



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE
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November 3, 2005

TO: IAC Members and Designees

FROM: Laura E. Johnson, Director *LEJ*

PREPARED BY: Greg Lovelady, Manager, Applied Planning Section
Scott Chapman, Outdoor Grants Manager

SUBJECT: NOVA Program Funding
Nonhighway Road Projects (NHR) Notebook Item #6b

Summary. Fourteen nonhighway road projects requesting \$976,164 out of an available pool of \$626,041 ^[1] in Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) motor vehicle fuel tax funds are presented for consideration. The NOVA Advisory Committee and staff recommend 10 of these projects for funding.

To assist in review, the following attachments are provided:

- Attachment 1 – Draft adoption resolution.
- Table 1 – Project listing in the order recommended for funding
- Attachment 2 – Evaluation criteria summary.
- Attachment 3 – Question-by-question summary of average evaluation scores.
- Attachment 4 – State map showing project locations, and
- Summaries of each project submitted, in recommended funding order.

Program Background. This is IAC's second NHR grants cycle since March 2004 when SHB 2489 became law, thus mandating several major program changes, including new fund distribution percentages and broadening eligible activities.

Projects in the NHR category provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy nonmotorized boating, camping, driving for pleasure, fishing, gathering, hunting, and picnicking.

^[1] Does not include "competitive dollars" (NOVA Policy Manual #14, page 8).



The program is guided by RCW 46.09, WAC 286-26, the *NOVA Plan: 2005-2011*, and Policy Manual #14, *NOVA Program: Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, and Off-Road Vehicle Policies and Project Selection*. The Manual describes:

- Eligible Applicants [Tribes, federal, state, and local governments]
- Project Types [Land acquisition, development and/or renovation projects, maintenance and operation of facilities, and planning activities].
- Project Elements [Trails, trailheads, day-use areas, picnic areas, viewpoints, campgrounds, and support structures like sanitary facilities and utilities]
- Fund Assistance [Capital/planning projects are limited to \$100,000; M&O projects are limited to \$100,000 for a two-year grant or \$50,000 for a one-year grant; no matching share is required, however, the evaluation criteria encourages matching contributions by awarding additional points].

Grants Process Timeline.

February 2005. Staff met with NOVA advisory committee members, in part, to discuss the upcoming grants cycle and review possible changes to IAC's NOVA policy manual. In addition, staff conducted a well advertised series of workshops to help potential applicants understand the funding process, how to complete applications, and participate in project evaluations. IAC's grant program brochure, policy manuals, and related materials were provided to interested parties on CD-ROM.

May 2005. By the May 2 deadline, 14 applications had arrived. In July, the Evaluation Team read through the applications and provided advice to project applicants.

September-October 2005. In September, information on each project (project narratives, costs estimates) was sent to the 15 member evaluation team for review in preparation for scoring. During the first week in October, the evaluation team dedicated four very full days to listening to NOVA applicants respond to the program's evaluation instrument, asking questions, and scoring each project.

The ten criteria (Attachment 2) are designed to assist in supporting statewide needs and focus on:

- Need for the project
- Benefits of the project
- Technical merits of the project, and
- Degree to which the project meets the policies in the *NOVA Plan*.

After all members had returned their scores to staff for compilation, the Team met again to develop funding recommendations.

Project Recommendations. At its October meeting, the NOVA Advisory Committee recommended adoption of the ranked listing of projects reflected in Table 1. This year's NHR Evaluation Team members, in accord with the representation mandates in RCW 46.09.280, were:

- Arlene Brooks (Auburn)
- Robert Brooke (Spanaway)
- Rick Dahl (Longview)
- Paul Dahmer (Olympia)
- Richard Elkins (Mercer Island)
- Jonathan Guzzo (Seattle)
- Dwayne Ratliff (Olympia)
- Ken Irwin (Yakima)
- Theresa Julius (Aberdeen)
- Jeff Lambert (Spokane)
- Pene Speaks (Olympia)
- John Spring (Mercer Island)
- Vladimir Steblina (Wenatchee)
- Maartin van Dantzich (Seattle).

