



STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

November 2008

Item #11a: **NOVA, Nonhighway Road Category**
Review and Approval of Grants

Prepared By: Greg Lovelady, Grant Services Program Manager

Presented By: Greg Lovelady, Grant Services Program Manager

Approved by the Director:

Proposed Action: Decision

Program Description

The Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program helps develop and manage recreation opportunities for such activities as cross-country skiing, hiking, horseback riding, mountain bicycling, hunting, fishing, sightseeing, motorcycling, and riding all-terrain and four-wheel drive vehicles.

The funds are distributed to four categories: Nonhighway Road, Nonmotorized, Off-Road Vehicle recreation, and Education and Enforcement. Staff will present funding recommendations in three of these categories by separate memo. This memo addresses proposed projects in the Nonhighway Road category.

Nonhighway Road grants provide quality opportunities for camping, fishing, gathering, hunting, sightseeing, and other back road oriented recreational activities. By statute, these activities must be accessed via a "Nonhighway Road." These are roads open to the public but not constructed with gasoline tax revenues.

Summary

The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) received nine Nonhighway Road (NHR) projects to review for state fiscal year 2009 funding consideration. The requests total \$730,935. NOVA motor vehicle fuel tax funds for this category total \$474,368.



Staff Recommendation

The 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 Nonhighway Road Category, State Fiscal Year 2009.*”

Staff has provided Resolution #2008-056 for Board consideration.

Program Funding

Fuel tax revenues help fund the NOVA grants¹. Each year, the State Treasurer credits one percent of motor vehicle fuel tax revenues to NOVA programs. The Board receives 58.5 percent of those revenues for its recreation grants.²

Chapter 46.09 RCW directs the Board to divide NOVA recreation funds among three categories: 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 (10 percent) are called “competitive dollars,” and are supplemented by any excess funds from previous years.

Currently, the Board allocates NOVA fuel tax funds in the following order:

1. First, it awards 30 percent of fuel tax dollars to the top ranked projects in the *Education and Enforcement (E&E)* category.
2. The remaining 70 percent is allocated to the three recreation categories.
 - Each category receives 30 percent of the funds for the top-ranked projects.
 - The remaining ten percent are designated by the Board as “competitive” dollars.
 - The Board may waive any of the “not less than 30 percent” percentages if there are insufficient requests for funds or it believes that a project(s) has scored too low in evaluations.

In March 2008, the Board changed its policies about competitive dollars. Board policy now states that it will award competitive dollars first to the projects that received only partial funding. After they are fully funded, the additional competitive dollars are awarded to alternate projects. Funding priority is given, in descending order, to projects based on the number of NOVA recreationists served; the amount of non-state match in a project; and the number of unfunded projects in each category. If the three criteria result in projects with the same scores (ties), the original team scores are used as the tie-breaker.

¹ Revenue from off-road vehicle permit fees also are used to fund projects in the off-road vehicle category. See memo #11c for more detail.

² The Treasurer distributes the remainder of the funds for NOVA related programs as follows: Department of Natural Resources (36%), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (3.5%), and State Parks (2%).

Any remaining funds from the fuel tax revenues are added to competitive pool for the next grant cycle.

Nonhighway Road Program Policies

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

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*.

Eligible Applicants	Tribes, federal, state, and local governments
Eligible Project Types	Land acquisition, development and/or renovation projects, maintenance and operation of facilities, and planning activities
Match Requirements	Evaluation criteria encourages matching contributions by awarding additional points
Funding Limits	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
Public Access	Required
Project Elements	Trails, trailheads, day-use areas, picnic areas, viewpoints, campgrounds, and support structures like sanitary facilities and utilities

Evaluation Summary

This year's NHR evaluators, in accord with RCW 46.09.280, were:

