

Interagency Committee For Outdoor Recreation
360/902-3000
360/902-3026 (fax)
360/902/1996 (TDD)
e-mail: info@iac.wa.gov



STATE OF WASHINGTON

Salmon Recovery Funding Board
360/902-2636
360/902-3026 (fax)
360/902/1996 (TDD)
e-mail: salmon@iac.wa.gov

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
1111 Washington Street SE
PO Box 40917
Olympia, WA 98504-0917

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Contact: Susan Zemek, 360-902-3081
E-mail: susanz@rco.wa.gov

State Awards More Than \$3 Million in Grants for Trails

OLYMPIA – Backcountry trails in 17 counties got a boost this week when the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) announced grant funding for improvements totaling more than \$3 million.

The grants from the federally funded National Recreational Trails Program support rehabilitation and maintenance of backcountry trails, as well as projects to educate trail users about protecting the environment and having a safe experience. Projects in the following counties were approved for funding. (*For details, visit www.iac.wa.gov.*)

Chelan.....	\$388,380	Pend Oreille	\$143,430
Clark.....	\$43,628	Pierce	\$63,000
Ferry.....	\$60,000	Skagit	\$28,075
Garfield.....	\$72,672	Skamania	\$83,001
Grays Harbor.....	\$13,998	Snohomish	\$105,915
King.....	\$713,286	Spokane.....	\$19,923
Kittitas	\$355,698	Whatcom	\$140,000
Lewis	\$125,000	Yakima	\$20,000
Okanogan.....	\$229,281	Multiple.....	\$518,931

“Our surveys show that walking and hiking are the most popular outdoor activities in Washington. We need to ensure that people have safe and well-maintained places for those activities,” said Laura Johnson, director of the Recreation and Conservation

Office, which manages the grant awards. "These grants help do that by providing money to maintain trails that give people access to the most remote areas, making it easier to enjoy the spectacular mountains, forests and backcountry that surround us."

RCO surveys peg the number of Washingtonians who hike at least once a year at nearly 5 percent, with another 8 percent venturing into the backcountry on bicycles, horses, motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles, four-wheel drive vehicles, snowshoes, cross-country skis and snowmobiles.

RCO received 112 grant proposals requesting more than \$4.7 million under the National Recreational Trails Program, which is paid for by federal gasoline taxes. RCO evaluates and ranks the proposals and manages the distribution of the federal funding. RCO was able to award 75 grants totaling \$3.12 million.

"Washington can be proud of the recreational facilities it offers," Johnson said. "Keeping them well maintained and up-to-date takes the resources of many different groups, including the grant applicants themselves who are contributing more than \$4 million toward the projects. It's great to see that kind of commitment to keeping Washington a great place to live and play."

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(NR-044)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Chelan County

\$388,380

**U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District \$23,940
Maintaining Chelan Snowmobile Trails**

The forest service will use this grant to remove brush along 49 miles of trail and groom 68 miles of snowmobile trails in the Chelan and the Methow Ranger Districts for two years. The forest service will contribute \$38,170 in donated labor and a state grant. (07-1295M)

**U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District \$113,000
Maintaining Trails**

The forest service will use two grants to maintain 215 miles of trail in the Chelan Ranger District. With one grant, the forest service will maintain portions of the Glacier Peak Wilderness, the Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness, the Lucerne Landing-Holden Village corridor and the Sawtooth backcountry. Crews will remove downed trees, loose rock and brush; clean drainage structures; fix sloughed and damaged trail surfaces. With a second grant, the forest service will provide year-round maintenance of 23 miles of trail on Echo Ridge for two years. Crews will clear trails, treat noxious weeds, groom 23 miles of snow trail, collect fees, plow snow, sand roads and parking lots and maintain trailheads, signs, restrooms, bulletin boards and gates. The forest service will contribute \$94,000 in cash, equipment, labor and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1239M, 07-1253M)

**U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District \$10,000
Providing a Chelan Snowmobile Ranger**

The forest service will use this grant for a ranger to educate snowmobilers about safe winter travel and protecting the environment. The snowmobile ranger will discuss educational topics with snowmobilers at trailheads and on trails in the Chelan and Methow Valley Ranger Districts, put up educational signs, post bulletin boards with educational posters and distribute brochures. The forest service will contribute \$10,000 in labor, equipment and donated labor. (07-1249E)

**U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District \$140,740
Maintaining Trails in Entiat and Lake Wenatchee Ranger Districts**

The forest service will use two grants to maintain trails in the Entiat and Lake Wenatchee Ranger Districts for two years. With one grant, crews will remove brush along 20 miles of snowmobile trail each year and remove downed trees on 100 miles each year. They also will install and remove more than 250 trail signs and safety markers yearly. The trails, which run from the Lake Wenatchee area just east of Stevens Pass into the Entiat Valley, see an estimated 36,000 visits annually. With a