Funding. Chapter 46.09 RCW directs that IAC administered NOVA recreation funds must be divided among nonhighway road, nonmotorized, and ORV recreation. Each of these three categories must receive "...not less than 30 percent..." of the fuel tax dollars. The remaining 10 percent of these funds are called "competitive dollars".

By IAC policy ^[2], competitive dollars are first used to bring to full funding to any project partially funded with the 30 percent funds. Remaining funds are applied to projects that directly benefit the most NOVA recreationists, using information provided in the application. Following these guidelines, and as shown in Table 1, funding is recommended for the projects ranked 1-10. (The project ranked 10 is partially funded with both 30 percent dollars and "competitive dollars").

Table A summarizes requests and funds available for distribution to fiscal year (FY) 2006 projects.

Table A – NHR Funding, November 2005 (FY 2006)		
<i>Source</i>	<i>Explanation</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Requests	14 projects, IAC NOVA funds	\$976,164
Carryover	"Returned" funds from prior years	60,195
Fuel Tax	Statutory minimum 30% NHR	565,846
Fuel Tax	Competitive funds, for project ranked #10	48,924
Total	Recommended funding, 11/15/2005	\$674,965
Unfunded	Unfunded balance	\$-301,199

Conclusions. To assist the Board in considering funding these projects, Resolution #2005-32 (Attachment 1) is provided. Staff recommends approval of funding for the projects listed in "Table 1 - NOVA – Nonhighway Road Projects, Funding Recommendations, State Fiscal Year 2006."

- Each project meets program legal and procedural requirements,
- Each project was evaluated and ranked using the IAC Board approved criteria,
- Sufficient funds are available to support the recommended projects.

^[2] NOVA Manual 14, page 10.

RESOLUTION #2005-32
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program
Nonhighway Road Category Funding
Fiscal Year 2006

WHEREAS, through the early months of 2005, until the May 2 application deadline, the staff of the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation (IAC) provided publications, website updates, public workshops, and other outreach opportunities to communicate to interested parties the benefits and application procedures for the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA); and

WHEREAS, in answer to these efforts, 14 Nonhighway Road (NHR) projects were submitted to IAC for funding consideration and subsequently evaluated by the statutorily mandated advisory/evaluation committee using IAC-approved criteria; and

WHEREAS, all projects meet the program requirements stipulated in statute, administrative rule, and policy; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that IAC hereby approves the ranked listing in "*Table 1 – NOVA – Nonhighway Road Projects, Funding Recommendations, State Fiscal Year 2006*"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that IAC's Director is authorized to execute the necessary project agreements to facilitate prompt project implementation.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: November 15, 2005



Preliminary Evaluation Ranked List
 and Advisory Committee Funding Recommendation
Table 1 - Nonhighway & Off-Road Vehicle Activities - Nonhighway Road Category, State Fiscal 2006

