



STATE OF WASHINGTON

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

October 16, 2007

TOPIC #16c: NOVA PROGRAM FUNDING, NOMOTORIZED PROJECTS (NM)

Approved by the Director:

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Prepared and Presented By: Greg Lovelady, Manager A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Greg Lovelady.

Proposed Action: Funding decision

Summary:

Fourteen NM projects requesting \$989,202 out of an available \$811,202 in Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA) motor vehicle fuel tax funds are presented for funding approval.

Staff Recommendation:

The Recreation and Conservation Office's (RCO) staff and the NOVA advisory committee recommend approval of funding for the projects listed in "Table 1. Evaluation Ranked List and Funding Recommendations, NOVA Program Nonmotorized Category, State Fiscal Year 2008."

- Each project meets program legal and procedural requirements,
- Each project was evaluated and ranked using Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) approved criteria,
- Sufficient funds are available to support the recommended projects.

To assist the board in considering funding these projects, Resolution #2007-34 (Attachment 1) is provided.

Background:

This is RCFB's fourth grants cycle since the March 2004 major update to the NOVA Act when new fund distribution percentages and eligible activities were adopted. Projects in the NM category provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy nonmotorized trail activities, including: equestrians, hikers, mountain bicyclists, and cross-country skiers.

This 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, and structures like sanitary facilities and utilities that support nonmotorized trail recreation]
- **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; evaluation criteria encourages matching contributions by awarding additional points].

Grants Process Timeline.

October 2006. Staff discusses the upcoming grants cycle with the advisory committee.

March 2007. Staff conducts workshops to help potential applicants understand the funding process.

May-July 2006. In May, applications are due. In July, the evaluation team reads the applications and provides advice to applicants.

September-October 2007. In September, project information is sent to evaluators for review. Later, the team spends four days listening to applicants, asking questions, and scoring projects. In October, the team meets to confirm funding recommendations.

Advisory Committee / Evaluation Team.

This year's NM Evaluation Team, in accord with RCW 46.09.280, included:

- Mike Blankenship (Boyd)
- Arlene Brooks (Auburn)
- Robert Brooke (Spanaway)
- Paul Dahmer (Olympia)
- Richard Elkins (Mercer Island)
- Jonathan Guzzo (Seattle)
- James Horan (Olympia)
- Ken Irwin (Yakima)
- Gary Johnson (Yelm)
- Theresa Julius (Aberdeen)
- Jeff Lambert (Spokane)
- Pene Speaks (Olympia)
- Doug Magoon (Olympia)
- Amie Tinderholdt (Wenatchee)
- Art Tuftee (Seattle).

Analysis:

Funding. Chapter 46.09 RCW directs that RCFB 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 funds are called "competitive dollars."

By RCFB policy ^[1], competitive dollars are first used to bring to full funding 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 this edict, and as shown in Table 1, funding is recommended for the projects indicated.

Next Steps:

After funding approval, RCO staff will ensure funded applicants complete any post-approval requirements (for example, obtaining permits, etc.), ensure project agreements are executed, and monitor compliance.

^[1] NOVA Manual 14, page 10.

Attachments:

- 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 – Project descriptions in advisory committee ranked order.

RESOLUTION #2007-34
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program
Nonmotorized Category Funding
Fiscal Year 2008

WHEREAS, through the early months of 2007, until the May 1 application deadline, the staff of the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) 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 Nonmotorized (NM) projects were submitted to RCFB for funding consideration and subsequently evaluated by the statutorily mandated advisory/evaluation committee using RCFB-approved criteria; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that RCFB hereby approves the ranked listing in "*Table 1. Evaluation Ranked List and Funding Recommendations, NOVA Program Nonmotorized Projects Category, State Fiscal Year 2008*"; and

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

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: November 2, 2007

**Table 1. Evaluation Ranked List
And Funding Recommendations
NOVA Program - Nonmotorized Category, State Fiscal Year 2008**