Name	City or Agency	Area of Interest
Jeremy Blasdel	Pasco	Hunting and fishing
Arlene Brooks	Auburn	ORV -- 4x4
Rick Burk	Pasco	ORV -- Motorcycle
Louise Caywood	Spanaway	Equestrian
Paul Dahmer	WDFW	
Jonathan Guzzo	Seattle	Hiking
James Horan	Parks	
John Loomis	Seattle	Mountain biking
Mary O'Neil	Aberdeen	Non-highway road
Pene Speaks	DNR	
John Spring	Mercer Island	Non-highway road
Amie Tinderholdt	USFS	

In July, the evaluation team read the applications and provided advice to applicants to improve the projects. In September, staff sent project information to the evaluators for review. Later, the team spent three days listening to applicant presentations, asking questions, and scoring projects. In October, the team met to confirm funding recommendations.

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.

Attachments

Resolution 2008-056

Table 1 – *Ranked List of Projects in the NOVA Nonhighway Road Category*

- A. Evaluation criteria summary
- B. Summary of evaluation scores
- C. Individual project summaries

RESOLUTION #2008-056

**Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program
Nonhighway Road Category Funding
Fiscal Year 2009**

WHEREAS, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) staff provided publications, website updates, public workshops, and other outreach opportunities to notify interested parties about the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program (NOVA); and

WHEREAS, nine Nonhighway Road (NHR) projects were submitted for funding consideration; and

WHEREAS, these NHR project applications were evaluated by a committee selected for this purpose, using the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (Board) adopted criteria; and

WHEREAS, the evaluations occurred in a public meeting, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to ensure that its work is conducted with integrity and in a fair and open manner; and

WHEREAS, all nine projects meet program criteria, thus supporting the Board's strategy to fund the best projects as determined by the evaluation process; and

WHEREAS, the projects provide opportunities for recreationists that enjoy nonmotorized boating, camping, driving for pleasure, fishing, gathering, hunting, and picnicking, thereby supporting the Board's strategy to provide partners with funding to enhance recreation opportunities statewide;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board approves the ranked list and funding as shown in *Table 1. Evaluation Ranked List and Funding Recommendations, NOVA Program Nonhighway Road Category, State Fiscal Year 2009*; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that that the ranked list of alternate projects will remain eligible for funding through February 28, 2009.

Resolution moved by: _____

Resolution seconded by: _____

Adopted/Defeated/Deferred (underline one)

Date: _____



**Table 1. Evaluation Ranked List
And Funding Recommendations
NOVA Program ~ Nonhighway Road Category, State**

Rank	Score	Number	Project Name	Project Sponsor	RCFB Amt	Sponsor Amt	Total Amt	Cum Amt	Recommended Funding	
									30% Fuel Tax	Competitive Dollars
1 of 9	52.917	08-1027M	DNR NW 08 NHR FACILITIES M&O	Natural Resources Dept of	\$51,773	\$22,411	\$74,184	\$51,773	\$51,773	
2 of 9	49.750	08-1080M	SW WA 08 NHR FACILITIES M&O	Natural Resources Dept of	\$98,330	\$45,150	\$143,480	\$150,103	\$98,330	
3 of 9	49.583	08-1048N	Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Trails & Trailhead	Natural Resources Dept of	\$90,000	\$25,000	\$115,000	\$240,103	\$90,000	
4 of 9	46.833	08-1355N	Beacon Rock State Park Trail Extension	State Parks	\$25,500	\$7,975	\$33,475	\$265,603	\$25,500	
5 of 9	41.500	08-1492D	Scotch Creek Coulee Creek Trail System	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$86,756	\$20,000	\$106,756	\$352,359	\$86,756	
5 of 9	41.500	08-1493N	Whatcom WLA ADA Dock Planning	Fish & Wildlife Dept of	\$100,000		\$100,000	\$452,359	\$100,000	
7 of 9	37.833	08-1814D	Excelsior Campground Reconstruction	USFS MBNF Mt Baker RD	\$100,000	\$49,000	\$149,000	\$552,359	\$22,009	77,991
8 of 9	32.250	08-1744D	Camp Govey Backcountry Trail	Mason County	\$79,000	\$10,700	\$89,700	\$631,359		
9 of 9	31.917	08-1819N	Riverside State Park - Equestrian Facilities	State Parks	\$99,576	\$9,452	\$109,028	\$730,935		
					\$730,935	\$189,688	\$920,623	\$474,368	\$77,991	

Note: projects in **bold type** are those eligible to be scored for competition dollars.