Rank	Score	Score Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	IAC Amt	Sponsor Amt	Total Amt	Funding Recommend	Cum. Amount
1 of 14	54.071	05-1290M	WRRD Developed & Dispersed M&O	USFS WNF Wenatchee River RD	\$31,258	\$32,100	\$63,358	\$31,258	\$31,258
2 of 14	53.214	05-1188N	Leadbetter Point Wildlife Trail Planning	State Parks	\$25,600	\$8,093	\$33,693	\$25,600	\$56,858
3 of 14	52.000	05-1284M	Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O	USFS WNF Naches RD	\$83,780	\$104,697	\$188,477	\$83,780	\$140,638
4 of 14	51.929	05-1298D	Forde Lake to Blue Lake Trail	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$130,000	\$100,000	\$240,638
5 of 14	47.000	05-1111M	Entiat's Developed & Dispersed Rec M&O	USFS WNF Entiat RD	\$31,046	\$20,700	\$51,746	\$31,046	\$271,684
6 of 14	46.571	05-1105M	MVRD Campground Maintenance	USFS OKNF Methow RD	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$371,684
7 of 14	45.643	05-1144M	Yakima Maintenance Crew	Natural Resources Dept of	\$99,931	\$70,670	\$170,601	\$99,931	\$471,615
8 of 14	45.214	05-1274N	Discovery Pond Nature Trail Phase 1	USFS MBNF Snoqualmie RD	\$42,100	\$10,650	\$52,750	\$42,100	\$513,715
9 of 14	44.429	05-1239M	Cle Elum Developed and Dispersed 2005	USFS WNF Cle Elum RD	\$100,000	\$22,105	\$122,105	\$100,000	\$613,715
10 of 14	43.071	05-1292M	POV Dispersed Site Maintenance	USFS Colville National Forest	\$61,250	\$25,500	\$86,750	\$61,250	\$674,965
11 of 14	41.643	05-1203N	French Cabin Creek Planning	USFS WNF Cle Elum RD	\$45,992		\$45,992	Alternate	
12 of 14	40.857	05-1137M	Elbe Hills/Tahoma State Forest M&O	Natural Resources Dept of	\$90,038	\$23,865	\$113,903	Alternate	
13 of 14	40.571	05-1031M	Skykomish RD Rec Site Maintenance	USFS MBNF Skykomish RD	\$65,169	\$46,833	\$112,002	Alternate	
14 of 14	36.786	05-1205D	Cayuse Corral Development	USFS WNF Cle Elum RD	\$100,000	\$1,408	\$101,408	Alternate	
					\$976,164	\$496,621	\$1,472,785		

Attachment 2

Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program Evaluation Criteria **Nonhighway Road^[3] Category**

Nonhighway Road grants provide quality opportunities for camping, fishing, gathering, hunting, sightseeing, and other back road oriented recreational activities – activities that satisfy user needs, are environmentally responsible, and minimize conflict among user groups. See IAC NOVA Policy Manual for more information.

NOVA – Nonhighway Road (NHR) Criteria Summary					
Scored by:	#	Title	Type	Mult/Max	NOVA Plan Policy
Team	1	Need	All	3/15	A-1, C-7
Team	2	Need Fulfillment	All	3/15	A-1, C-7
Team	3a	Site Suitability	A	2/10	C-5
Team	3b	Project Design	D	2/10	C-5, C-14
Team	3c	Maintenance	M	2/10	C-7
Team	3d	Planning	N	2/10	A-3, C-6
Team	4	Readiness to Proceed	All	-/5	C-8
Team	5	Predominantly Natural	All	-/5	C-13
Team	6	Project Support	All	2/10	A-1, C-3
Team	7	Cost-Benefit	All	-/5	C-11
IAC staff	8	Matching Shares	All	-/5	C-3, C-4
IAC staff	9	Population Proximity	All	2	C-2
IAC staff	10	GMA Preference	All	0	RCW 43.17.250
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE				72	

KEY:

- Team = Criteria scored by Advisory Committee/evaluation team
- IAC staff = Criteria scored by IAC staff
- All = Includes Acquisition, Development, Maintenance, or Planning
- A = Acquisition proposals
- D = Development proposals
- M = Maintenance proposals
- N = Plan proposals (architecture, engineering, master plans, feasibility studies, etc.)
- Mult/Max = Multiplier and maximum points possible for this criterion
- Policy = See IAC's *NOVA Plan* (2005)

^[3] With the passage of Chapter 105, Laws of 2004, "Nonhighway Road" became the newest NOVA grant category. Though in prior years the name applied to NOVA's nonmotorized projects, with the new law that was changed. Nonhighway Road now reflects a variety of road oriented recreational activities: camping, fishing, gathering, hunting, sightseeing, etc.



