

WASHINGTON STATE TRAILS COALITION

2008 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER, SPOKANE CONVENTION CENTER

WELCOME

Elizabeth Lunney, President, Washington State Trails Coalition

This is the 10th annual state trails conference since 1998, the premier opportunity for all trail folks to gather, renew acquaintances, meet new people, celebrate accomplishments, learn, and consider initiatives. The conference is planned primarily by Washington State Trails Coalition volunteers. This year's core committee included: Lunell Haight, Rick Hood, John Keates, Greg Lovelady, Elizabeth Lunney, Louis Musso, Kaye Turner, and Reed Waite.

In addition, the following organizations contributed important resources to this conference: the state Recreation and Conservation Office; the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; and Washington State Parks.

AGENCY LEADERSHIP PANEL: PROVIDING A FUTURE FOR TRAILS

Introduction: Elizabeth Lunney

This panel is becoming a conference tradition, and this year's moderator comes to us as a relatively new gubernatorial appointee representing a state agency whose influence stretches beyond its small size. The Recreation and Conservation Office, previously known as the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation, serves several state boards and commissions, including the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. It uses public funds to support trails through its grant programs and it is the director's job to ensure this happens in a fair, transparent, and efficient way.

Moderator: Kaleen Cottingham, Director, State Recreation And Conservation Office (RCO)

Trails are very important in this state. They exist primarily on state and federal lands and most of the funds that support them come from dedicated government sources like gasoline taxes and bonds. We all know that trails are economic drivers, so our challenge to the legislature, to keep the money flowing, is to make this clear, show a unity of purpose, and use the funds efficiently.

The results of recent RCO surveys indicate that walking continues to be the most important activity; 57 percent of our population primarily uses sidewalks for foot travel, and we're seeing increases in water trail and off-road vehicle use.

How much money does RCO allocate? Among the agency's three primary trail programs [Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), and National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP)], approximately \$15 million each biennium is distributed. Since 1978, RCO has administered more than 1,500 projects. There are, however, some imbalances. For example, at times we have more dollars for ORV projects than we have projects; and we nearly always have significantly more nonmotorized project proposals than we dollars.

What is RCO working on for the future? Now under development is a new system to help determine which projects are most important. It's called "level of service," or LOS. In the near future, RCO also will be updating the 1991 state trails plan. And, Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program and National Recreational Trails Program (NRTP) funds are scheduled for distribution in November. More about each of these efforts is available on RCO's web site.

Today's panelists are: Rex Derr (a member of the state Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the director our the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission since 2002); Marti Marshall (the Forest Service's Regional Assistant Director of Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness); Doug Sutherland (in his second term as the State Commissioner of Public Lands, and head of the Department of Natural Resources); and Rory Westberg (the National Park Service's Deputy Regional Director for Resources Stewardship, with primary responsibility for parks and programs).

Doug Sutherland, Commissioner Of Public Lands, Department Of Natural Resources (DNR)

The state lands administered by DNR include some 3 million acres of publicly owned forests, agricultural and grazing lands, and commercial properties. The federal government originally granted lands to the states to help generate revenue for schools. Thus, in 1889, the area that included Washington State was granted about 4



million acres for this purpose. Through the years, some of this land was sold, but much of it remains and today, it generates about \$350 million annually for trust beneficiaries.

Though the basic intent of these lands is revenue generation, DNR's lands are also managed for multiple uses, so recreation is an important theme. This concept, however, is not without issues. For example, today DNR's managers are addressing a host of land related challenges including fire suppression (the Commissioner oversees the largest fire department in the state), urbanization of properties that were once remote, and conflicts among recreationists and others competing to use these lands (hikers and ORVs; hikers and horses, etc).

These lands receive 9-12 million visits each year and volunteers and state grant programs are an important source of funding. Even so, revenue to manage and protect these properties falls far short of the need.

DNR administers about 1,100 miles of trail, most of which originated as log haul roads and fire protection-access routes. The trail community is critical to maintaining these opportunities, in terms of providing volunteer trail maintenance crews and explaining needs to the legislature. To be successful in the competitive legislative and budget atmosphere, all recreationists need to continue to work together; effort and time must not be wasted on internal conflicts.

**Rex Derr, Director,
State Parks and Recreation Commission**

Mr. Derr began by introducing several Parks commission and staff members: Cec Vogt (a WSTC founder) and Clyde Anderson (commissioners); Larry Fairleigh, Jim Harris, and others (staff).

State Parks has been working on its centennial project since 2003. This 10-year "trail" is designed to focus on and to elevate parks' connections and service to the public. Cooperators include the governor and legislature. Trails are a big part of the centennial plan, including the John Wayne Pioneer Trail, Iron Horse State Park, Klickitat Trail, Willapa Hills Trail, Columbia Plateau Trail, and Spokane River Centennial Trail. The plan also includes five major water trails and snowmobile trails.

There are 121 state parks in Washington and the agency is working to make each more accessible to people with disabilities.

Since 2003, significant progress has been made on Parks' trails. For example:

- 31 miles of the Klickitat trail were opened
- 15 miles of the Columbia Plateau Trail were resurfaced.

- The Sandifur Memorial Bridge was added to Centennial Trail State park.
- A new trailhead was added to the western end of the cross-state trail
- More access points were added to the Iron Horse trail (Parks is also working towards a crossing of the Columbia River)
- The amount of the above investment exceeds \$153 million

As Parks' Centennial project continues, work is planned in many areas, including the:

- Columbia Hills State Park (trailheads)
- Willapa Hills Trail State Park (safety railing on trestles and Highway 6 underpass)
- Columbia Plateau Trail State Park (Snake River Junction to Kahlotus, 20 miles of new surface, and 4,000 feet of trestle decking and railing)
- Iron Horse State Park (tunnel repair and trail upgrade, Malden to Idaho)
- Rocky Reach Trail (new construction)

Trail issues that Parks needs to address include:

- Linking youth to outdoors (no child left inside program; Parks recently kicked off this new grant program; also, foster families now can camp free in state parks);
- Technological advances – real time information on winter snow park sites could soon be available;
- To meet visitors' needs, many of Parks' brochures are being translated into foreign languages;
- Roles and working together (for example, the Klickitat trail where 250 people met in Lyle Washington to discuss keeping the trail open).

**Rory Westberg, Deputy Regional Director for
Resources Stewardship, National Park Service (NPS)**

There are three national parks in Washington, each recovering from the devastation of recent winters. In each of these areas, the NPS is involved with trails on many levels, for example:

- NPS is celebrating the 40th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, adopted to create a national network of trails. NPS actually manages more trail miles than the nation has highway miles.
- The challenge of maintaining access to trails, for example, at Fort Vancouver, in Washington's Clark County, there is a partnership among city, state, and a local land trust to maintain a trail is in a less than traditional area.

Here, a bridge over a major highway links the waterfront with the old fort. At Fort Clatsop, in Oregon, is Lewis and Clark's Fort To Sea Trail, recently rebuilt and



leading from Fort Clatsop the Oregon coast. The NPS also assists trails through its Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

- NPS' effort to connect youth to the outdoors is taking many forms. One example is a partnership with the National Association of State Park directors. Other examples include the re-establishment of the weasel-like "fisher" in the Olympic National Park where



children have been enlisted to help with monitoring. In Santa Monica California, high school children were transported to a park where they did paid work.