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCFB Amt	Sponsor Amt	Total Amt	Cum Amt	Recommended Funding 30% Statutory Minimum
1 of 14	57.533	07-1256D	Tiger Mountain SF Bridge Replacements	Natural Resources Dept of	\$100,000	\$106,500	\$206,500	\$100,000	\$100,000
2 of 14	54.400	07-1291D	Cle Elum NM Trails Structures 08-09	USFS WNF Cle Elum RD	\$59,300	\$27,200	\$86,500	\$159,300	\$59,300
3 of 14	51.933	07-1265M	Elbe Hills Non-Motorized M&O	Natural Resources Dept of	\$89,942	\$63,448	\$153,390	\$249,242	\$89,942
4 of 14	48.667	07-1365M	SW Washington Non-Motorized Trail M&O	Natural Resources Dept of	\$99,980	\$46,540	\$146,520	\$349,222	\$99,980
5 of 14	48.067	07-1337M	Lake Chelan Backlog Clearing	USFS WNF Chelan RD	\$70,090	\$24,276	\$94,366	\$419,312	\$70,090
6 of 14	46.667	07-1471D	Government Meadows Horse Camp	USFS MBNF Snoqualmie RD	\$26,000	\$9,420	\$35,420	\$445,312	\$26,000
7 of 14	45.267	07-1300M	Gifford Pinchot Wilderness Trails 08-09	USFS GPNF Cowitz Valley RD	\$99,890	\$99,556	\$199,446	\$545,202	\$99,890
8 of 14	43.533	07-1355D	Top Lake Trailhead Reconstruction	USFS WNF Wenatchee River	\$64,800	\$17,000	\$81,800	\$610,002	\$64,800
9 of 14	41.067	07-1348N	Upper Chiwawa Trails and Trailhead Plan	USFS WNF Wenatchee River	\$25,200	\$3,300	\$28,500	\$635,202	\$25,200
10 of 14	40.733	07-1361N	Tumwater Mountain Plan Phase 1	USFS WNF Wenatchee River	\$26,000	\$3,300	\$29,300	\$661,202	\$26,000
11 of 14	39.533	07-1359N	Camp Govey Backcountry Trail Planning	Mason County Parks & Rec	\$50,000	\$17,000	\$67,000	\$711,202	\$50,000
12 of 14	37.333	07-1499N	Iron Horse Tunnel and Culvert Planning	State Parks	\$100,000	\$371,180	\$471,180	\$811,202	\$100,000
13 of 14	37.067	07-1308N	Pearrygin Lake/Winthrop Trails Feasibility	State Parks	\$88,500		\$88,500	\$899,702	alternate
14 of 14	37.000	07-1465N	Cle Elum/Roslyn/Ronald Trail System Plan	Kittitas Co Parks & Rec Dist#1	\$89,500	\$2,500	\$92,000	\$989,202	alternate
					\$989,202	\$791,220	\$1,780,422		\$100,000

Note: \$811,202 is available this grants cycle, including fuel tax, "returned," and "competitive" funds.

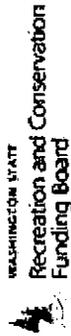
Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program
Evaluation Criteria
Nonmotorized Category

Nonmotorized grants provide quality opportunities for equestrians, hikers, mountain bicyclists, and other trail recreationists – opportunities that satisfy user needs, are environmentally responsible, and minimize conflict among user groups. See RCFB NOVA Policy Manual 14 for more information.

NOVA – Nonmotorized (NM) 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-4
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, C3
Team	7	Cost-Benefit	All	-/5	C-11
RCO staff	8	Matching Shares	All	-/5	C-3, C-4
RCO staff	9	Population Proximity	All	2	C-2
RCO staff	10	GMA Preference	All	0	RCW 43.17.250
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE				72	

KEY:

- Team = Criteria scored by Advisory Committee/evaluation team
 RCO staff = Criteria scored by Recreation and Conservation Office 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 RCFB's *NOVA Plan* (2005-2011)