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

second grant, the forest service will maintain 109 miles of trail (North Fork/Pyramid Mountain, Entiat Meadows, Larch Lakes, Ice Lake areas). Crews will remove brush and downed trees and repair drainage structures and trail surfaces. Crews also will tackle maintenance issues on the 32 miles of wilderness trail damaged by the 2006 Tinpan fire. The forest service will contribute \$244,535 in staff labor, donated labor and a state grant. (07-1204M, 07-1208M)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Entiat Ranger District \$10,000
Providing Snow Rangers for Lake Wenatchee and Entiat Ranger Districts

The forest service will use this grant to provide two teams of safety and education snowmobile patrols on weekends in the Entiat and Lake Wenatchee Ranger Districts from mid-December through late March. The snowmobile patrol teams educate winter trail users on safe and courteous trail use, including travel speeds, avalanche awareness, winter survival and respect of fellow trail users. They also help maintain more than 250 signs, distribute area maps and information on protecting the environment and help Chelan County sheriffs in search and rescue efforts. Patrol rangers also offer snowmobile safety classes. The forest service will contribute \$28,325 in staff labor, equipment use, a state grant and donated materials. (07-1203E)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District
Maintaining Off-Road Vehicle Trails \$73,000

The forest service will use two grants to maintain 108 miles of off-road vehicle trail and 15 trailheads popular with motorcyclists and mountain bikers for two years. Crews will work in the Lower Chiwawa, Chikamin, Nason Ridge and Devils Gulch trail systems. They will remove brush and downed trees, repair trail surfaces and drainage structures, maintain bridges, add signs, clean restrooms, pick up litter and post information on bulletin boards. The forest service will contribute \$25,113 in cash and donated labor. (07-1352M, 07-1354M)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District
Providing an All-Terrain Vehicle and Mountain Bike Ranger \$8,900

The forest service will use this grant to provide a bike ranger to patrol the Shaser Creek All-terrain Vehicle (ATV) trails. The ranger will educate users, post signs and assess damage to the environment. The Shaser Creek roads are the only authorized ATV trails in the Wenatchee River Ranger District. The land has a checkerboard ownership pattern where every other square mile is owned privately. Some riders have started riding off-road and on privately-owned roads and building their own trails. The forest service will contribute \$4,300 in cash and donated labor. (07-1311E)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

**U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River Ranger District
Strengthening Wilderness Snowmobile Education** **\$8,800**

The forest service will use this grant to strengthen educational efforts and improve wilderness boundary signs to prevent snowmobilers from venturing illegally into wilderness areas. Rangers will educate snowmobilers through regular patrols and distribute brochures to snowmobile dealers and at the Washington State Snowmobile Association Convention. The forest service will contribute \$3,940 in cash and donated labor. (07-1238E)

Clark County **\$43,628**

Jones Creek Trail Riders Association **\$43,628**
Maintaining Jones Creek Off-Road Vehicle Trail

The Jones Creek Trail Riders Association will use this grant to maintain the Jones Creek off-road vehicle trail system in the Yacolt State Forest. The trail system includes 15 miles of trail for hikers and riders of all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, horses and mountain bikes. Work will include fixing damaged sections of trail by adding erosion controls. The association will contribute \$18,000 cash and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1211M)

Ferry County **\$60,000**

U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest **\$50,000**
Maintaining the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail

The forest service will use this grant to maintain the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail, which is a 45-mile trail system with 53.5 miles of access trails. Several wildfires have damaged the trail severely. Crews will remove downed trees, clean the trail surface, remove overgrown brush and fix drainage structures for two years on the north end of the trail. The forest service will contribute \$168,260 from a federal grant and donated labor. (07-1485M)

U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest **\$10,000**
Purchasing Snowmobiles

The forest service will use this grant to buy snowmobiles to help access 650 miles of trails and play areas used by snowmobilers. The program has been relying on volunteer time and equipment. The equipment will allow rangers to engage snowmobilers, volunteers and grooming contractors in the field, improve safety and educate visitors

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

about the environment and their sport. The forest service will contribute \$6,604 in equipment and donated labor. (07-1405E)

Garfield County \$72,672

U.S. Forest Service, Umatilla National Forest, Pomeroy Ranger District **\$72,672**
Maintaining the Wenaha-Tucannon Trail

The forest service will use this grant to maintain 100 miles of wilderness trail in the Pomeroy Ranger District for two years. Crews will remove downed trees and overgrown brush, fix drainage structures and repair trail surfaces. The forest service is working with Backcountry Horsemen of Washington. The forest service will contribute \$77,000 in cash and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1313M)