In other areas, the popular "Camping with My Parents" program is teaching kids what camping is all about.

- On the technological front, Internet-based information has become standard. In related news, many regularly check-in with such web services as the Washington Trails Association's "Find A Hike" and "Hiking Info" services. In NPS' "Pocket Ranger" program, visitors can download trail information and other park content onto an iPod. On the cultural scene, new parks are being added that tell who we are as people. For example, the Selma to Montgomery Trail, the women's rights movement, former Japanese-American internment camps, etc. These all represent the stories of different constituencies.
- And last, NPS needs volunteers in its parks. But it also needs people to encourage them on to even more accomplishments, especially in urban areas and among under-represented populations. It will be important to continue to re-think the role of parks.

Marti Marshall, Assistant Forest Service Director for Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources

These days, funding is an important topic for the Forest Service. For example, there are 17 forests in region six and the Forest Service's trail budget (fiscal year October 1, 2008 – September 30, 2009) is slightly below the previous 2008 levels, which was below the previous 2007 level. So, the Service is depending more and more on revenue provided via the Recreation Enhancement Act (allows land management agencies to continue charging modest fees at campgrounds, rental cabins, high-impact recreation areas, and at some day-use sites). If, for some reason, these funds were to be lost, the impact would be devastating.

Also regarding funding, the relatively new "Recreation Site Improvement" program will soon be providing \$13 million. This program is supported by a portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the

Recreation Enhancement Act to help reduce deferred maintenance at high priority recreation fee sites.

Volunteers and partners are also an essential part of the Service's funding plan.

Presently, the Service is working on its Travel Management Plan and intends to implement its motorized use maps sometime in 2009. This is important because the number of off highway recreationists has increased 10-fold nationally, which is threatens the region's trails. For this reason, the Service is working on developing policies that closes areas unless specifically open to such vehicles.

The Recreation Facility Analysis is a national process in which each forest must develop a five year "Program of Work" focused on better management and improvement of the quality of recreation sites. All forests are scheduled to complete the initial phase of this process in 2008.

Because the Forest Service can no longer try to be all things to all people, each forest must now define and focus on its particular niche. In this case, "niche" means describing what each forest has to offer in terms of special places, opportunities and potential experiences. This is overlapped with what people desire and expect in terms of outdoor recreation from the forest. The result is that the forests are now developing a work program to operate and maintain a financially sustainable and niche-focused recreation site program that will meet national quality standards.

The Forest Service is also working to connect youth to the outdoors. Current programs include the Kids in the Woods Initiative aimed at reaching urban and underserved youth with the goal of engaging them in recreation and environmental education to build meaningful and lasting connections with nature.

THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH: HOW TO BUILD TRAILS TO THE CAPITOL

Lisa Brown, Senate Majority Leader, Legislative District 3

Though there is much to do, Senator Brown is thrilled with the state's accomplishments in the trails arena. For example:

- The state's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) is very important, expanding the state investment and allocating \$100 million in this biennium alone. Even so, the level of need continues to far outstrip demand. The Conservation Futures Fund (RCW 84.34.240) is important.
- The Spokane River Centennial Trail is a personal interest, as is the Fish lake trail.
- Right now, prospects for the future are dim: economic times are tough and appear to be getting worse; among

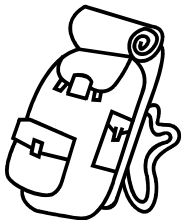
the significant losses are revenue and jobs, and then there is the multiplier impact. So, it will be hard to hold what we have and keep moving forward.

- Washington's state agencies do not have all of the resources needed to manage the land and its visitors. In fact, the entire natural resources budget is only about two percent of the state's budget; so not much can be cut there. Over time, more robust partnerships will be needed, especially in the areas of health and wellness, economic development and education.
- For the present, the best advice will be to just hold on until the current economic crisis passes.
- It is important to remember that Washington does not now have a budget deficit and there are sufficient revenues to cover current expenses. The deficit often referenced in today's media is actually projected for the next biennium and only then if today's rate of expenditure is carried forward unchanged. However, this will be remedied in the next legislative session. To lessen this burden, the governor is reducing current expenditures. In the meantime, the state investment portfolio is doing well and all obligations are funded.

**Alex Wood, Representative,
Legislative District 3**

Senator Brown is correct: the state does not have a budget deficit and, though revenues will likely decline sharply, Washington is in a good position to address this issue. The state is starting from a good place.

Though Rep. Wood has not participated on the legislature's committees that work with trail issues (his committees are Commerce and Labor, Select Committee on Environmental Health, and Transportation), he did note that state Initiative 695 (a proposal to repeal the motor vehicle excise tax), did lead to a gutting of a tax that used to help trails. [Editor's note: Initiative 695 was found unconstitutional by the King County Superior Court for violating a law that states only one subject can be the focus of an initiative. However, the tax was later eliminated by the Legislature based on its view of public support for the Initiative.]



But good things are happening: the City of Spokane is ready to hire a bicycle-pedestrian coordinator and some families have reduced the number of cars they drive and are carpooling more; others are walking and not driving to the grocery store and to school. But times are tough and it is likely that America's next generation will need to make do with less.

Our natural resource agencies will need to celebrate the past and look more to maintaining what they have. They will need to concentrate on low cost requests. An

important fact is that trail advocates are doing an amazing job.

Question and answer session with Senator Brown and Representative Wood

Question: Can federal transportation funds be used for trails? **Rep. Wood:** Every six years the federal government re-authorizes the national transportation trust fund budget. In the last budget cycle, this fund ran out of money and needed a transfusion from the general fund. Part of the reason is that the federal gasoline tax hasn't increased in years and that people are driving less.

Question: What strategies can advocates use to increase trail funding? **Senator Brown:** Pilot or demonstration projects are a good way to get things going. Work on justifications that incorporate flexibility and the creation of opportunities.

Question: Public funding was recently made available for minor league baseball, which seemed to be successful. Can trail advocates use that as a model? **Senator Brown:** Yes. A great way to get attention is to band together with other regions and constituencies. **Rep. Wood:** Though it may not be a successful strategy in the upcoming budget cycle, it could work in the future.

Question: How can we expand bicycle trails when they can cost \$1 million/mile? **Senator Brown:** A good forum for this type of discussion would be to address it in a legislative work session. During such an opportunity, the discussion would involve assembling "packages" and concentrating on an area's uniqueness. **Rep. Wood:** Local zoning ordinances can help, as can local impact fees. The important thing is to assemble a group of creative people.

Question: Replacing the Columbia River Bridge at Interstate 5 is a big topic these days. What can trail users do to help ensure that the bicycle lane on the current bridge isn't lost as plans for the replacement move forward? **Rep. Wood:** This is difficult; it's a war zone down there and Washington needs to work closely with both the state of Oregon and the federal government. It will be important for trail advocates to stay involved.

Comment: It's easy to look at mega projects, like the Columbia River Bridge, and lose sight of the importance of smaller projects where donations and volunteers can do things for much less, often just a few low thousands of dollars. **Rep. Wood:** It is unfortunate, but those in the budgeting process tend to wait too long before addressing serious problems. This should stop.