Attachment A: Evaluation Criteria Summary

Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities Program

Nonhighway Road 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.

Applicants must provide oral responses to the following team-scored (1-7) evaluation criteria. See RCFB NOVA Policy Manual 14 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-6, C-7
Team	3a	Site Suitability	A	2/10	C-15
Team	3b	Project Design	D	2/10	C-1, C-5, C-7, C-8, C-14
Team	3c	Maintenance	M	2/10	C-5, C-7, C-8, C-14
Team	3d	Planning	N	2/10	C-6, C-15
Team	4	Readiness to Proceed	All	-/5	-
Team	5	Predominately Natural	All	-/5	C-13
Team	6	Project Support	All	2/10	C-3, C-4
Team	7	Cost-Benefit	All	-/5	A-1, C-3
RCO staff	8	Matching Shares	All	-/5	C-4
RCO staff	9	Population Proximity	All	-/2	C-2, RCW 79A.25.250
RCO staff	10	GMA Preference	All	-/0	RCW 43.17.250
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE				72	
Supplemental Questions for Allocation of Competitive and Excess Funds Only					
RCO staff	A	NOVA Recreationists Served		-/5	3/27/08 RCFB meeting
RCO staff	B	Amount of Non-State Match		-/5	3/27/08 RCFB meeting
RCO staff	C	Unfunded Projects in Category		-/5	3/27/08 RCFB meeting

KEY:

- Team = Criteria scored by Advisory Committee/evaluation team
- RCO staff = Criteria scored by RCO staff
- All = Includes Acquisition, Development, Maintenance, or Planning
- A = Acquisition proposals
- D = Development proposals
- M = Maintenance proposals
- N = Planning proposals (architect. and 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 - Nonhighway Road Category

Attachment B

Ra	Name/Sponsor	Need	Need	Maint.Planning	Readiness	Predominantly	Project	Cost-	Matching	Population	Growth	Total
		1	Fulfillment	Development	to Proceed	Natural	Support	Benefit	Shares	Proximity	Mgt	
			2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
1	DNR NW 08 NHR F/Natural	11.250	11.000	7.167	4.333	3.333	7.167	3.667	3.000	2.000	0.000	52.917
2	SW WA 08 NHR FA/Natural	9.750	10.250	6.667	4.083	3.417	8.000	3.583	3.000	1.000	0.000	49.750
3	Middle Fork Sno/Natural	11.250	10.250	7.167	3.833	3.667	6.833	3.583	2.000	1.000	0.000	49.583
4	Beacon Rock Sta/State Pa	10.750	11.000	6.167	3.750	3.167	6.667	3.333	2.000	0.000	0.000	46.833
5	Scotch Creek Co/Fish & W	9.000	9.000	6.000	2.417	3.417	6.833	2.833	2.000	0.000	0.000	41.500
5	Whatcom WLA ADA/Fish & W	10.500	10.000	5.833	3.167	2.833	5.333	2.833	0.000	1.000	0.000	41.500
7	Excelsior Campg/USFS MBN	7.000	8.750	5.667	3.417	3.333	4.167	2.500	3.000	0.000	0.000	37.833
8	Camp Govey Back/Mason Co	6.500	7.000	5.500	2.750	3.167	4.000	2.333	1.000	1.000	-1.000	32.250
9	Riverside State/State Pa	5.250	6.750	5.333	3.583	2.417	4.667	1.917	0.000	2.000	0.000	31.917