Grays Harbor County \$13,998

American Motorcycle Association **\$5,328**
Providing Off-Road Vehicle Sound Testing Equipment

The American Motorcycle Association will use this grant to buy sound testing equipment needed for certification training seminars and to support sound testing at off-road vehicle events throughout Washington. The association will contribute \$2,900 in donations of labor and materials. (07-1486E)

Grays Harbor County **\$8,670**
Upgrading Straddleline Off-Road Vehicle Park Campsites

Grays Harbor County will use this grant to install power and water utilities at 20 of the 300 campsites at Straddleline Off Road Vehicle Park. The park is the only off-road vehicle park of its kind in western Washington and it serves as the only staffed trailhead for the state Capitol Forest. Grays Harbor County will contribute \$2,200 in staff labor. (07-1467D)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

King County \$713,286

Department of Natural Resources \$75,000
Renovating the Little Si Trail

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to renovate the 2.2-mile Little Si Trail in the Mount Si Natural Resources Conservation Area. Work will include laying a gravel surface in areas, installing drainage structures and fencing and building a retaining wall and steps. The Little Si Trail is an extremely popular trail used by families and hikers to access Little Si, a knob located below Mount Si. Rock climbers also use the trail to reach climbing routes on Mount Si. The department will work with volunteers, the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust, and the Washington Trails Association to renovate the trail. The department will contribute \$55,000 in cash, equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1412D)

Issaquah \$75,000
Renovating Swamp and Big Tree Trails

Issaquah will use this grant to renovate two popular trails, the Swamp and Big Tree Trails. The trail boardwalks were damaged by wind storms and are uneven and slippery. Work will include relocating the trails and reducing the length of boardwalk. These two trails are family favorites because they are relatively level, include the "Zoe and the Swamp Monster" interpretive story and lead to the last old growth tree in the Tradition Plateau-West Tiger Mountain Natural Resources Conservation Area. An estimated 520,000 people visit the conservation area annually. Issaquah will contribute \$50,000 in cash, equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1276D)

King County \$75,000
Providing Backcountry Trails Crew

King County will use this grant to develop a dedicated backcountry trails crew of three full-time and six part-time employees with equipment. The county has 180 parks, 25,000 miles of open space, 175 miles of regional trails and more than 130 miles of backcountry trails, making it one of the largest outdoor recreation providers in the state. The crew will repair drainage structures, bridges and trail surfaces as well as clear overgrown brush. County volunteers donate more than 50,000 hours and will focus on backcountry trails in 2008. The county will contribute \$196,820 in labor and funds from a voter-approved levy. (07-1389M)

Mountains to Sound Greenway \$75,000
Maintaining Mountains to Sound Greenway Trails

The Mountains to Sound Greenway will use this grant to maintain 55 miles of trail in the greenway. Several trails recently have been built or renovated and maintenance will

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

ensure that they remain in good condition. These trails include the Mount Si, Ira Spring and the Rattlesnake Ledge Trails. Other trails to be maintained include the Twin Falls Trail, trails on Tiger Mountain and trails along the south, mid and north forks of the Snoqualmie River. The greenway will contribute \$75,000 in labor, grants and donations of labor and materials. (07-1488M)

Mountains to Sound Greenway \$50,000
Renovating Granite Mountain Trail

The Mountains to Sound Greenway will use this grant to rehabilitate the Granite Mountain Trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness of the Mount Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. The trail climbs 3,000 feet in 3 miles to reach a fire lookout on Granite's summit. In summer, several hundred people a day climb Granite Mountain to for the views. Extremely heavy use and inadequate maintenance have led to significant environmental damage and deteriorated trail conditions. Crews will reconstruct switchbacks and install drainage structures to halt erosion. The greenway will contribute \$42,500 in cash, equipment, labor, a grant and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1463D)

U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Skykomish Ranger District
Maintaining the Skykomish Wilderness Trail \$34,608

The forest service will use this grant to hire up to five people to maintain 140 miles of trail for two years. Work includes removing downed trees, overgrown brush and boulders; fixing drainage structures and bridges; repairing slides; and improving trail surfaces. The trails, which are primarily for hikers and equestrians, traverse the Alpine Lakes and Henry M. Jackson Wilderness Areas, backcountry areas such as the Mount Index Scenic Area and the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail system receives more than 50,000 visitors annually. The forest service will contribute \$55,385 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1344M)

U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District
Maintaining Backcountry Recreation Areas and Trails \$133,765

The forest service will use this grant maintain backcountry recreation areas and trails. With one grant, the forest service will hire three, three-person crews to maintain backcountry recreation facilities including campsites, signs, toilets and trails in the Alpine Lakes, Norse Peak and Clearwater Wilderness areas and surrounding backcountry for two years. With a second grant, the forest service will hire trail maintenance crews to clear overgrown brush and repair drainage structures and trail surfaces on 125 miles of trail in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and surrounding backcountry. The forest service will contribute \$113,202 in equipment, labor, materials and donated labor and materials. (07-1373M, 07-1374M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District
Providing a Volunteer Ranger Program** **\$10,000**