Question: How can trail advocates better do their jobs within the context of today's world, including the "Priorities of Government," health care, and public safety? **Senator Brown:** Framing requests in terms of current priorities is critical. Coalitions are also important. So, be

aware of avenues of success, but also know when a strategy may not be working. Be flexible. **Rep. Wood:** Lobbyists can perform an important service in helping to frame requests to the legislature. The Cooper-Jones focus is just one example. [Editor's note: In 1997 Cooper Jones was hit from behind by a car while was competing in a time trial race near Cheney and died a week later. This tragedy brought about many events, including the Cooper Jones Act that helps ensure the safety of cyclists and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Education account established by the Traffic Safety Commission.]

INFORMATION EXCHANGE THREE MINUTE PRESENTATIONS

Rick Hood, Hood Consulting

Rick Hood introduced this session involving brief PowerPoint® presentations from attendees with a trail story to tell.

- Pacific Northwest Trail, by Jon Knechtel (Director of Trail Management): using Geographic Positioning Systems for developing and planning re-routes on the Pacific Northwest Trail.
- Trail Monitors, by Liz McNett-Crowl (Healthy Communities Project): counting trail users with electronic monitors.
- A Potential Trail for the Town of Twisp, by Tom Gehring (Twisp Town Council): creating a trail in Twisp with a possible extension to the Town of Winthrop.
- The Olympic Discovery Trail, by Rich James: planning the trail in Clallam County began in 1988 with the founding of the Peninsula Trails Coalition; the trail now extends 60 miles.
- The Ridge Acquisition Project, by Sharon Grant (Friends of Badger Mountain): acquiring elevated corridors for hiking, bicycling, and equestrian use near Richland and the Tri-Cities area.
- Newly budgeted projects for the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, by Michael Linde (National Park Service).
- North Kitsap County's String of Pearls Trails, by Linda Barry-Maraist (Board of Directors): in cooperation with the North Kitsap Trails Association, a vision that includes creating land and water-based trails and kayak routes in North Kitsap.
- Progress and Needs of the Iron Goat Trail, by Henry Slader
- Trails in the Spokane Area, by Loren Dudley (Silver Bike Tours).

IDEA MARKET PLACE

Lunell Haught, Haught Strategies

Lunell Haught, moderator, introduced this new trail conference feature for structured information sharing. It began with audience members suggesting to the moderator ideas and topics for discussion. These were summarized on flip chart pages for all to see. Once consensus on the most popular topics was reached, each was assigned a location in the conference center where discussion would occur. The following describes the selected topics and discussions.

PROVIDING ORV INFORMATION AND INCREASING MOTORIZED GRANT REQUESTS

There is a general need for more information about off-road vehicle trail opportunities. It is common knowledge that government agencies manage such trails, but facility information is not readily available. It would help if the information could be placed on one website, including: trail locations and related facilities, difficulty and maintenance level, recreationist comments, and rules.

It is important that the agencies that manage off-road vehicle opportunities in Washington cooperate in keeping the trail information web site up-to-date. A cooperator could be the nonprofit Northwest Motorcycle Association which already maintains a nice informational website that concentrates primarily on motorcycling opportunities.

The state's Recreation and Conservation Office could provide a grant that would help establish and maintain this new web site. An agency would need to volunteer to administer the grant application, perhaps via a subcontract to a web design-maintenance firm.

Participants in this discussion group included: Mary Bean (Forest Service; scribe), Gene Petefish and Jeff Williams (four-wheel drive enthusiasts), Gary Prewitt (Eastern Washington All-Terrain Vehicle Association), Greg Lovelady (state Recreation and Conservation Office).

WORKING WITH RECREATIONISTS TO CREATE SAFE TRAILS AND CAMPGROUNDS

There is a perception that public campgrounds are sometimes used by potentially dangerous members of society and that more control is needed.

At many of these sites, the threat level can exceed that which can be addressed by a volunteer host. Further, law enforcement's capacity is also limited, especially in the evening. To address this, the following strategies were suggested:

- Identify the times and sites of the most abuse and make assistance available quickly.



- Post signs that provide hotline phone numbers for reporting violations, including vandalism, dumping, etc.
- Identify-profile those most responsible for causing problems. Also, quantify damage and require those responsible to post bonds
- Erect simulated surveillance cameras; add signs that say “smile, you’re on camera”
- Ask organized user groups to educate their members about the site’s regulations.
- Make it clear that if the rules are broken too frequently, the site could be closed.
- Use large events as educational opportunities.
- Tap into the people who have an emotional investment in these sites and train them in curbing behavior problems. Provide them with badges, uniforms, and a direct way of contacting the police.
- Work with retail outlets to help provide maps and land use rules, including legal and illegal use areas, etc. Post signs at gasoline stations.
- Discourage advertisements of the “jeep in the stream” type.
- Get a well known personality to write a song and produce a podcast about resource protection.

ACCESSING PUBLIC LANDS ACROSS PRIVATE PROPERTY: ISSUES AND SOLUTIONS

One issue confronting public access advocates is the unclear status of some lands. For example, many rail beds have been abandoned for so long that it is difficult to know the land’s legal status. For example, has the property reverted to adjacent private land owners?



Another issue is the loss of traditional access points. An example is the City of Anacortes where links are being blocked to the remainder of Fidalgo Island by new developments. Once in place, the new arrivals typically discourage or reject public access. What can be done?

- Improve information. For example, publicize the results of the Burke-Gilman study that indicated property values generally increase when public trails are nearby. Also, point out that residential crime decreases under similar circumstances.
- Liability is often mentioned as a concern, though Washington’s landowner liability limiting statute is a robust tool. RCW 4.24.210, excludes from liability unintentional injuries caused to participants in many types of recreation (including hiking, bicycling, horse riding, driving of off-road and other vehicles, etc.) as long as a fee isn’t charged.

- In some cases, establishing a land trust may help through the purchase of the access points before development.
- In developing an easement acquisition plan, address how maintenance and administrative staff will be provided. In such cases, establishing a “Friends of the Trail” group and executing agreements with local colleges and high schools to conduct special projects are good strategies.
- Further broadening the base of easement advocates to include existing nonprofit and research oriented organizations can also be helpful. Advocates should also consider providing incentives, such as allowing an easement to be used in exchange for public access.
- Working with those who may not be in favor of the easement can also be helpful. For example, identify opponents’ issues and work toward common solutions.
- The Conservation Futures Act (RCW 84.34.240), administered through the counties with property taxes, can be a great land access program. Also, special districts (dike districts, etc.) can use state Recreation and Conservation Office funds for land acquisitions.

LINKING URBAN TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

There are many ways to connect trails with fitness activities, including taking advantage of the trails community’s obvious interest in nature. For example:

- Arrange for transportation to and from an area’s trails.
- Emphasize variety by including many different interest points on the schedule: beaches, shopping malls, regional park trails, etc. By adding variety, different people will become involved.
- Partner with hospitals, health departments, other health or youth organizations, retirement communities, businesses, realtors, individuals, and youth organizations; use bilingual communication.
- Develop special events, including maps, fliers, and activities that focus on such approaches as: 10 community walks, geocaching, activity cards (“name three trees”), walk a hound and lose a pound, clean the trail and then judge the garbage, special occasion hikes (on solstice, equinox), competitions (athletes versus families, employee groups),
- Encourage the use of pedometers and mileage logging (low cost or free pedometers and logs can be provided).

