



2026 Washington State Trails Conference

Stronger Together

October 7-9

Wenatchee Convention Center

Request for Presentations

The Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) is excited to sponsor the 15th biennial State Trails Conference in Wenatchee at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Trail advocates, consultants, agency representatives, user groups, and recreation and transportation professionals will gather to share skills, insights, and resources, celebrate successes, and inspire new trail projects.

Trails exist in many forms for a wide variety of reasons. Whether water, snow, dirt, paved, single track, 4x4, equestrian, urban or rural, for recreation or transportation — our trails have an ever growing population of users. Luckily, in Washington we have some of the most active trail communities in the country. On October 7 - 9, 2026, the Washington State Trails Conference will bring together agencies, organizations, businesses, and people to explore how we can make Washington's trails *Stronger Together*.

The conference's Program Committee is seeking presentation proposals consistent with our tracks. To encourage a broad range of perspectives, special consideration will be given to proposals that include topics applicable across trail types and users.

The conference will offer breakout sessions along four themed tracks:

1. **Building Trails for Wildlife, Climate and Disaster Response:** Share approaches to and examples of trails that protect the surrounding landscapes, including water quality and wildlife. How is planning for climate change and disaster response changing your work? How does collaboration with other groups help you address any of these themes? Have you worked to modify specific trails or trail features to reduce the impact on the surrounding landscape?
2. **Community Health and Accessibility:** Trails are ultimately for people. One side of this track explores ways you are planning trails to be accessible to more users and communities. The other aspect of this track is about the health benefits of outdoor access (physical, mental, community-building and belonging). How do we capture and collectively communicate those social benefits?
3. **Funding Trails to Fuel the Recreation Economy:** Where are you looking for new funding sources and how could you see creative partnerships unlocking new resources? Making the case for funding trails and public lands often rests on outdoor recreation's economic contribution to our state. Whether high-level or through specific examples of partnerships with trail towns and the business sector, how are you thinking about the recreation economy in your work?

4. **Culture and Community Engagement:** Tell us about projects where you have collaborated with different interested parties (Tribal nations, community groups, etc.) and the impacts of that collaboration on achieving the project's goals. Share examples of outdoor spaces that serve a cultural function, for community connection, celebration public education or gathering of natural resources — and how those values have factored into your work.
5. **Field Sessions:** Take your session outside to highlight technical and on-the-ground aspects of trail building. With your presentation description, please include location(s) near the Wenatchee Convention Center that would work for your session's goals. If you are unfamiliar with the area, please describe what setting works best and we will be in touch about potential locations.
6. **Trails Spotlight:** Do you have a cool project that doesn't fit into one of the tracks? Shorter 20-minute "trails spotlight" presentations showcase trails that provide unique values and experiences for the public or that offer significant learning opportunities.

Length of session: Time slots are 45 minutes which includes a recommended 10-15 minutes for Q&A. 2 hour indoor or field sessions can be arranged.

Offsite session or field trip: There may be opportunities for a small number of field trips Saturday afternoon. Contact WSTC directly if you wish to propose a session to highlight a unique local trail, issue or process.

Submitting a proposal: Our selection committee will consider general interest proposals, but those that best align with one of the track themes will be given priority. Conference proposals must have a nexus with trails, whether urban or backcountry, public or private, recreation, or transportation.

Submissions: Complete the online [Proposal Form](#) by **April 30, 2026**.

Review and selection: The Program Committee will select proposals on the basis of topic relevance, broad appeal, and quality of proposal. The committee aims to respond to applicants with final program selections by June 18, 2026.

Registration policy: Conference organizers work to keep overall registration and meal costs low in part by asking all presenters to pay the full registration fee and their other expenses. However, speakers who wish to attend only their session and a session immediately following or preceding their presentation, not including a meal, may request a waiver of this policy. Thank you for understanding.

2026 Washington State Trails Conference:
Stronger Together
Presentation Proposal Outline

Primary point of contact: Name, Title, Organizational Affiliation, Phone, Email

Presentation:

1. Title
2. Description (50-150 words, may be edited for brochure)
3. Speakers (include name, title, and email address for all speakers)
4. Proposed Format (solo presentation, panel, interactive workshop or other format)

Presentation takeaways: What are the key points your audience will go away with

Proposed conference track (please select only one that you think best reflects your topic):

1. Building Trails for Wildlife, Climate and Disaster Response
2. Community Health and Accessibility
3. Funding Trails to Fuel the Recreation Economy
4. Culture and Community Engagement
5. Trails Spotlight

Thank you for your proposal!

Please complete the online [Proposal Form](#) by **April 30, 2026**

Inquiries: Presentation Committee, presentations@watrails.org