Evaluation Question Summary

2005 NOVA - Nonhighway Road Projects

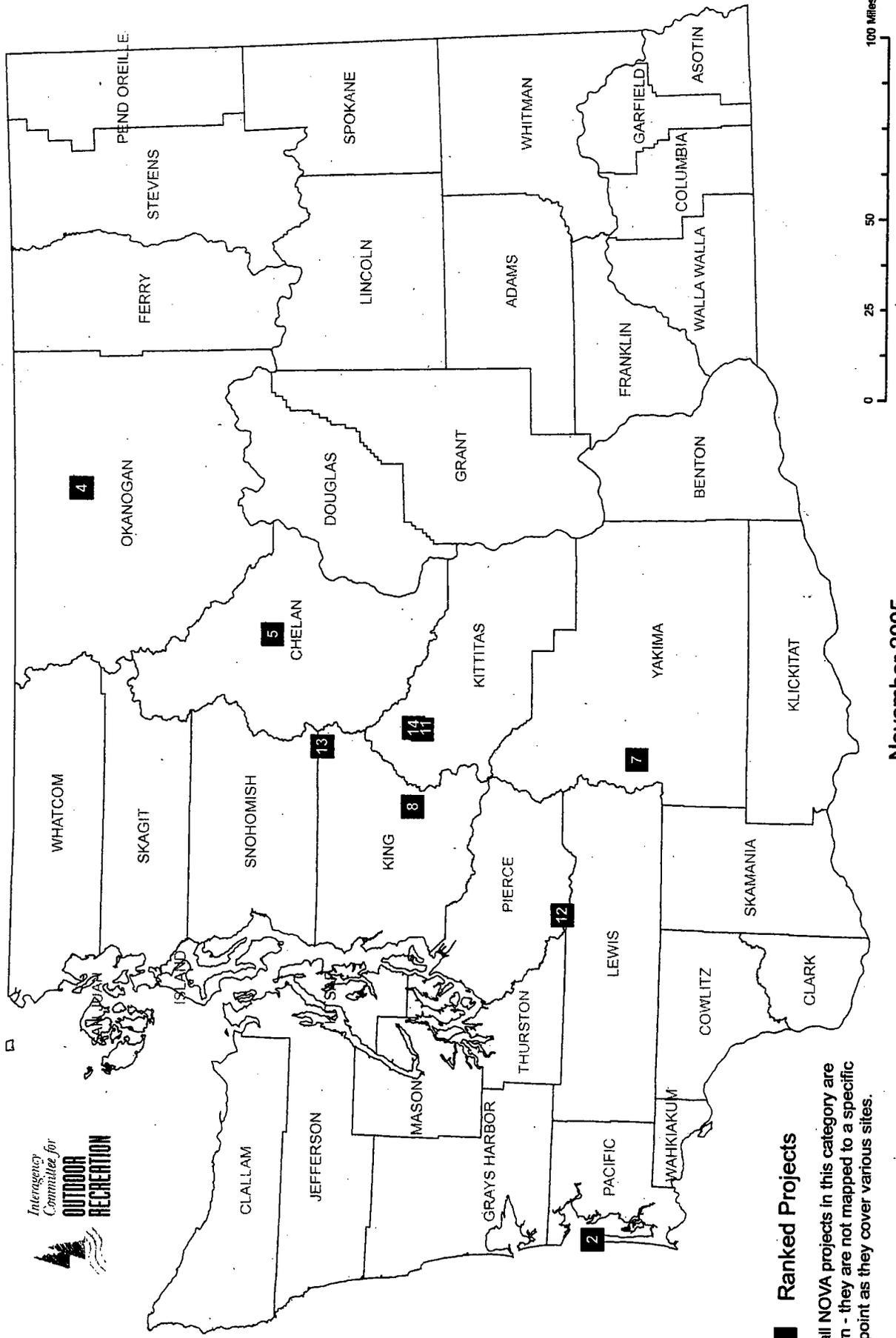
Rank	Name/Sponsor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
		Need	Need Fulfillment	ADMP	Readiness to Proceed	Predominately Natural	Project Support	Cost Benefit	Matching Share	Population Proximity	GMA	
1	WRRD Developed /USFS WNF	11.143	11.143	7.143	4.000	3.857	7.000	3.786	5.000	1.000	0.000	54.071
2	Leadbetter Point/State Pa	11.786	12.429	7.000	3.929	4.357	7.857	3.857	2.000	0.000	0.000	53.214
3	Naches Develop/USFS WNF	11.357	11.143	6.714	3.857	3.000	6.286	3.643	5.000	1.000	0.000	52.000
4	Forde Lake to B/Fish & W	10.929	11.571	7.571	3.857	4.143	8.143	3.714	2.000	0.000	0.000	51.929
5	Entiat's Develo/USFS WNF	10.286	9.857	6.714	4.143	3.714	4.571	3.714	3.000	1.000	0.000	47.000
6	MVRD Campground/USFS OKN	8.571	10.071	6.857	3.929	3.571	5.857	3.714	4.000	0.000	0.000	46.571
7	Yakima Maintena/Natural	9.857	9.643	5.857	3.429	3.143	6.571	3.143	4.000	0.000	0.000	45.643
8	Discovery Pond /USFS MBN	9.857	9.214	6.429	3.357	3.857	6.857	2.643	2.000	1.000	0.000	45.214
9	Cle Elum Develo/USFS WNF	10.929	10.500	7.714	4.000	2.929	4.286	3.071	1.000	0.000	0.000	44.429
10	POV Dispersed S/USFS Col	9.643	10.286	6.429	3.500	3.357	4.714	3.143	2.000	0.000	0.000	43.071
11	French Cabin Cr/USFS WNF	11.571	9.857	5.857	3.500	3.143	4.714	3.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	41.643
12	Eibe Hills/Taho/Natural	8.143	9.214	5.571	3.357	3.000	5.857	2.714	2.000	1.000	0.000	40.857
13	Skykomish RD Re/USFS MBN	8.571	8.143	5.571	3.000	3.000	4.714	2.571	4.000	1.000	0.000	40.571
14	Cayuse Corral D/USFS WNF	7.714	9.857	6.000	2.929	2.857	4.857	2.571	0.000	0.000	0.000	36.786

