**Maintaining Washington’s Trails**

Washingtonians are an active population. A recent survey revealed that one-third of the state’s population recreates on trails in the state’s mountains and forests. People are hiking, biking, riding horses, cross-country skiing, and using off-road vehicles and snowmobiles.

**Purpose**

To accommodate them, the Recreational Trails Program provides federal funding to maintain trails and facilities that offer a backcountry experience.

This funding is vital to keeping trails open to the public. As public agencies face funding shortages, maintenance often is delayed or eliminated. This grant program is one of the few for maintaining backcountry trails.

Typical projects include maintaining and rerouting trails, building trail-side and trailhead facilities, and running environmental education and trail safety programs.

**Ensuring the Best Projects are Funded**

The grant process is open and competitive to ensure the best projects receive funding. The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications in even-numbered years. A citizen committee, which is made of recreational trail users, scores the applications using criteria established by the board and submits a ranked list to the board for consideration. The board approves the list and forwards it to the Federal Highway Administration for review and final approval.

**Outdoors Recreation Improves Economy, Health**

Use of trails provides many economic and health benefits to Washington. A recent report by the Washington Trails Association showed that Olympic National Park visitors add $90 million to the local area and generate 1,900 jobs. Backcountry campers to one national park in Washington contributed $985,000 in 2000 to restaurants and bars, groceries, gas and oil, local transportation, and admission fees.

In addition to providing money for jobs, hiking lowers the risk of health care costs. Many people spend time in the outdoors to relieve stress, a major contributor to illnesses, and studies have shown outdoor experiences decrease attention deficit disorder, obesity, and depression among children.

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**Who may Apply?**
- Local governments
- Federal agencies
- Nonprofits
- Special purpose districts
- State agencies
- Tribes

**Types of Projects Funded**
- Education
- Development or rehabilitation of trail facilities
- Maintenance

**Federal Funding**

People venturing into the backcountry help pay for these grants. Funding comes from federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational, non-highway uses, and is dedicated to improve trails and facilities that provide a backcountry experience.

**Leveraging State Dollars**

Grant recipients must provide at least 20 percent in matching resources.

**Recreation and Conservation Office**

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The U.S. Forest Service has received several Recreational Trails Program grants totaling more than $72,000 to maintain trails in the Pasayten Wilderness.
Grant Recipients (1994-2015)

Anacortes
Apple Country Snowmobile Club
Back Country Horsemans of Washington
Benton County
Bremerton Cruisers Motorcycle
Butte Busters Snowmobile Club
Chinook Trail Association
Clallam County
Clark County
Coal Mines Trail Commission
Colville National Forest
EarthCorps
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
Foothills Rails to Trails Coalition
Friends of the Trail
Gifford Pinchot National Forest
Grays Harbor County
Hi-Country Snowmobile Club
High Country Cruisers
Hurricane Ridge Education Foundation
Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Issaquah
Issaquah Alps Trail Club
Jameson S Klallam Tribe
Jones Creek Trail Riders Association
Junco Snowmobile Club
King County
Kitsap Land Trust
Lake Cle Elum Ridge Ryders
Lake Wenatchee Recreation Club
Lopez Island Conservation Corps
Loup Loup Ski Education
Methow Valley Snowmobile Association
Methow Valley Sport Trail Association
Montesano
Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest
Mount Tahoma Trails Association
Mountain Trails Grooming Association
Mountains to Sound Greenway
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club
Northwest Glacier Cruisers
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Olympic National Forest
Olympic National Park


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