The forest service will use this grant to hire a seasonal coordinator for the volunteer ranger program for one year. The coordinator recruits, trains, supervises and provides logistical support for volunteer rangers patrolling the Alpine Lakes Wilderness and backcountry. The coordinator and volunteers design educational programs and materials; contact visitors to distribute trail safety and resource protection information; maintain bulletin boards, trails and campsites; and help in emergencies. Volunteers also help with education and community outreach programs. An estimated 100,000 visitors use trails in the Snoqualmie Ranger District annually. For the past 10 years, volunteers have donated up to 5,000 hours each season. The forest service will contribute \$32,749 in staff and donated labor. (07-1372E)

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District
Reconstructing Snoqualmie Lake Trail** **\$75,000**

The forest service will use this grant to rebuild segments of the Snoqualmie Lake Trail from the wilderness boundary to Snoqualmie Lake. Portions of the trail are eroded and many drainage structures need to be replaced. The trail is unsafe and difficult to maintain. Work will include fixing drainage problems, removing downed trees and overgrown brush, defining stream crossings and reconstructing portions of the trail surface. The forest service will contribute \$53,391 in cash, labor, materials and donated labor. (07-1402D)

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington **\$34,913**
Extending the Iron Goat-Horseshoe Tunnel Trail

Volunteers for Outdoor Washington will use this grant to build a 1-mile extension of the Iron Goat Trail to connect with the Kelley Creek Trail. Construction includes building a 1/2 mile of trail from the Martin Creek trailhead to Martin Creek and a 1/2 mile of trail from the Kelley Creek Trail to the Horseshoe Tunnel. The Horseshoe Tunnel is one of the oldest tunnels in the Stevens Pass Historic District and makes a 180-degree turn within the mountainside with two trestles over Martin Creek. The tunnel and trestles are recognized as a National Civil Engineering Landmark. The project is in partnership with Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and more than 70 recreation and conservation groups, historical organizations, educational institutions, professional societies, government agencies and the private sector. Ten miles of the Iron Goat Trail have been built including three trailheads. The volunteer group will contribute \$80,000 in donated labor. (07-1215D)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **\$75,000**
Improving Squak Mountain Trail

State parks will use this grant to improve trails at Squak Mountain State Park, a 1,657-acre park just south of Issaquah. Work will include improving drainage and trail surfaces and realigning some trails to improve safety. State parks will contribute \$75,000 in cash and donated labor. (07-1497D)

Kittitas County **\$355,698**

Cascade Drift Skippers Club **\$19,972**
Creating a New Trail Between Reload Sno-Park and the John Wayne Pioneer Trail

The Cascade Drift Skippers Club will use this grant to develop a recreational trail connecting the John Wayne Pioneer Trail to the Reload Sno-Park. Work will include restoring the grade of an abandoned railroad track, removing brush and installing signs and culverts. The club will contribute \$5,000 in donated labor. (07-1226D)

Hi-Country Snowmobile Club **\$19,136**
Grooming Crystal Springs Trail

The Hi-Country Snowmobile Club will use this grant to groom the Cole Creek bypass and part of a forest service road from the Reload Sno-Park to the Crystal Springs Sno-Park. The additional grooming will make the Reload Snow Park a more desirable starting point for trail users and relieve pressure from the Crystal Springs Sno-Park, which is closed many weekends because of overuse. The club will contribute \$45,000. (07-1205M)

U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley Ranger District **\$49,739**
Rehabilitating Wilderness Trails

The forest service will use this grant to maintain 235 miles of a 317-mile wilderness trail system. Work will include removing downed trees and overgrown brush and repairing drainage structures. Crews also will try to repair trails damaged in the flood and storms of 2006. The forest service will contribute \$52,629 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1398M)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District **\$47,552**
Maintaining the Cle Elum Ski Trails

The forest service will use this grant to provide a five-person crew to maintain 65 miles of winter trails and add 15 miles of backcountry ski and snowshoe trails. Work will include removing downed trees and overgrown brush, maintaining signs and bridges

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

and surveying trails. The forest service will contribute \$69,000 in donated labor and materials. (07-1298M)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District \$39,680 Providing Cle Elum Rangers