Evaluation Team Scores Questions: 1 - 7

IAC Staff Scores Questions: 8 - 10

October 18, 2005

**Nonhighway & Off-road Vehicle Activities Program - Nonhighway Road Category
State Fiscal Year 2006 Projects**



Ranked Projects

Not all NOVA projects in this category are shown - they are not mapped to a specific point as they cover various sites.



November 2005

NOVA Program
Nonhighway Road Project Summaries
Ranked Order
Fiscal Year 2006



Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) State Fiscal Year 2006 Nonhighway Road Projects

(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

USFS WNF Wenatchee River RD	\$31,258	\$32,100	\$63,358
WRRD Developed & Dispersed M&O			

The Wenatchee River Ranger District is one of the more popular camping areas in Washington. In addition to having 10 Developed Campgrounds and two Picnic Areas operated by concessionaires under contract, the Wenatchee River Ranger District also operates, with Forest Service staff, 22 other developed campsites. These non-concessionaire campsites are located primarily in the Lake Wenatchee area and are intended to provide a slightly more primitive experience than the concessionaire camps. In addition, the Lake Wenatchee area and the Beehive area west of Wenatchee also have hundreds of miles of Forest Service non-highway roads that provide access to many dispersed camping areas that are regularly patrolled and maintained by Forest Service staff.

