



2022 Washington State Trails Conference

October 27 - 29

Edward D. Hansen Convention Center, Everett

Request for Presentations

The Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) is excited to sponsor the 13th biennial State Trails Conference at the Edward D. Hansen Convention Center in Everett. 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 pleasure 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 27 - 29, 2022, the Washington State Trails Conference will bring together agencies, organizations, businesses, and people to explore our *Common Ground* in our love for Washington's trails.

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. On the Ground:** *The challenges of planning, designing, building and maintaining trails of any type are many. Presentations and case studies could address: obtaining access via permitting, easements or purchase; meeting regulatory requirements; preserving green corridors for wildlife; designing a safe, appealing, buildable, and environmentally sustainable trail; how to factor in climate change factors; finding and effectively using a workforce to build the trail and maintain it; or deciding which trailbuilding techniques would work best for the situation. Share your successes and lessons learned the hard way.*
- 2. Financial Grounding:** *Funding is perhaps the major hurdle in planning, building, and maintaining trails. Topics could include: private/public partnerships, grant opportunities, advocating locally for increased municipal funding, leveraging future increased recreational economic factors, effective fundraising storytelling, successful and creative approaches to potential donors, and more.*

3. **Connections on the Ground:** *Trails connect us to nature, history, improved health and well-being, other communities, and other people. Case studies and strategies fostering equitable access, sharing our history, building community and governmental support by highlighting the societal, health, and economic benefits, and multi-user group collaborations are just a few of the possible subjects.*
4. **Ground Rules:** *More and more people are using trails for commuting, exercise, and recreation. This brings an increased need for education and information outreach covering trail etiquette, respect for the environment, sharing a mixed-use trail, safety, new technology, and many other topics. What are successful techniques and strategies?*
5. **Bonus Trails Spotlight:** *Showcasing trails that provide unique values and experiences for the public or that offer significant learning opportunities.*

Length of Presentation: Time slots are 45 minutes which includes a recommended 10-15 minutes for Q&A.

Off Site 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. It is important that conference proposals have a nexus with trails, whether urban or backcountry, public or private, recreation, or transportation.

Submissions: Complete the online [Proposal Form](#) by **May 13, 2022**.

Review and selection: The Program Committee will select proposals on the basis of topic relevance, appeal to a spectrum of attendees, and quality of proposal. The committee aims to respond to applicants with final program selections by July 15, 2022.

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.

2022 Washington State Trails Conference: Common Ground 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 names, 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. On the Ground**
- 2. Financial Grounding**
- 3. Connections on the Ground**
- 4. Ground Rules**
- BONUS - Trails Spotlight**

Thank you for your proposal!

Please complete the online [Proposal Form](#) by **May 13, 2022**.

Inquiries: president@watrails.org