The forest service will use four grants to hire rangers to educate trail users and patrol trails. With two grants, the forest service will fund one ranger to patrol trails, campsites and lakeshores in the Alpine Lakes Wilderness, and another ranger to patrol some of the 400 miles of backcountry trail in the Cle Elum Ranger District. The rangers will explain regulations designed to reduce environmental impacts, design brochures and posters for trailheads, coordinate volunteers, teach trail etiquette, document trail conditions for maintenance and demonstrate safe, backcountry travel techniques. With a third grant, the forest service will fund up to six snow rangers to patrol about 21 snow parks and trailheads, 500 miles of groomed trails and thousands of acres of off-trail riding areas. Snow rangers educate trail users on safe and courteous trail use, winter survival and avalanche awareness. In addition, they distribute information about snowmobile opportunities, maintain signs and aid in search and rescue efforts. With the fourth grant, the forest service will enhance its winter patrols by funding another snow ranger to work with skiers, snowshoers, dog mushers, and snowmobile volunteer rangers to patrol winter trails to assess user patterns and prevent user conflicts. The forest service will contribute \$52,404 in state grants, staff labor and donated labor. (07-1198E, 07-1199E, 07-1290E, 07-1292E)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission \$179,619 Grooming Trails Near Snoqualmie Pass

State parks will use three grants to groom trails along the Interstate 90 corridor near Snoqualmie Pass. Work will include grooming 100 miles of snowmobile trails in the Stampede Pass and Kachess trail systems, 140 miles of snowmobile trails in the Salmon La Sac Trail system and 35 miles of cross-country ski and dog sled trails throughout the Snoqualmie area. About a third of snowmobilers statewide ride primarily in Kittitas County, making it one of the heaviest used areas in the state. Continued grooming will enhance rider safety and enjoyment. State Parks will contribute \$149,925 in equipment and state grants. (07-1410M, 07-1417M, 07-1438M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Lewis County

\$125,000

Mount Tahoma Trails Association

\$125,000

Purchasing Snow Grooming Equipment and Maintaining Trails

The Mount Tahoma Trails Association will use two grants to maintain 40 miles of trail and purchase needed equipment. With one grant, the club will buy four snowmobiles and a pickup truck and trailer for hauling snowmobiles. With the second grant, the club will groom 40 miles of trail, which link four backcountry ski huts for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter and maintain the trail in the summer for hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding. Work will include clearing the trails of brush and trees. An estimated 10,000 people use the trails each season. The local Ashford business community supports the Mount Tahoma Trails Association ski trail system along with volunteers who donate 9,000 hours annually to keep the trail system operational. The association will contribute \$208,000 in donated labor. (07-1504M, 07-1505M)

Okanogan County

\$229,281

Methow Valley Snowmobile Association

\$24,000

Grooming Priority Trails

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association will use this grant to groom 240 miles of trail for snowmobilers, cross-country skiers, dog sledders and snowshoers for two years. These trails connect to more than 135 miles of trail that are groomed weekly by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. They also connect residents and visitors from Lost River, Winthrop, Conconully, Twisp and Twisp River to the snowmobile trail system in the Methow Valley. The Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan County Snowmobile Advisory Board, Methow Valley Snowmobile Association, Tri Rivers Snowmobile Club, Association of Okanogan County Snowmobile Clubs and the Winthrop and Twisp Chamber of Commerce support this project. The association will contribute \$24,412 in donated equipment and labor. (07-1082M)

Mountain Trails Grooming Association

\$21,520

Purchasing a Multi-Blade Snow Groomer

The Mountain Trails Grooming Association will use this grant to buy a multi-blade trail groomer to improve a multi-use trail for snowmobilers and cross-country skiers. The equipment will groom a trail more quickly with less fuel costs. The trail will be smoother and last longer under heavy use. The association will contribute \$19,383 in donated equipment and labor. (07-1104M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan National Forest, Methow Ranger District \$159,780 Maintaining Methow Valley Ranger District Trails and Trailheads

The forest service will use three grants to maintain trails and trailheads across the district. With two grants, the forest service will maintain about 420 miles of trail in the Pasayten and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas, in the Sawtooth Range on the east slope of the north Cascade Mountains and in the North Cascades Scenic Highway corridor. Crews will remove downed trees, overgrown brush and heavy rocks and repair trail surfaces and drainage structures. With a third grant, the forest service will maintain 34 trailheads. Work will include providing security patrols and greeting visitors; replacing horse hitch rails and unloading ramps; maintaining and repairing bulletin boards, signs and picnic tables; collecting garbage; and cleaning and repairing restrooms. The forest service will contribute \$129,090 in cash, labor, equipment and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1281M, 07-1282M,07-1429M)

U.S. Forest Service, Okanogan National Forest, Tonasket Ranger District \$23,981 Relocating Honeymoon Pass Trail