**Preliminary Evaluation Summary
NOVA - Nonmotorized Category**

Rank	Name/Sponsor	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
		Need	Need Fulfillment	Maint.- Planning- Developm.	Readiness to Proceed	Predom. Natural	Project Support	Cost- Benefit	Matching Shares	Population Proximity	Growth Mgt	
1	Tiger Mountain /Natural	11.800	12.000	8.000	4.200	3.133	7.733	3.667	5.000	2.000	0.000	57.533
2	Cle Elum NM Tra/USFS WNF	12.400	12.400	8.000	4.067	4.267	6.533	3.733	3.000	0.000	0.000	54.400
3	Elbe Hills Non-/Natural	10.200	11.000	7.333	4.000	3.267	7.733	3.400	4.000	1.000	0.000	51.933
4	SW Washington N/Natural	9.000	9.800	7.067	3.600	3.733	6.800	3.667	3.000	2.000	0.000	48.667
5	Lake Chelan Bac/USFS WNF	11.200	10.800	7.067	3.467	4.800	5.333	3.400	2.000	0.000	0.000	48.067
6	Government Mead/USFS MBN	10.800	10.200	7.600	3.400	2.333	6.133	3.200	2.000	1.000	0.000	46.667
7	Gifford Pinchof/USFS GPN	10.000	8.600	5.600	3.067	4.667	6.800	2.533	4.000	0.000	0.000	45.267
8	Top Lake Trailh/USFS WNF	9.200	10.800	7.467	3.733	3.733	4.133	2.467	2.000	0.000	0.000	43.533
9	Upper Chiwawa T/USFS WNF	9.400	9.000	5.867	3.533	4.267	5.600	2.400	1.000	0.000	0.000	41.067
10	Tumwater Mounta/USFS WNF	8.000	8.400	6.533	3.333	3.400	6.267	2.800	1.000	1.000	0.000	40.733
11	Camp Govey Back/Mason Co	7.600	9.000	6.667	3.933	2.267	5.333	2.733	2.000	1.000	-1.000	39.533
12	Iron Horse Turnn/State Pa	7.200	6.200	4.800	2.933	1.733	5.733	1.733	5.000	2.000	0.000	37.333
13	Pearrygin Lake/State Pa	7.800	8.200	6.267	2.933	2.533	6.667	2.667	0.000	0.000	0.000	37.067
14	Cle Elum/Roslyn/Kittitas	9.600	8.200	5.467	2.733	2.000	5.733	3.267	0.000	0.000	0.000	37.000

Evaluation Score Questions: 1-7

Prescore Questions: 8-10

Date Created: 10/09/2007

NOVA Program
Nonmotorized Project Summaries
Ranked Order
Fiscal Year 2008



**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle
Activities Program (NOVA)
Nonmotorized Category**
State Fiscal Year 2008 Projects
(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

Grant Request

Department of Natural Resources **\$100,000**

Tiger Mountain SF Bridge Replacements

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to remove and replace four trail bridges on Tiger Mountain's multi-use, non-motorized trail system. The 11-mile loop system is a popular route, with more than 1,250 people using it during one week last spring. The four bridges were built with wood stringers about 10 years ago and have become rotten. This was the top ranked project of 14 competing for funding in the non-motorized category of the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities grant program. The department will contribute \$106,500 in cash and labor. (07-1256D)

USFS, Wenatchee National Forest, Cle Elum Ranger District **\$59,300**

Cle Elum NM Trails Structures 08-09

The forest service will use this grant to tackle maintenance needs on various non-motorized trails in the Cle Elum Ranger District. Work will include decommissioning old structures and repairing or building drainage structures on several trails, including 1376 Deception Pass, 2000 Pacific Crest Trail, 1323 Pete Lake Trail, 1310 Waptus River, 1329 Waptus River, 1381 Beverly Creek and 1315 Kachess Ridge. The forest service will contribute \$27,200 in materials and donated labor. (07-1291D)

Department of Natural Resources **\$89,942**

Elbe Hills Non-Motorized M&O

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to hire a specialist to coordinate volunteers and perform trail maintenance on 40 miles of horse and hiker trails in Elbe Hills, which is in eastern Pierce County at the foot of Mount Rainier. Increased trail maintenance is needed because volunteers are spread thin and have been able to address only the worst safety issues on the 25-year-old trails. The department will contribute \$63,448 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1265M)

Department of Natural Resources **\$99,980**

SW Washington Non-Motorized Trail M&O

The Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to maintain 61 miles of non-motorized trail and five trail heads in the Yacont Burn and Siouxon State Forests for two years. Work will include shaping the trail surface, laying gravel on small sections of trail to harden the surface, installing and maintaining drainage structures, removing encroaching brush, inspecting and maintaining bridges, cleaning restrooms, picking up litter and making general repairs. An estimated 10,000 visitors a year will benefit from this work. The department will contribute \$46,540 in equipment, labor and donated labor. (07-1365M)