This project will fund the maintenance and operation activities at 22 Forest Service operated non-concessionaire developed campsites and at 10 major dispersed camping areas on the Wenatchee River RD. Project work will include, pumping and cleaning 28 vault toilets, cleaning fire pits, picking up trash, repairing tables, enforcing regulations, providing information and assistance to campers and sightseers, posting and maintaining bulletin boards, maintaining signs, testing water and maintaining hand pumps, and repairing facilities. (05-1290M-FY06)

State Parks	\$25,600	\$8,093	\$33,693
Leadbetter Point Wildlife Trail Planning			

Leadbetter Point State Park is located near the northern end of the Long Beach Peninsula. The park is approximately 1,322 acres with shoreline on the Pacific Ocean, Willapa Bay, and Hines Marsh (one of the largest freshwater interdunal wetlands in North America). The mosaic of ocean front dunes, primary Sitka spruce forest, scrub/shrub and marsh wetlands, and the proximity of upland forest to wetlands provides unique bird and wildlife habitat, hosting numerous waterfowl, warblers, herons, raptor, otter, mink, deer, elk, and bear. The park currently serves about 140,000 visitors a year and has just over five and one half miles of trail with no wildlife viewing facilities.

This project will focus on planning approximately 8 miles of loop trail additions, designing three wildlife viewing platforms, and obtaining the necessary permits to accomplish these goals. Although the concept plan for this project is well developed, this planning grant is crucial to allow for consultation with partners to determine the precise upland route of the new trail, and the placement of viewing platforms in this pristine natural area. (05-1188N-FY06)

USFS WNF Naches RD	\$83,780	\$104,697	\$188,477
Naches Developed and Dispersed M&O			

Recreational use on the Naches District is high. Two scenic highways - US Highway 12 and State Route 410 - provide ready access between western and eastern Washington through the District drawing visitors from the Seattle/Tacoma, Tri-Cities, and Yakima metropolitan areas. Proximity to Mount Rainier, a dry climate, three designated Wilderness areas, a extensive motorized and non-motorized trail network, boating/fishing/swimming

opportunities on three reservoirs, numerous resorts/organization camps, 500+ summer homes, hunting and late season river riding are just a few of the attractions.

There are over a hundred developed recreation sites on the District (4 boat launches, 6 day use sites, 50 camp areas, 38 non-motorized trailheads and 2 cabin rentals with a total of 140+ toilets), and more than 1,900 primitive camp areas. Seventeen of the developed sites are operated by a concessionaire but the District retains major landlord maintenance responsibilities. Combined, these sites serve 300,000+ non-highway road visitors every year between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

This project will enhance public service at developed and primitive recreation sites and non-motorized trailheads through increased operation and maintenance during the peak season. There will be more frequent cleaning, improved coordination of recreation volunteers, and additional maintenance/improvement projects at existing facilities (e.g., hazard tree abatement, picnic tables, outhouses, signing, traffic controls, grills, garbage service, etc.).
(05-1284M-FY06)

Fish & Wildlife Dept of Forde Lake to Blue Lake Trail	\$100,000	\$30,000	\$130,000
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A need for trails in Okanogan County is well documented in the Okanogan County 2004 Outdoor Recreation Comprehensive Plan. Within this plan is the "Okanogan County Proposed Trail System". A large segment of the proposed trail is between Loomis and Conconully of which over 15 miles are within the Sinlahekin Wildlife Area (SWA) located in north central Washington. The 14,000-acre SWA is primarily located within the Sinlahekin Valley. These lands were acquired beginning in 1938, to protect mule deer winter range and provide for outdoor recreation. Portions of the SWA provide excellent opportunity for non-motorized trail development to enhance fish and wildlife oriented recreational opportunities such as hiking, birding, horseback riding, hunting, butterfly enthusiasts and fishing. A local tourism council, local citizens and local business people enthusiastically support trail development. Additionally, this proposal would contribute to the IAC future identified need (SCORP) for this type of recreational opportunity.