The forest service will use this grant to relocate 3 miles of Honeymoon Pass Trail to the base of the ridge to improve safety and prevent environmental damage. The trail was built as a sheep driveway about 100 years ago and has been maintained by users, including snowmobilers, hikers and equestrians for the past 30 years. The trail follows the north fork of Salmon Creek. Each spring, sections of the trail become so saturated that horses get bogged to their bellies in mud. Even if they don't get stuck, visitors degrade the wet areas with hoof and boot and widen the problem areas as they try to go around them. Project partners include the Okanogan Trail Riders, Backcountry Horsemen, Pacific Northwest Trail Association and SKY (Service, Knowledge, Youth) youth corps. The forest service will contribute \$27,896 in cash and donated equipment and labor. (07-1431D)

Pend Oreille County

\$143,430

Spokane Winter Knights \$49,000 Building a Kings Lake Sno-Park Groomer Shelter

The Spokane Winter Knights will use this grant to construct a metal storage building for two snow groomers at the Kings Lake Sno-Park. Kings Lake Sno-Park provides access to 135 miles of groomed snowmobile trails with an average use of 5,000 snowmobiles a year. Currently, the groomers are stored and maintained outside in the winter, which makes routine inspections, maintenance and repairs difficult. Also, the current storage area is on private property that recently sold. The knights will contribute \$15,900 in donated equipment, labor and materials. (07-1384D)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest, Newport Ranger District \$23,000
Rehabilitating the Bead Lake Trail

The forest service will use this grant to replace two bridges and create better stream crossings on the Bead Lake Trail. Crews will relocate about ¼ mile of trail, build rock fords and hardened stream approaches, dismantle and scatter existing structures, add horse hitching posts and lay gravel in the parking area. The trail system, which is 45 minutes from Spokane, has an annual use of 4,500 visits, including horses, mountain bikers and hikers. The forest service will contribute \$12,750 in staff labor, equipment, materials and donated labor. (07-1477D)

U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest, Sullivan Lake Ranger District \$10,000
Buying Pend Oreille Valley Snowmobiles

The forest service will use this grant to buy a snowmobile for the winter recreation program in the Colville National Forest, and in particular the Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts. The districts do not have snowmobiles to help manage the 650 miles of snowmobile trail. The forest service will contribute \$5,225 in cash and donated labor. (07-1442E)

U.S. Forest Service, Colville National Forest, Sullivan Lake Ranger District \$10,000
Providing a Caribou Recovery Area Education Program

The forest service will use this grant to hire two snow rangers to talk with snowmobilers about riding in an area that is home to the endangered woodland caribou. The rangers also will educate riders about avalanche awareness, snowmobile regulations, trail etiquette and winter survival methods. They will maintain information boards and travel management signs as well provide informational brochures. Sullivan Lake Ranger District, which lies on the north end of the Pend Oreille Valley, is the only place in Washington, and one of the few places in the United States, where the caribou live. The forest service will contribute \$5,170 in equipment, labor, materials and donated labor. (07-1444E)

U.S. Forest Service Idaho Panhandle National Forest \$51,430
Maintaining Priest Lake Trails

The forest service will use this grant to maintain 45 miles of interconnected, multi-use and wilderness trail in the Washington portion of the Priest Lake Ranger District during two years. Work will include cleaning drainage structures, improving loop trails, removing downed trees and overgrown brush and fixing trail surfaces. The forest service will contribute \$14,210 in cash and donated equipment and labor. (07-1252M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Pierce County \$63,000

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Snoqualmie Ranger District
Maintaining White River Ranger District Trails \$63,000**

The forest service will use this grant to maintain 230 miles of multiple-use trail in the Snoqualmie/White River Ranger District. Staff and seasonal trail crews will work with nonprofit organizations and volunteers to maintain front country and backcountry wilderness trails. Floods in 2006 caused extensive damage. The forest service will contribute \$145,278 in equipment, labor, materials and donated labor. (07-1368M)

Skagit County \$28,075

**Anacortes \$28,075
Maintaining the Anacortes Community Forest Lands Trails**

Anacortes will use this grant to hire temporary employees to make repairs on multi-use trails near Little Cranberry Lake, Whistle Lake and Mount Erie. Some of the bridges across wetlands and streams are more than 15 years old and in need of repair. Other trails are eroding due to increased use. The Anacortes Community Forest Lands are 2,800 acres of old growth groves, sensitive wildlife habitat and miles of recreational trails on Fidalgo Island. Anacortes will contribute \$31,900 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1161M)

Skamania County \$83,001

**U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest \$83,001
Maintaining Gifford Pinchot Nation Forest Trails**

The forest service will use two grants to maintain trails. With one grant, the forest service will maintain some of the 410 miles of backcountry, non-motorized trails in the Mount Saint Helens National Volcanic Monument and Gifford Pinchot National Forest. Crews will remove fallen trees and overgrown brush, repair drainage structures and trail surfaces, and maintenance bridges. With a second grant, the forest service will maintain 11 trails, totaling about 40 miles in length, in the Lewis River Trail system. Crews will remove fallen trees and repair trail surfaces. The Jones Creek Trail Riders Association and the South West Off-Road Riders will contribute 100 hours annually for two years. The forest service will contribute \$84,080 in equipment, labor, materials and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1302M, 07-1394M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Snohomish County \$105,915