Evaluation Score Questions: 1-7

Prescore Questions: 8-10

NOVA Nonhighway Road Category

Fiscal Year 2009

Individual Project Summaries

NONHIGHWAY ROAD CATEGORY

State Fiscal Year 2009, In Ranked Order

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$74,184	\$22,411	\$51,773

Department of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources 08 Nonhighway Road Facilities Maintenance and Operation

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to provide staff and materials for two years to maintain the Samish Overlook, the W.C. Dearinger Campground, and Reflection Ponds in the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area. Additionally, this grant provides funding for portable toilets at the Samish Overlook, a hang-gliding and paragliding area. The crew will clean toilets, fire rings, picnic tables, and benches as well as remove litter and hazardous trees, maintain signs, mow, repair the parking lot, and perform general site maintenance. The department will contribute \$22,411 in equipment, labor, materials, and donated labor. This is the top ranked project of nine projects competing for funding in the non-highway road category of the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1027)

Rank (1 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$143,480	\$45,150	\$98,330

Department of Natural Resources

Southwest Washington Nonhighway Road Facilities Maintenance and Operation

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to provide staff, restroom pumping, supplies, equipment, signs, and some transportation costs for maintenance and repair of seven areas in southwest Washington. Crews will pump, repair, maintain, and paint restrooms; remove dangerous trees; repair fences and picnic tables; clean fire pits; clear brush; remove litter; and provide general site repair and sign maintenance in areas used by recreationists who use the backroad areas to camp, hunt, fish, picnic, and view wildlife. The department will contribute \$45,150 in labor, materials, and donated labor. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1080)

Rank (2 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$115,000	\$25,000	\$90,000

Department of Natural Resources

Middle Fork Snoqualmie Valley Trails and Trailhead

The Washington Department of Natural Resources will use this grant to design a regional trail head for public lands in the Middle Fork Snoqualmie River Valley and Mid-Fork Snoqualmie State Forest. The department will conduct a site assessment, design the trail head and trail improvements, acquire permits, and provide a construction-ready package for a regional trail head that will include a 50-stall parking lot, restrooms, kiosk, picnic area, signs, and other amenities. The department also will design trail improvements to provide connections to the current trail system in the valley area. The Mid-Fork Snoqualmie River Valley contains a network of existing logging roads and

informal trails in poor condition with no trail heads. Despite not being built to agency standards, this trail network has been identified in trail guides and use is increasing. The project will help address needs in the 14,000-acre area from the entrance of the valley to the peaks of Mount Si, Tenneriffe, and Bessemer Mountains on the west and Mailbox Peak and Russian Butte on the east. The department will contribute \$25,000 in labor. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1048)

Rank (3 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$33,475	\$7,975	\$25,500

Washington State Parks

Beacon Rock State Park Trail Extension

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will use this grant to plan, design, and acquire permits for a new trail connecting the historic .9-mile trail to the top of Beacon Rock and a popular picnic area on the Columbia River. Currently, park users must walk along a dangerous stretch of State Route 14 to move between the picnic and boat moorage area and the Beacon Rock trail. Washington State Parks will determine the precise route of the new trail, the placement of the viewing platforms, and what permits are needed for a .3-mile trail. Beacon Rock State Park is 35 miles east of Vancouver and serves about 350,000 visitors a year. Washington State Parks will contribute \$7,975 in labor. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1355)

Rank (4 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$106,756	\$20,000	\$86,756

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Scotch Creek Coulee Creek Trail System

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to add a new parking area and trail head information board at the beginning of the 7.5-mile Coulee Creek trail, which traverses both the Sinlahekin and Scotch Creek Wildlife Areas. Currently a camping area and restroom are on this site. As trail users head south on the Coulee Creek trail, they pass through many different habitats beginning with two ponds that harbor numerous waterfowl, shorebirds, and songbirds, and then cross through timbered areas where mule deer and wild turkeys reside, and finally through open grasslands and shrub-steppe habitats on the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area with the possibility of flushing the rare Columbian Sharp-tailed grouse. All along the route, mountain tops reaching 2,000 feet above the trail provide users vistas with the possibility of viewing mule deer and black bears, as well as small mammals and marmots along the shale slides. The trail ends at the Hess Lake road parking area on the Scotch Creek Wildlife Area. The department will contribute \$20,000. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1492)