The Washington Health Foundation’s website (www.whf.org) provides resources, grants, contests, and other programs. To be effective, keep good records on

participation, activities, etc. (use electronic counters, etc.). Chart improvement, perhaps enlisting the help of a local school's math department.

LINKING RAIL-TRAIL AND WATER TRAIL PROGRAMS

Advocacy groups for rail-trail and nonmotor water trail programs would benefit if they coordinated planning efforts. This type of partnership will be important in the future.

In the past, advocates for land trail systems have been relatively well organized and often got results. They have wielded significant influence and their needs and ideas have usually been integrated into local municipalities' adopted plans and regulations. This, however, has not been the case for the water trails community.

In the future, there will be many opportunities for linking land and water trails. A good way to begin is to work non-motorized water transportation-recreation systems into city, county, and neighborhood master plans. In Mercer Island, for example, people already commute to work using kayaks. Such an approach could be part of a non-motorized urban transportation plan.

Be strategic about where time is focused and look to collaborate with other regional players, such as the Trust for Public Lands. To increase awareness, look for overlaps in regional planning efforts and announce the availability of club members (for example, board members) as speakers for Rotary, Lions, and similar groups.

Possible activities: organize "friends groups," for example, the Friends of the Lake-to-Locks, Friends of the East Lake Washington Trail, or the Friends of the Lake Union Trail; co-sponsor events for outfitters to publicize water trails activities; get municipal recreation agencies to involve water trails in their programs; work to diversify paddling's constituency and get kids "turned-onto water;"

Oregon has just completed a statewide water trails plan which may provide ideas. Also, Washington's State Recreation and Conservation Office may have funding to assist with such plans.

AFTERNOON BREAKOUTS

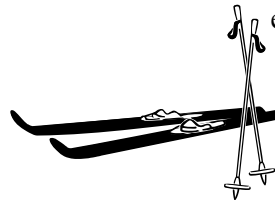
LESSONS LEARNED: 30 YEARS OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLE EDUCATION AND ENFORCEMENT

Deputy Steve Sutliff, Yakima County

Yakima County's Off-Road Vehicle Education and Enforcement Program is supported, in large part, with state grants provided through the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCO uses a computer software program, PRISM, to assist those involved in submitting applications, administering contracts,

processing billings, etc., which has made it very easy on program participants.

Since the County Sheriff's Office received the first of its 19 state Nonhighway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) Program grants in 1978, the program has changed markedly. Through most of its life, the focus was strictly on off-road vehicle activities. The statute governing this, however, was changed in 2004 and the program now covers the full spectrum of backcountry trail and back road activities: off-road vehicles, hiking,



equestrian, mountain bicycle, gathering (firewood, vegetation, etc.), fishing, hunting, and wildlife viewing.

When the program began, its personnel focused more on education and not writing tickets.

That, however, has changed to a "no infractions tolerance" policy. In the early years, many public service announcements were produced, including radio spots and call-in programs, newspaper ads, sportsmen's shows, conventions, "safety days," and school programs.

In Yakima County, every three years deputies may apply to transition into a new department program (ORV, marine patrol, etc.). There is, however, always an overlap among those in the program to help ensure a continuity of the way things work. For example, the ORV program emphasizes work with recreationists and not so much with persons intent on committing crimes.

For agencies that may be interested in seeking a NOVA E&E grant, here are some tips: First, get to know the patrol area and land managers in the local jurisdiction (Department of Natural Resources, local code specialists, Forest Service officers, etc.). Second, know your prosecuting attorney and have a good understanding of the laws to be enforced. Last, know RCO's priorities by understanding the evaluation questions used to determine funding.

Chief Larry Raedel, Department of Natural Resources, (DNR), Law Enforcement Services

After 27 years with the Washington State Patrol, Chief Raedel began work with DNR three years ago. One of the main reasons for his selection was to help elevate the department's enforcement role beyond investigations.

Presently, DNR has seven officers in six regions, including one in Ellensburg and one in Colville. Western Washington also has officers in Forks, Enumclaw, Olympia, Sedro Woolley, and Castle Rock. In large part, they are now engaging in information gathering, for example, determining where and when infractions are likely to occur.

Today, department activities primarily involve control and investigation of: vandalism, derelict vessels in aquatic resources, illegal dumping, firewood theft, fires, and methamphetamine labs and marijuana growing operations. Aside from these resource protection activities, the section's officers also help with recreational events like the ORV safety summit.

Off of DNR lands, department officers have limited authority (basically, they would need to have an enforcement situation thrust upon them before they could take action).

A primary activity of DNR's Law Enforcement Services is training, including:

- Entry Level Enforcement (required for all DNR employees who spend time in the field)
- Basic Enforcement Training (required for staff that enforce DNR's regulatory laws)
- Enforcement Refresher Training (required every two years for basic enforcement training officers).

WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Seattle's Colonnade Park: A Partnership Between King County, the City of Seattle, and the Evergreen Bicycle Alliance, by Mike Westra, Evergreen Bicycle Alliance

The Colonnade Park, the first ever urban mountain bike skills trail, is located under elevated segments of Interstate 5 in Seattle. It's part of a City of Seattle park, but was funded and constructed by the BBTC (Backcountry Bicycle Trails Club). The trail evolved in four stages, the first of which was planning and focused on engaging the right organizations and people. It took persistence and determination before the right partners and user advocates became involved. Also important was public outreach which meant building trust and engaging stakeholders.

In these early stages, the importance of documentation was recognized. That is, ensuring the project had a charter, scope, schedule, budget, communication plan, risk management plan, good design and standards, and system for recording volunteer hours.

The second stage was funding, which was ultimately received from: grants (King County Youth Facilities Sports Grant, Neighborhood Grant), donations (Engraved Rock Donation Program), and "other" (volunteers, donated materials, corporate sponsors, employee donations and employee match programs).

The third stage was the development of the project, which is where the relationship between government and the non-profit organization was defined. It began with development of an agreement, including providing a single point of contact and regular progress meetings.

This stage also involved volunteer recruitment from several sources: non-profit organizations, court mandated community service programs, youth organizations (Scouts), and for-profit companies. Using volunteers involves special considerations such as recognizing that many will not be available when the weather is nice because they will be out recreating.

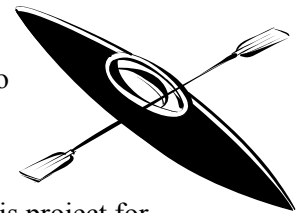
Along the way several things were learned, including: build what the users want, recruit leaders, and ensure the project manager is available.

The last stage involves maintaining the trail. For this it was important to adopt a maintenance plan which included organized work parties, establishment of a "Friends of" organization, and a way to solicit and use donations.

During construction, the Evergreen Bicycle Alliance maintained a \$2 million insurance policy.

Duthie Hill Park / King County: Partnership between King County and Evergreen Bicycle Alliance, Butch Lovelace, King County Parks

The Duthie Hill project is a joint venture among King County and the Evergreen Bicycle Alliance to build a mountain bike facility on County owned property on the Sammamish Plateau. King County has sought partners on this project for several reasons, including to reduce costs and to help ensure the public's commitment.