**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle
Activities Program (NOVA)
Nonmotorized Category**
State Fiscal Year 2008 Projects
(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

Grant Request

USFS, Wenatchee National Forest, Chelan Ranger District **\$70,090**

Lake Chelan Backlog Clearing

The forest service will use this grant to clear trees blown down on 46 miles of wilderness trails in the Glacier Peak and Lake Chelan-Sawtooth Wilderness areas. In this past winter, snow piled on the trees, followed by rain that froze, and then high winds swept through, resulting in more downed trees than anything experienced in the past 35 years. Crews already have cleared 146 miles of the most important trails but the remaining 46 miles are in wilderness areas where the use of chainsaws is not permitted. Of the 46 miles, 31 miles have extreme blow down (60-200 trees per mile) and 15 miles have heavy blow down (20-60 trees per mile). The forest service will contribute \$24,276 from another Recreation and Conservation Funding Board grant. (07-1337M)

USFS, Mount Baker National Forest, Snoqualmie RD **\$26,000**

Government Meadows Horse Camp

The forest service will use this grant to install a single toilet at Government Meadows Horse Camp, which is near the Naches and the Pacific Crest Trails. Built and maintained by the Backcountry Horsemen of America, the camp is a jumping off point for backcountry trips. The forest service will contribute \$9,420 in labor and donations of labor and materials. (07-1471D)

USFS, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Cowlitz Valley RD **\$99,890**

Gifford Pinchot Wilderness Trails 08-09

The forest service will use this grant to assess storm damage and maintain trails in wilderness areas. Floods and wind damaged trails significantly this past winter, but the total impact has not been assessed. The public continues to use these trails, often forging new trails around obstructions. This grant will allow the forest service to assess the damage and perform annual maintenance tasks more than 300 miles of backcountry trail during two years. The forest service will contribute \$99,556 in equipment, labor, and donated labor. (07-1300M)

USFS, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River RD **\$64,800**

Top Lake Trail Head Reconstruction

The forest service will use this grant to relocate the Top Lake trail head. Currently, the trail head is at the end of a road with no designated parking. Four parked cars can congest the parking area, making it difficult for a horse trailer to turn around. Work will include relocating the trail head to a spur road about 1/3 mile away and rehabilitating the road between the spur road and the Little Wenatchee Trail Head. The forest service will contribute \$17,000. (07-1355D)

**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle
Activities Program (NOVA)
Nonmotorized Category**
State Fiscal Year 2008 Projects
(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

Grant Request

USFS, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River RD \$25,200

Upper Chiwawa Trails and Trailhead Plan

The forest service will use this grant to analyze and create plans to correct deficiencies in the trails in the upper Chiwawa Valley. Work will include preliminary engineering, surveys and environmental permitting studies. The trails provide access to 80,000 acres of wilderness areas and they see an estimated 7,000 visits annually. The Phelps Creek trail head has inadequate parking and horse trailer turn-around space and a road that needs maintenance. The Buck Creek Trail at Trinity has recurring maintenance problems and the Little Giant trail head has inadequate parking and soil eroding directly into the river. The Schaeffer Lake Trail has a dangerous river crossing and a horse ford in a salmon spawning area. The forest service will contribute \$3,300. (07-1348N)

USFS, Wenatchee National Forest, Wenatchee River RD \$26,000

Tumwater Mountain Plan Phase 1

The forest service will use this grant to analyze the trail system in the Freund Canyon and Ski Hill areas on Tumwater Mountain. Work will include surveys and completion of an environmental permit analysis. The Freund Canyon bicycle trails and the Leavenworth Ski Hill are adjacent to Leavenworth and receive significant summertime hiking and biking use. Freund Canyon has a developed trail system but inadequate trail heads. The Ski Hill has a small alpine ski area, ski trails and a summer theater. The analysis will examine the trails and look at the possibility of constructing a hiking and biking trail at the ski hill connecting to the Freund bike trails. The forest service will contribute \$3,300. (07-1361N)