EarthCorps \$30,915
Maintaining Wilderness Trails

EarthCorps will use this grant to maintain trails in the Henry M. Jackson and the proposed Wild Sky Wilderness areas for two years. A seven-person crew will remove downed trees and overgrown brush and clean drainage structures on 8 miles of trail between the Meadow Creek Trailhead and the Pacific Crest Trail. Crews also will remove roots and rocks from trails, clean drainage structures and remove overgrown brush on the trail between Fortune Ponds and the Pacific Crest Trail along Pear Lake. EarthCorps crews will come partly from international participants, ages 18-25, who dedicate six-months of their lives to learn conservation skills in the region. EarthCorps will contribute \$33,029 in donated equipment and labor. (07-1237M)

U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Darrington Ranger District
Maintaining High Elevation Trails \$75,000

The forest service will use this grant to hire employees to maintain 100 miles of trail in the Darrington Ranger District for two years. The trails include those off the Mountain Loop Scenic Byway, portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and some access trails. Many of the trails begin at low elevations and climb steep slopes. Volunteers have worked on the lower portions of many of these trails but are unable to reach the upper areas. The forest service will contribute \$75,000 in cash, labor and donated labor. (07-1408M)

Spokane County \$19,923

Spokane Nordic Ski Education Foundation \$19,923
Replacing Snow Grooming Equipment

The Spokane Nordic Ski Education Foundation will use this grant to buy a snowmobile, ski trail groomer, track setter, roller/compactor and garage for storing equipment. The equipment will replace aging machinery at the Mount Spokane Nordic area, provide backup grooming capability and allow for early and late season grooming when it is difficult to operate a larger groomer. The current snowmobile from the 1980s can barely move itself uphill. The foundation will contribute \$78,142 in donated labor. (07-1479M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Whatcom County

\$140,000

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District
Enhancing the Mount Baker Climbing Program** **\$10,000**

The forest service will use this grant to hire a ranger to enhance the district's climbing program. The district currently employs only one ranger, who cannot safely access all the areas on Mount Baker where climbing occurs. A second ranger will partner with the first ranger, and together they would be able to safely work as a rope team on the mountain. An experienced rope team will be able to reach the camps, routes and summit to interact with the public. Due to the sheer number of climbers on the mountain, there are concerns about climbing safety issues and resource issues. The rangers will contact climbers and educate them on minimizing environmental damage and safe climbing practices. The forest service will contribute \$10,970 in cash, labor and donated labor. (07-1393E)

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District
Hiring a Coordinator for the Mountain Steward Program** **\$10,000**

The forest service will use this grant to hire a volunteer coordinator for the Mountain Stewards Program, an adult volunteer program dedicated to the education of visitors on three of the busiest trail systems in the Mount Baker Ranger District. Mountain stewards educate visitors about wilderness ethics, care of the environment, forest regulations and safety. They also provide information about the area, such as camp locations. Volunteers have made more than 7,000 visitor contacts in the past five seasons. The North Cascades Institute will partner with the forest service for this project. The forest service will contribute \$12,800 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1224E)

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District
Maintaining Heather Meadows Area Trail** **\$50,000**

The forest service will use this grant to maintain, for two years, trails around Heather Meadows, including Picture Lake, Bagely Lakes, Wild Goose, Artist Ridge, Table Mountain, Fire and Ice, Chain Lakes, Lake Ann and Ptarmigan Ridge Trails. Crews will remove fallen trees and overgrown brush, repair drainage structures and trail surfaces and relocate a small section of trail. Heather Meadows, located at the end of the Mount Baker Scenic Byway, draws more than 150,000 visitors each season. The forest service will contribute \$51,000 in staff and donated labor. (07-1225M)

**U.S. Forest Service, Mount Baker National Forest, Mount Baker Ranger District
Repairing Canyon Creek Snowmobile Trail** **\$70,000**

The forest service will use this grant to repair the Canyon Creek Snowmobile Trail. Work will include replacing a culvert, repairing a ditch, removing a slide and surfacing a

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

road. The trail system averages 6,000 snowmobilers annually. Winter storms in 2006 caused major damage at various locations, degrading user safety and trail quality. The forest service will contribute \$83,000 in cash, a grant and donations of equipment and labor. (07-1244D)

Yakima County

\$20,000

U.S. Forest Service, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Mount Adams Ranger District