The project involves 5-6 miles of mountain bike trail, 2-3 miles of technical trails, and a kids-family area. Among the keys to the project's success has been a philosophical shift at all levels of King County government in allowing community groups and others to plan, own, construct, and operate the facility.

In planning the project, the objectives were to identify specific needs, inventory and analyze the resources, clarify roles, and build relationships. This was followed by creation of a detailed on-ground design. Because public outreach was a critical step in this process, members of the Evergreen Bicycle Alliance individually met with neighbors. Potential users were also surveyed, invited to "show and tell" meetings, and encouraged to access the project's web site. Organizers also met with elected officials before beginning.

To help ensure success, King County provided \$150,000 to the Bicycle Alliance. Maintenance for the site is based on a cooperative agreement and a good design. A key message of this project is realizing what can be done when a community group-nonprofit organization is empowered.

Chelan County Trail Planning: Partnership between City of Wenatchee, Chelan County, and the City of Leavenworth, by Patrick Walker, Trails Coordinator, Chelan-Douglas Land Trust

In early 2000, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust began work on the Wenatchee Foothills Trail. Near the outset, an agreement was signed with the City of Wenatchee making the Land Trust the project's lead agency. To assist, in 2007 a state Recreation and Conservation Office grant was provided for developing three miles of the trail. An additional two trails will be completed in 2008.

The Land Trust's success was dependent on several factors, including: the grassroots involvement of recreationists, small requests and low expectations from user groups, a widespread willingness to contribute, good communication and collaboration, resourcefulness, and flexibility.

As the project progressed, several challenges emerged, including: how to maintain the finished trail, setting aside sufficient time to complete all tasks, obtaining commitment from local government, funding, and long term planning.

In summary, the grass roots involvement of the public helped tremendously. Those involved gave a lot and asked for little. They were prepared to lead and take the project all the way; they were resourceful, creative, patient, and always open for opportunities.

Other projects in which Patrick is involved are the Wenatchee Foothills Trail, The Valley Trail (Leavenworth to Wenatchee), and the Chelan County Planning Initiative.

INLAND NORTHWEST TRAILS SPOTLIGHT

Hiawatha Trail, Phil Edholm, President, Lookout Associates

The Hiawatha trail is the crown jewel of all rail-to-trail projects. It contains over 15 miles of biking and walking trail that has been converted from railroad track. There are ten tunnels and seven trestle bridges up to 230 feet high, with the 1.7 mile St. Paul Pass tunnel a highlight. Travelers begin at the Lookout Pass Ski Area. Trail fees go toward maintaining the trail, constructed as part of the "Rails to Trails" program.]

The last train completed this route in 1980. To convert the rail bed to a trail, a recreational group from Wallace Idaho worked with U.S. Senator Larry Craig and the Forest Service to set aside \$2 million from 1993 through 1998. The trail was opened 1998 and received 7,000 visitors. Since then, use has increased about 10 percent each year.

Today's trail operation includes a marketing company, shuttle service, bike rental, and on-going maintenance.

Visitors come from all over the world (28,000 in 2008). Fees are \$9 for adults and \$5.50 for kids. A high point of the trail is its tunnels, each inspected by an outside firm every two years. (Some of the above information is from www.VisitIdaho.org.)

Trail of the Coeur D'Alenes, Mike Domy, Trail Recreationist

The Trail of the Coeur d'Alenes is one of the most spectacular and popular trails in the western United States. Opened in 2004, the trail comprises 73 miles of newly laid asphalt for road bicyclists and in-line skaters. The trail nearly spans the Panhandle of Idaho as it runs along rivers, beside lakes, and through Idaho's historic Silver Valley.

Silver was discovered in the Valley around 1884 and construction of the rail line to support the growing mining and timber industries was started in 1888. Much of today's trail follows this original rail line. When the rail line was built, mine waste rock and tailings containing heavy metals were used for the original rail bed. In addition, the bed was contaminated with accidental ore concentrate spillage. Today, a thick layer of asphalt paving serves the dual role of protecting the area from further contamination while providing a great surface for the approximately 150,000 people that visit this rail-trail each year. (Some of the above information is from www.idaho-insider.com.)

North Idaho Centennial Trail System, Charlie Miller, Manager, North Idaho Centennial Trail Foundation

The North Idaho Centennial Trail is a multi-use, nonmotorized recreational trail system that meanders from Lake Coeur d'Alene to the Idaho/Washington state line. From there, it continues across the Washington border as the Spokane River Centennial Trail. The Prairie Trail, the newest addition to the system, is a four mile spur that follows the old Union Pacific railroad from the Interstate 90 bridges. Together, the two trails provide over 60 miles of continuous opportunity for walkers, runners, and cyclists.

Much of the success of this trail may be credited to those who created the original vision and ignited enthusiasm among the population. They went on to build the team, secure the land and financial resources, and never gave up.

Spokane River Centennial Trail, Jon Rascoff, Chair, Friends of the Spokane River Centennial Trail

The idea of creating this trail began with the Spokane World's Fair in 1974. By 1992 the 12 foot-wide asphalt path was open to the public. Today, the Spokane River Centennial Trail is a 37-mile paved path that extends from the Idaho-Washington state line and continues to Nine Mile Falls, Washington. This trail system generally



follows the Spokane River, allowing access for kayaking, canoeing, and fishing. It is accessible to many people with disabilities and is used by individuals, groups, and families. In 2007, over 1.75 million walkers, runners, inline skaters, and bicyclists enjoyed the trail.

Trail proponents are now promoting an adopt-a-mile program and a new commute to work and school programs. Though the trail still has several “gaps” (Mission Street, Nine Mile Falls Extension, etc.), the local Friends of the trail group is working hard to eliminate them.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: WORKING TOGETHER TO LEAVE NO CHILD INSIDE

Introduction, Michael Linde, National Park Service

Richard Louv’s 2008 book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, has spurred a National Dialogue among educators, health professionals, parents, developers, and conservationists. This work explores the divide between children and the outdoors and establishes direct links between the lack of nature in the lives of today’s generation and some of the most disturbing childhood trends, including the rise in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. The keynote speaker, Martin LeBlanc, is the national youth education director for the Sierra Club. He was a founding board member of the Children and Nature Network and chairs the No Child Left Inside committee in Washington State.

Keynote, Martin Leblanc, Vice President Children And Nature Network

Challenges: With today’s many competing interests, connecting and bringing children to the outdoors is increasingly difficult. How can this be overcome?

At American University, Mr. LeBlanc worked in an outdoors oriented school for children where the experience genuinely changed the kids. This outdoors connection has roots in the fabric of America.

Today, however, kids today don’t get outdoors much. The average 6-18 year old spends 6.5 hours each day with seductive electronic media. One recent study indicated that most kids have never spent a full day outside. By “a full day outside” the study was not referring



to a day “trip to Mt. Rainier National Park.” Rather, it meant a day on a family picnic or walking around the block and playing outside with the dog. In part, this lack of exposure is

due to a fear of the “outside goblins” (and the lack of electrical outlets). How realistic are such fears? Since

1970, child abductions have decreased, so fear is perhaps not a good reason.

How can we build communities where a child can go exploring, build a fort, or spy on the local bird life? Where did our school’s recess periods go? In some schools kids are not even allowed to run. Why is their time so structured? Where is the time that is not filled with clubs, school, dinner, homework, electronic media, and the Internet?