Rank (5 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Whatcom Wildlife Area Americans with Disabilities Act Dock Planning

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will use this grant to design, acquire permits, and complete surveys for a new fishing pier on Lake Terrell in the Whatcom Wildlife Area. Lake Terrell sees an estimated 25,000 user-days a year. Its 36-year-old float is floating at an angle, becoming a safety hazard. The float likely will fail or be closed within five years. The new pier will be accessible to people with disabilities and reduce conflicts between anglers and boaters. Lake Terrell is a destination for largemouth bass fishing and hosts five tournaments annually. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1493)

Rank (5 of 9)

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$149,000	\$49,000	\$100,000

**U.S. Forest Service Mount Baker National Forest Mount Baker Ranger District
Excelsior Campground Reconstruction**

The U.S. Forest Service will use this grant to rebuild the Excelsior Campground, adding a hand pump water well, restrooms, campsites, and day-use shelters. The forest service also will reconfigure the interior road and replace tables, fire rings, bulletin boards, and parking barriers. A road to the river will be closed and returned to a more natural state. The Excelsior Campground is on the north fork of the Nooksack River and is configured as two group sites that can hold up to 125 people. The campground was built in the 1960s and little has been done to refurbish it since. At 1,500 visitor nights annually, it is under used because it lacks drinking water, suitable toilet facilities, and a poor circulation pattern. The forest service will contribute \$49,000 in labor and materials. This grant is from the Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities program. (08-1814)

Rank (7 of 9)

Alternates

<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
\$89,700	\$10,700	\$79,000

Mason County

Camp Govey Backcountry Trail

This project will complete the first phase of development of a trailhead at Camp Govey. The development project was identified during the 2008 for the Camp Govey Backcountry Trail Planning and Feasibility study that was funded through RCO in 2007. Mason County, working in cooperation with the Green Diamond Resource Company will begin the development of the Camp Govey Trail System. This trail system will eventually include an approximate 4 mile loop using a portion of the old logging railroad right of way, Vance Creek Trestle and forestland in riparian zones of Green Diamond Resource Company forestland. This particular project will begin work on the trailhead, parking area, and support facilities. This non-motorized trail will be open for hikers to begin with, and equestrians and bicyclists as the project develops.

The trail system will be diverse and very scenic. The trail will meander through riparian timberland with views of Vance Creek, Fir Creek waterfall and the Falls Creek waterfall. The trail will be long enough to provide a good day hike experience and will also include interpretative opportunities for wildlife, the natural environment, and the past rich logging history from the days when logging camps and logging by rail were a common practice in Mason County. (08-1744D)

Rank (8 of 9)

	<u>Grant Request</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Total</u>
	\$109,028	\$9,452	\$99,576

Washington State Parks

Riverside State Park - Equestrian Facilities

The Riverside Equestrian Area currently only provides for day-use activities. Regionally, there are no over-night facilities for area equestrian visitors or equestrian travelers. Trail users and regional equestrian groups have urged Washington State Parks to upgrade the site to provide expanded equestrian facilities, especially camping opportunities.

Therefore, our proposed project provides for the following: 1) a master plan for the Riverside Equestrian Area, that will address planning and design of an improved entrance road; two 10-15 equestrian unit campgrounds, with restrooms, stock watering facilities, highlines and waste disposal sites; trailhead for equestrian day riders; a day use area, with parking, group picnic shelter, and corrals and 2) develops construction plans and secures permitting for Phase 1 Development, including the development of the entrance road, a 10-15 unit equestrian campground and the equestrian trailhead facility and associated trail connection revisions. Also, an area will be reserved for a future arena area, but no plans will be developed with this requested project or funds. (08-1819N)

Rank (9 of 9)