Hiring a Snow Ranger

\$10,000

The forest service will use this grant to hire a snow ranger to provide education and safety patrols throughout the Gifford Pinchot National Forest with a focus on snowmobilers. The forest includes nearly all of the snow country of the southern Cascade Mountains. With nearly 165 miles of groomed snowmobile trail and more than 100 miles of cross-country ski trail, the Gifford Pinchot offers winter recreation opportunities to tens of thousands of visitors each year. The snow ranger will work with volunteers to educate people on safe and responsible trail use and avalanche hazards. They also sign wilderness boundaries. The forest service will contribute \$18,634 in labor, materials and donated labor. (07-1362E)

U.S. Forest Service, Wenatchee National Forest, Naches Ranger District **\$10,000**

Providing Naches Snowmobile Rangers

The forest service will use this grant to hire two snow rangers for the motorized portion of the Naches winter education program. The rangers will educate the public at motorized sno-parks and on snowmobile trails about safety and responsible behavior. Topics will include avalanche awareness, winter survival, appropriate speeds, weather conditions, trail etiquette, state and forest regulations, excessive noise, wildlife encounters and respect of wilderness boundaries. They also will monitor trail signs and conditions on 150 miles of snowmobile trails and at 16 sno-parks. The forest service will contribute \$13,195 in equipment, labor, a state grant and donated equipment. (07-1333E)

Multiple Counties

\$518,931

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

Maintaining Backcountry Trails

\$75,000

The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington will use this grant to replace worn out tools and buy needed safety equipment and supplies. The backcountry horsemen regularly

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

maintain 1,500 miles of trail each year in the Olympic, Mount Baker-Snoqualmie, Gifford Pinchot, Wenatchee, Okanogan, Colville and Umatilla National Forests. Volunteers also pack in supplies such as gravel and tools for other volunteer groups and for the federal forest service. The backcountry horsemen will contribute \$80,000 in donated labor. (07-1214M)

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington **\$10,000**
Supporting the Leave No Trace Education Program

The backcountry horsemen will use this grant to buy projection and classroom materials, signs and a trailer awning, and to cover travel expenses and booth space for its educational program that teaches people how to take care of the environment when they are out in the wild. The Backcountry Horsemen of Washington is a nonprofit organization that contributed more than 62,000 hours of volunteer time last year. This was the top ranked of 28 projects competing for grants in the education category. The backcountry horsemen will contribute \$2,500 in donated labor. (07-1228E)

Friends of the Trail **\$30,000**
Cleaning Up Trailheads and Access Points

Friends of the Trail will use this grant to buy a truck to remove trash from access points and trailheads along the Cascade Mountains. The friends group uses court-assigned community service help and other volunteers on lands owned by the Washington Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Forest Service, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and King County. The friends group will contribute \$11,250 in donations of cash and labor. (07-1305M)

Washington Trails Association **\$130,000**
Providing Volunteer Trail Teams

The Washington Trails Association will use two grants to provide crews to maintain trails throughout the Cascade and Olympic Mountains. The association will use one grant to support 200 day trips to maintain more than 50 different trails, with the work designed to help the most popular trails sustain continued, heavy use. Another 20 locations will see more intensive work to address maintenance backlogs. Additionally, volunteers will clean up from recent floods and fires. This grant was the top ranked project of 84 competing for funding in the general category. With a second grant, the association will lead at least two dozen volunteer crews to maintain more than 100 miles of backcountry trail. The association will contribute \$520,125 in donations of cash and labor. (07-1482M, 07-1483M)

Grants Awarded

National Recreational Trails Program

Pacific Northwest Trail Association **\$198,931**

Providing Youth Crews to Maintain Trails

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association will use three grants to provide youth crews for trail maintenance work. With one grant, the association will hire SKY Summer Youth Crews and use volunteers to maintain sections of the Pacific Northwest Trail in Island, Skagit and Whatcom Counties. With a second grant, the association will hire, each year for two years, 4-H students from Washington State University's program at Chemicum and Port Hadlock to maintain the Snow Creek, Mount Zion/Gold Creek and Upper Dungeness Trails. With a third grant, the association will hire two SKY education crews to maintain trails in the Upper Dungeness and Buckhorn Wilderness, the upper and lower Bogachiel and the coastal portions of the Pacific Northwest Trail in Jefferson and Clallam Counties. The association will contribute \$226,154 in donated equipment and labor. (07-1156M, 07-1158M, 07-1157M)

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission **\$75,000**

Purchasing Trail Grooming Equipment

State Parks will use this grant to buy four drag implements for snow grooming machines to groom trails in Skagit County and on Mount Saint Helens, Mount Adams and Blewett Pass. Currently, crews use tillers, which are ineffective during certain times of year. State Parks will contribute \$138,174 in cash and a state grant. (07-1433M)