Benefits: How do we know that getting kids to spend more time outdoors will make a difference and help communities? Recently, the American Institutes for Research conducted an evaluation to measure the impacts of a week-long residential outdoor education programs for at-risk sixth graders. The study, *Effects of Outdoor Education Programs for Children in California* (2005), indicated positive gains for conflict resolution skills, self-esteem, motivation to learn, and classroom behavior. Further, the study showed that children who attended outdoor school significantly raised their science test scores (www.sierraclub.org/youth).

Perhaps the most important question is, if we lose our next generation to indoor activities, how will we get them back and from where will our future conservation leaders come?

Positive things are happening. For example, the Children and Nature Network has several youth programs and the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission recently distributed \$1.5 million in grants for its No Child Left Inside Program.

SATURDAY, 10/4/2008, WSTC ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

General Discussion, By-Law Changes

Elizabeth Lunney opened the discussion regarding the by-law additions made at the Ellensburg and Yakima conferences, including the increasing the size of the board, specifying the length of terms, and diversity. A motion was made to approve (Cec Vogt) and seconded (Gary Prewitt). It was approved.

The creation of a “president elect” position was discussed, but no motion was proposed. The group, however, agreed to take this under advisement for future consideration.

Nominations for 2008-2010 Officers and Board

Nominations were requested and provided; a motion to approve was made (Cec Vogt) and seconded (John Keates), and the membership present approved the following:

- Officers:

President: Rick Hood (rick@hoodcs.com; Washington Orienteering Association)

Vice President: Pete Beaupain (pbeaupain@comcast.net; Washington State Snowmobile Assn.)

Comptroller: Reed Waite (reedw8@speakeasy.org; Washington Water Trails Association)

Past president: Elizabeth Lunney (Elizabeth@wta.org; Washington Trails Association)

Scribe: Greg Lovelady (Greg.Lovelady@rco.wa.gov; State Recreation and Conservation Office)

- Board members-at-large:

Jeff Chapman (bbbranch@olympus.net; Backcountry Horsemen of Washington)

Sharon Grant (Sharon@friendsofbadger.org; Friends of Badger Mountain)

David Stipe (dstipe@projectgroundwork.com)

2010 Conference

- What can we do to make the 2010 conference even better and where do we need to go from here? Suggestions included:

Work with state government; develop a reliable system of funding for healthy living, alternative transportation, community development, enhancement, combat global warming, clean water, job creation, and natural resource protection.

Provide more light on the speaker's platform and add more breaks to the conference agenda.

- Where should the 2010 conference be held? Ideal venues will have a local trail system nearby and a strong host committee; it should be affordable. By consensus, it was agreed to move the 2010 conference to the West Side.

Nominations included: Olympia: (to invite legislative representatives and agency heads and perhaps have the Governor as the keynote speaker, Wenatchee, Kennewick, Mercer Island, and Tacoma.

Marcus Dennis, Executive Director of the Foothills Trails Coalition, listed the advantages of placing the 2010 conference in Tacoma, including its world class facilities, the Tacoma campus of the University of Washington, and numerous high quality trails. It was then moved, seconded, and approved that the 2010 conference would be in Tacoma and hosted by the Foothills Trails Coalition.

Website

Rick Hood, WSTC's webmaster and in-coming president, requested that he be advised of any trail related information that can be linked to the WSTC site,

www.WashingtonStateTrailsCoalition.org. WSTC's 2009 gathering will be organized at a later date.

The business meeting was adjourned at 8:31 am.

TRAILS BY THE NUMBERS

Terry Slider, USDA, Forest Service

Why is it that certain athletes are the best in their sport?

One reason is that they are good at anticipating. This trait applies to trails advocates who need to anticipate needs in preparing for the future. An understanding of the following societal trends will help trails advocates in this preparation.



- Under-served populations: WSTC needs to reach out to new populations to broaden its diversity. About 1 million people migrate into America each year; most people in the trails world are white folks; for the most part, government responds to and represents these folks.
- Population growth: Washington is the second most densely populated state west of the Mississippi.
- Silver tsunami: Some have predicted the impending retirement of baby boomers, the first of which are just now eligible for early Social Security benefits, could overwhelm social service programs. But, regardless of whether they retire, people reaching the age of 62, on average still have about 33 years of active retirement waiting.
- Engage children in the outdoors: These days, kids love the indoors and ways must be found to attract them outside into a safe, entertaining, educational, and comfortable environment.
- Safety in the woods: Regardless of the facts, the perception is that the woods are not safe. This view must be turned around.
- Health: Obesity in Washington appears to be increasing. Health care in the USA is twice as expensive as in the next most expensive industrialized nation.
- Energy costs: Continue to make travel expensive.
- Unmasking the economy: America has #1 gross national product in the world, far ahead of the next most productive, but our economy is debt driven, much too dependent on the availability of credit.
- Staycation: More people are spending their vacations at home and local outdoor recreation has never been more relevant.

Jim Eychaner, State Recreation and Conservation Office

People, miles, measures; do public expenditures on outdoor recreation make a difference? In 2006 and 2007, Clearwater Research gathered statewide trail participation data for the state Recreation and Conservation Office (http://www.rco.wa.gov/rcfb/rec_trends.htm). The data includes reports on the major trail use categories, including hiking, cycling, off-road vehicle use, over-snow travel, and horse riding.

The random phone survey lasted a year and concluded with approximately 3,000 completed diary-type responses. In order, the top activities were: walking/hiking, team/individual sports, nature pursuits (photography gardening), picnicking, indoor pursuits. Are the results accurate? Probably, yes. Sound methods were used and the findings are consistent and comparable to similar studies.

MORNING BREAKOUTS

21ST CENTURY TRAIL BENEFITS

Ron Johnston - Rodriguez, Port of Chelan

Economy: According to Southwick Associates (2006), participation in the active-outdoor-recreation industry, essentially those activities that are limited to human-powered activities such as trails, adds about \$730 billion to the U.S. economy annually. Related industries also support nearly 6.5 million jobs across the nation (716,000 by land trails alone) and generate \$88 billion in annual state and national tax revenue. At the local level, the economic benefits include increases in the low impact tourist industry, travel-stimulated entrepreneurial migration, and business recruitment when trails are used to promote community assets.

Social and environmental: The social benefits of trails include improvements in the physical health of those who use them; the provision of transportation alternative; increases in community pride; and more opportunities to engage youth, schools, community, and organizations. The environmental benefits of trails include providing active venues for environmental education.



Increasing community benefits from trails: An important advantage of trail projects is their ability to initiate project-driven partnerships. Consider some of the interests that can benefit from trails: museums, historical societies, chambers

of commerce, tourism councils, economic development councils, port districts, schools, and colleges. Trails can also be an asset for symposiums, tradeshow, cultural heritage celebrations, festivals, races, walks, rides, etc. Trail-related events can give rise to many partnerships,

including those involving lodging owners, restaurants, retired executives, bankers, chambers, economic development councils; and tourism organizations.

Marketing: In marketing a trail, consider maps, guides, and trail photos for other community promotional materials. Also, look to trail website links to area businesses; educate front-line staff about trails, and look for newsworthy stories; encourage tourism organizations to advertise trails. Cross promote: birding and wildlife, scenic drives, agriculture business, wineries, etc.