Mason County Parks & Recreation \$50,000

Camp Govey Backcountry Trail Planning

Mason County will use this grant to create a master plan for a trail on Green Diamond Timber Company forest land. Work will include conducting an environmental review and route assessment, and designing a bridge conversion plan, cost estimates, potential interpretation, future trail linkages, access, trail head locations and conceptual design. The trail will begin near the former logging camp, Camp Govey, which is just off Forest Service Road 23, and would follow the former Simpson Timber Company Railroad line 3 miles into Green Diamond forest land. At one point, it would cross the high steel bridge over Vance Creek. The trail would be ideal for walking, bicycling, horseback riding and jogging. Mason County will contribute \$17,000 in cash, labor and donated labor. (07-1359N)

State Parks and Recreation Commission \$100,000

Iron Horse Tunnel and Culvert Planning

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will use this grant to complete assessment and repairs to tunnels along the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, which stretches



**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle
Activities Program (NOVA)
Nonmotorized Category**
State Fiscal Year 2008 Projects
(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

Grant Request

110 miles, essentially paralleling Interstate 90, and connects the Cascade Mountains to the Columbia River. Work will include completing safety and geotechnical assessments of five tunnels, completing design and permitting for water infiltration improvements to areas near the portals of tunnel 50 and completing design and permitting for repairs to the grade at the Olallie Creek culvert. More than 100,000 users enjoy the trail each year. State Parks will contribute \$371,180. (07-1499N)

Alternates

State Parks and Recreation Commission \$88,500

Pearrygin Lake/Winthrop Trails Feasibility

This project will complete a Trails Feasibility Study for Pearrygin Lake State Park area, which will include lands owned by State Parks, WDFW, a private campground and several privately owned parcels between the State Park and the Town of Winthrop. The Feasibility Study will: 1) complete an inventory and documentation of existing managed and user developed trails, 2) identify potential trail alignments to create a network of trails to go around Pearrygin Lake, link recreation facilities together and provide a trail link to the Town of Winthrop, 3) identify environmental constraints and opportunities analysis (incl. local zoning, cultural resources, etc.), 4) identify options for acquisition, easements or other agreements necessary for future trail construction on non-public lands, 5) develop a prioritized action plan for implementation, and 6) identify and evaluate future trail management/maintenance options. Trail uses will be limited to non-motorized uses, include hiking, mountain biking and equestrian, as well as cross country skiing and snowshoeing. The Trails plan will address exclusive and multiple trail uses. The planning project will be completed by a consultant, managed by State Parks and include input and reviews by WDFW, regional trail user groups, public agencies and citizens of the Methow Valley community. The Trails Feasibility Study is a by-product of the State Parks Commission approved 2006 Classification and Management Plan for Pearrygin Lake State Park, which included extensive public input and review. (07-1308N)

Kittitas County Parks & Recreation District #1 \$89,500

Cle Elum/Roslyn/Ronald Trails System Plan

The District, and major landowners, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding for a two year joint study of "the feasibility of a trail system for Northern Kittitas County, including but not limited to the Roslyn/Cle Elum Ridge...in order to continue the traditional recreational access from those communities to public backcountry lands owned by the United States Forest Service." The study is "intended to include land acquisition, trail design, construction, finance, maintenance, and operations." The preliminary scope for the study envisions at least five feeder trails from Cle Elum,



**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle
Activities Program (NOVA)
Nonmotorized Category**
State Fiscal Year 2008 Projects
(In Evaluation Ranked Order)

Grant Request

Roslyn, and Ronald, connecting with a single main trail at the crest of the ridge, which would then connect to "United States Forest Service lands and trails at or near Lake Cle Elum and the Wish Poosh campground, and Domerie Peak." The 15 mile trail system would provide access through former Plum Creek land now being developed by the new landowners. Negotiations have been underway for the trails since 2002. The District was formed by the voters in 2005, with the landowners financing the campaign, for the purpose of constructing the trail system. The feasibility study is the next step in that process. It is anticipated that the Easton and Teanaway areas will be annexed into the District at the 2007 general election. The geographical scope of the study would be expanded accordingly, with additional landowners. The purpose of the grant request is to fund the District's study costs. (07-1465N)