation opportunities for users of backcountry trails and non-highway roads.

Non-highway roads are roads owned or managed by a public agency or private roads with an easement for public use, and for which money from the motor vehicle fund was not used to build or rebuild it in the past 25 years or maintain it in the past 4 years. These roads most often are roads in national and state forests. Typical projects vary from maintenance of intensive use areas such as off-road vehicle sports parks to development of trails, trailheads, restrooms, and picnic areas.

## Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded

The grant process is open and competitive. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications in even-numbered years. Citizen committees made of up experts in trail and off-road vehicle issues evaluate the projects and score them based on criteria established by the board and then submit a ranked list to the board for funding consideration.



The City of Richland used a \$462,000 Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities grant to develop a campground and bathroom in the pit area near the motocross track in Horn Rapids ORV park.

In Washington, there are only three sports parks dedicated to off-road vehicle use – one each in Benton, Spokane, and Thurston Counties.

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## INVESTING IN WASHINGTON'S GREAT OUTDOORS

### Grant Recipients (1978-2015)

Anacortes  
Benton County  
Chelan County  
Clallam County  
Clark County  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
Darrington Community Club  
DPS Technical Inc.  
Eastmont  
Environmental Science Associates  
Everett  
Ferry County  
Grant County  
Grays Harbor County  
Jefferson County  
King County  
Kitsap County  
Kittitas County  
Leavenworth  
Long Beach  
Mason County  
Metropolitan Park District of Tacoma  
North Bonneville  
Othello  
Pierce County  
Port Angeles  
Republic  
Responsive Management  
Richland  
San Juan County  
Snohomish County  
Spokane County  
Thurston County  
Walla Walla  
Washington Technology Solutions Inc.  
Weston Solutions Inc.  
Whatcom County  
Yakima County



The U.S. Forest Service's Wenatchee National Forest used a \$35,000 grant to maintain the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

### Federal Agencies

#### National Park Service

- Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area
- Mount Rainier National Park
- North Cascades National Park
- Olympic National Park

#### U.S. Bureau of Land Management

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Columbia National Wildlife Refuge

#### U.S. Forest Service

- Colville National Forest
- Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
- Olympic National Forest
- Umatilla National Forest

### State Organizations

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Recreation and Conservation Office

State Parks and Recreation Commission

University of Washington

<sup>1</sup>Amanda C. Ritchie et al., "Outdoor Recreation in Washington: The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan," Responsive Management, Harrisonburg, VA, May 2013, pp. 160-165.