Youth: Engage an area's youth by asking them about their interests. Also, consider organizing field trips, integrating trails into class studies, and providing lessons in geographic informational systems (GIS).

Winning support: When working to win support for a trail project, be sure and get the facts by consulting surveys and quantifying economic and other benefits. Highlight trail related success stories and identify trail champions for public speaking. Seek volunteers and donations; many people will be eager to participate.

For more information, see www.outdoorindustry.org.

John Chelminiak, Director, North Cascades Initiative at the Wilderness Society

The benefits of recreation need to be included in an organization's comprehensive plan because they help to establish importance while providing a rational for funding. An ecosystem has an economic value. A prime example is the replacement value of clean water – it is almost immeasurable.

The North Cascades Initiative is founded on three ideas: conservation, recreation, and communities. It focuses on preserving wild beauty across an eight county area and building its reputation for world class recreation and supporting a robust and economically viable human community. A main idea is raising awareness and appreciation of its treasures. The initiative envisions the North Cascades as a celebrated national treasure, where wilderness is preserved for future generations, where recreational opportunities are enhanced, and where vibrant local communities realize the benefits of wildlands.

For more information visit:

www.experiencewilderness.org, www.wilderness.org, and www.eartheconomics.org.

“Greater than Zero” is a study on www.wilderness.org that examines economic data. It indicates that the wildlands of Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests are worth as much as \$2 billion annually. The study shows how economic value is tied to host of services and industries, including cruise ships, forest products, fishing, hunting, guide services, media products (for example, photographs and videos), hiking, horse riding, over-snow tours, etc.

MINING FOR TRAILS DOLLARS

Greg Lovelady, State Recreation and Conservation Office

- Trail facts: A 2006 study, commissioned by the state Recreation and Conservation Office, indicates that among all recreational activities in Washington, the most popular is walking/hiking. This is followed by riding bicycles (#8) and off-road vehicles (#9).

Though it has been years since a comprehensive state trails inventory has been conducted, it appears that the total number of trail miles in Washington is decreasing. While some of the decline is likely administrative (erasing phantom trails that should never have been counted, closing little used trails, etc.), many closures are due to a lack of funding. This decline may be contrasted with the increase in population. For example, from 1950-1990 the state's population increased by 100 percent and forecasters say the population will likely increase by some 2.5 million people by 2030 – the same as adding the population of 13 cities the size of Tacoma or Spokane.

- Tips on getting a grant: *Myths*: The secret to getting a grant is “connections” (false). Winning a grant comes at no cost (false). A good grant writer can make a bad project look good (false). Applying for many grants increases the chances of receiving funds (false).

Dos: Do speak to the fund source representative to receive recommendations and program descriptions. Do learn about the deadlines. Do get a listing of recently funded projects and compare how they match up with needs. Do discuss costs with the funding representative.

Don'ts: Don't ignore deadlines. Don't start late. Don't ignore instructions. Don't ask for more money than is needed.

Organization: Form a team that includes people who can help with research, writing, editing, etc. Pre-plan to determine resources (for example, donations) and whether a grant is the best way to address the needs. Find out which funding organization best matches up with the needs.

Writing the grant: Define the problem that needs fixing and develop goals and objectives. Develop a work plan that describes exactly what must be done and include a detailed budget.

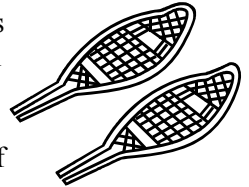
- Sources for trail grants: Nine sources of trail grants were described, including: those administered by the Recreation and Conservation Office (www.rco.wa.gov/), American Hiking Society (www.americanhiking.org), Bikes Belong (www.bikesbelong.org), and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (www.rwjf.org).

Cec Vogt, Commissioner, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Fund raising: A top priority when selecting a partner organization for a trail project or event should be an entity about whom you could say, let's grow together; now, this is *our* event.”

In selecting the type of event, be sure and ask what the community will accept and support.

But, be careful of doomed partnerships which can be thrust on an organization by a big donor. Such partnerships are easy to identify due to the lack of shared goals and can lead to the loss of an organization's previous supporters.



Elizabeth Lunney, Executive Director, Washington Trails Association

For many organizations it will be worthwhile to consider developing a major donor program. In doing this, however, it is important to keep several points in mind. Among these is the so-called “incarceration standard.” That is, become fully aware of the key ways to avoid problems. These include:

- Adopt a realistic budget based on recent expenditures, including a reasonable amount for overhead and unanticipated costs. Make sure it is defensible.
- Protect the money in a separate and limited access bank account. Cash donations require special safeguards.
- Track all expenses on a balance sheet.
- For grants, regularly review funds not yet spent. Code each expense. Be aware that grants can be transitory – dependence on them can lead to problems.
- Conduct annual audits and rotate auditors; consider establishing an independent audit committee.
- Adopt a conflict of interest policy.
- Regularly provide the organization's board with an opportunity to review of its financials.

NONPROFIT KNOW-HOW

Christine Redmond, Volunteer Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources

- *Best practices*: Through the years, Ms. Redmond has developed several methods that have not only made achieving her objectives as DNR's volunteer coordinator more effective, but also have made her job a little easier. These include:
 - Adopt a clear mission statement that defines purpose and intent and assigns a primary point of contact for the public. Incorporate this into a communications plan that

employs effective tools, like e-mail, phone, and in-person meetings. Be sure and also create a plan that includes concrete objectives and steps for achieving them.

- Ensure the chain-of-command is clear so people know who to contact next if the primary person is not available. Likewise, have clearly defined roles and responsibilities to avoid ambiguity and burnout.

- Be willing to set boundaries and explain why an idea or request might be rejected.

- Develop a volunteer recruitment strategy. Use a clear message to find a good fit with the target audience. Be inclusive; create opportunities for all types of people. At the same time, create a retention strategy that includes acknowledgement and recognition. Providing interesting and relevant opportunities for training, leadership and other unique experiences will help, as will including time for socializing and fun. Celebrate collective achievements with the volunteers and through the media.

- Document accomplishments.

- As a project moves forward, evaluate its effectiveness: are its goals and objectives being met; is the budget appropriate; are volunteers' needs being met? Seek, listen to, and be responsive to feedback. Likewise, give feedback that is timely, clear, and specific.

- *Lessons learned:* Similarly, Ms. Redmond indicated that she has learned several lessons, including:

- Don't narrowly define "volunteer" or to neglect acknowledgment and recognition. Don't give new volunteers too much responsibility and don't be inflexible (which can lead to missed opportunities). Above all, don't be afraid to lead or to give up control.

- *Questions and answers*

- Q: Do you have to work with other agencies in deciding what trees to plant and what to remove, such as in restoration projects?

- A: Ask people that might be able to give a demonstration or provide technical assistance, for example, the professionals at the Soil and Water Conservation District, Noxious Weed Board, or County Extension.

- Q: Do you have any suggestions for information management for tracking volunteers and recognition?

- A: Working at a grassroots level and face-to-face is best. Take a look at customer relations management software. Donor Quest may be a helpful tool. In some cases, a volunteer may be available to help.

- Q: I've had a dedicated core of volunteers that have been involved for a long time, so I am not sure how to recognize them in a way that is unique.

- A: Ideas from those in the audience included: dinners, plaques, invitations to have a greater voice, get donations from businesses, highlight in the organization's newsletter, or external media. Also, ask for advice from other volunteers.