The US 97 Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan, to be completed in 2005 and promoting tourism, allows for signage directing tourists to destinations of low impact recreational opportunity. To meet this need, the Forde Lake to Blue Lake Trail will contribute 6 miles of trail with 5 wildlife blinds and 3 interpretive signs and 900 feet of ADA accessible trail. Campgrounds are near both ends of the trail. This segment is the second of 3 continuous trails totaling 12 miles, servicing over 200 people per year. (05-1298D-FY06)

USFS WNF Entiat RD Entiat's Developed & Dispersed Rec M&O	\$31,046	\$20,700	\$51,746
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This project proposal will support the Developed Campground and Dispersed Camping maintenance and operations programs on the Entiat Ranger District. Tasks will consist of: daily cleaning of restrooms, trash pickup and removal, pumping toilet vaults, annual maintenance and repair on campground facilities (including fire ring cleaning, hand water well maintenance and testing, picnic table repairs), continuous up keep and repair of bulletin boards, and general forest signing of the district developed campground and dispersed recreation areas.

approximately 140,000 site visits each year according to figures compiled by the National Recreation Visitor Use Monitoring Survey which was done in 2004. Many of these campsites lie adjacent to major creeks and lakes and are heavily used by NOVA enthusiasts for many types of recreational activities.

This project would fund a seasonal employee who would check sites on a weekly or as needed basis depending upon the use level. This employee's duties would include contacting users, providing information, monitoring use levels, cleaning toilets (if applicable) and fire rings, picking up garbage and removing safety hazards at each site. In addition, this project would also provide informational signing and brochures to educate users about low impact use. Volunteer labor will also be used for site maintenance. (05-1292M-FY06)

USFS WNF Cle Elum RD **\$45,992** **\$0** **\$45,992**
French Cabin Creek Planning

The French Cabin Creek area, a 65-acre expanse of non-system roads and dispersed camping areas above Lake Cle Elum, is the heaviest-used dispersed recreational area on the district. It is currently managed as a dispersed area with no developed site restrictions and very few physical barriers. The area is under the fee system because of high use and the enormous need for sanitation facilities, which the district provides seasonally. There is very little vegetation on the ground due to vehicle traffic, and little to no woody debris due to campfire wood cutting. The high amount of use causes soil compaction that is having an effect on stand health causing a safety concern from dying trees. The area is in the riparian zone of the Cle Elum River, and the extensive degradation in the floodplain is harming fish habitat. Without a change in the management, the negative impacts it is having on forest health and on the river could lead to an area closure.

This project would provide the funding necessary to complete an environmental analysis of the area and develop a plan for long term management. This would include: 1) Defining suitable vehicle access to the area 2) Looking at the stand health problems and possible mitigation. 3) Evaluating if the site should stay on the fee system, or if there is a better alternative and how that will provide funding for M & O and E & E. and 4) Planning for a site that will provide the public with a quality recreational opportunity while protecting fish habitat in the Cle Elum River. (05-1203N-FY06)

Natural Resources Dept of **\$90,038** **\$23,865** **\$113,903**
Elbe Hills/Tahoma State Forest M&O

Located in eastern Pierce County, Elbe Hills & Tahoma State Forests are used by 8,000 people a year. This grant will allow the Department of Natural Resources to maintain and enhance recreational opportunities that occur within the Elbe Hills & Tahoma State Forests. This will be accomplished by hiring a two-person maintenance crew. This crew will maintain the 20-site Sahara Creek Campground, multiple vistas, and forest recreational signs on over 50 miles of open roads. The crew will also maintain dispersed campsites that are heavily used during the hunting season. This effort will increase access and safety.

Campground and facility maintenance will include the following: cleaning and painting restrooms, repairing picnic tables, cleaning fire pits, manure bins, litter removal, clearing brush, maintaining trail and site surfaces, and supporting volunteer efforts. This project will maintain and improve signage throughout the recreational area and the non-highway road network.