- Q: What do you do when you have a volunteer that you need to "fire"?

- A: It is very difficult but sometimes necessary. It is best to be compassionate, respectful, and direct. Don't delay.

Lunell Haught, Haught Strategies

Non-profit organizations can often support political decisions by engaging the community through education and outreach and by addressing unpopular decisions. Volunteers can often help by contacting offices without the same political risk that a government agency's staff might encounter.

Research shows that employees place a high value on being involved in decisions; this is also true of volunteers. Likewise, collaboration is critical. Remember, it's not just about how long a volunteer has been helping, but how long will they remain and stay involved.

The difference between interest and influence: a person with influence may not be interested in using it, so it may be important to connect with that person, engage them so they will use their leverage.

This is an exciting time to be involved with the trails coalition. In spite of the limited resources, interest is growing.

Robbie Castleberry, Backcountry Horseman, Palisades Neighborhood Association

Ms. Castleberry is a member of a neighborhood 501c3 charitable organization in Palisades, Washington that was involved in a re-development plan for a community park. A first step in this project was to work with several entities, including the city's parks department, state Department of Natural Resources, and County Conservation District, each of which could contribute something important to the project.

The organization's volunteers needed to learn how to constructively work with these agencies.

One of the first efforts was to remove trash from the park, including several old cars. Of course, the media was invited to the event which helped increase interest in the park and credibility for the participating organizations. The volunteers played several important roles, including outreach, education, mapping, removing noxious weeds, and in maintaining trails.

For potential reimbursement and credit toward grant fund matching requirements, all contributions, including

volunteer time and any donated equipment, was closely tracked.

Three lessons learned from this project, with broad applicability, were: first, get all promises and agreements

in writing; second, don't expect everything to go smoothly; and third, when things don't work out as anticipated, don't quit; persevere.



Conference Registrations

First	Last	Email	City	State	Organization
Sue	Abbott	sue_abbott@nps.gov	Seattle	Wa	National Park Service
Brian	Adams	Briana@co.skagit.wa.us	Mount Vernon	Wa	Skagit County
Julie	Anderson	julie@wwta.org	Seattle	Wa	Washington Water Trails Association
Terri	Arnold	dirswprd@whidbey.com	Langley	Wa	South Whidbey Parks & Recreation District
Suzanne	Bachelor	kjohnson@ci.washougal.wa.us	Washougal	Wa	
Jim	Ballew	jballew@marysvillewa.gov	Marysville	Wa	Marysville Parks and Recreation
Linda	Barry- Maraist				City of Poulsbo
Dr. Ernie	Bay		Puyallup	Wa	Foothills Rails-to-Trail Coalition
Mary	Bean	mebean@fs.fed.us	Wenatchee	Wa	USDA, Forest Service
Pete	Beaupain		Auburn	Wa	Washington State Snowmobile Association
Dana	Berthold	dberthold@pcta.org	Cascade Locks	Or	Pacific Crest Trail Association
Michael	Blake		Okanogan	Wa	Mayor City of Okanogan
Mike	Blankenship	commissioners@co.ferry.wa.us	Republic	Wa	Ferry County Commissioners
John	Bottelli	jbottelli@spokanecounty.org	Spokane	Wa	Spokane County Parks Recreation & Golf
Bryan	Bowden	bryan_bowden@nps.gov	Ashford	Wa	National Park Service
Derrick	Braaten	dbraaten@cawh.org	Airway Heights	Wa	City of Airway Heights
Jeff	Brantner	jeff@yakimagreenway.org	Yakima	Wa	Yakima Greenway Foundation
Al	Brown	al@yakimagreenway.org	Yakima	Wa	Yakima Greenway Foundation
Deborah	Budnick	debi.budnick@esd112.org	Trout Lake	Wa	Northwest Service Academy
Bonnie	Bunning	bonnie.bunning@dnr.wa.gov	Olympia	Wa	Dept of Natural Resources
Hannah	Burgard	hburgard@thesca.org	Boise	Id	Student Conservation Association
Laura	Campbell	lcampbell@co.clallam.wa.us	Port Angeles	Wa	Clallam County Parks
Bonnie	Castle	bonnie.castle@parks.wa.gov	Olympia	Wa	Parks and Recreation Commission
Gary	Chapman	gary@c2ctrail.org	Corvallis	Or	Corvallis-to-the-Sea Trail Partnership
Jeff	Chapman		Port Townsend	Wa	Back Country Horsemen of Washington
John	Chelminiak	jchelminiak@twswn.org	Seattle	Wa	The Wilderness Society
Adam	Cole	Adam.Cole@rco.wa.gov	Olympia	Wa	Recreation & Conservation Office
Nick	Cronquist	nick.cronquist@dnr.wa.gov	Castle Rock	Wa	Dept Of Natural Resources
Juelie	Dalzell		Port Townsend	Wa	Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Markus	Dennis	greenwaycorps@aol.com	Puyallup	Wa	Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition
Loren	Dudley		Spokane	Wa	Friends of the Centennial Trail
Larry	Fairleigh	larry.fairleigh@parks.wa.gov	Olympia	Wa	WA State Parks & Rec. Comm.
Sally	Ferguson	sferguson@thesca.org	Boise	Id	Student Conservation Assoc
Bill	Fraser	bill.fraser@parks.wa.gov	East Wenatchee	Wa	Washington State Parks
Dixie	Gatchel	greenwaycorps@aol.com	Puyallup	Wa	Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition

Tom	Gehring		Twisp	Wa	Twisp Town Council
Robert	Gish		Deer Park	Wa	Back Country Horsemen of Washington
Lisa	Goorjian	lisa.goorjian@ci.vancouver.wa.us	Vancouver	Wa	Vancouver-Clark Parks & Recreation
Sharon	Grant	sharon@friendsofbadger.org	Richland	Wa	Friends of Badger Mountain
Michael	Gridley		Coeur D Alenes	Id	North Idaho Centennial Trail
Jonathan	Guzzo	jonathan@wta.org	Seattle	Wa	Washington Trails Association
Gale	Ham	gham@gcpud.org	Moses Lake	Wa	TPT
Curtis	Hancock		Gig Harbor	Wa	PenMet Parks
Jim	Harris	jim.harris@parks.wa.gov	East Wenatchee	Wa	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Susan	Harris		Newport	Wa	Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance
Lunell	Haught		Spokane	Wa	Inland Northwest Trails Coalition
Dan	Haws	Dan.Haws@rco.wa.gov	Olympia	Wa	Recreation & Conservation Office
Kevin	Hennessey		Spokane	Wa	Friends of the Spokane River Centennial Trail
Rick	Hood		Edmonds	Wa	Cascade Orienteering Club
Perry	Huston	phuston@co.okanogan.wa.us	Okanogan	Wa	Okanogan County Office of Planning & Development
Rich	James	rjames@co.clallam.wa.us	Port Angeles	Wa	Clallam County Public Works
Tina	Johnson	charlie@northidahocentennialtrail.org	Cda	Id	Northern Idaho Centennial Trail, Chair
Ron	Johnston-Rodriguez	raylene@ccpd.com	Wenatchee	Wa	Port of Chelan County
Alec	Josephson		Cheney	Wa	Student EWU
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