



Washington State Trails Conference *"Common Ground"*

October 27 - 29, 2022

Edward D. Hansen Conference Center, Everett

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.

The Washington State Trails Conference brings together agencies, organizations, businesses, and people to explore our *Common Ground* in our love for Washington's trails.

Conference Schedule

Thursday Oct 27				
5:30p - 7:30p	Early Check-in and Social	Convention Center upper foyer and hall		
Friday Oct 28				
7:30a - 9:00a	Breakfast and Check-in			
9:00 - 9:30	Welcome and Opening Remarks			
9:30 - 10:00	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
10:00 - 11:00	Concurrent Sessions A			
	A1	Why We All DO Get Along on Trails: Examples of Multi-user Work Parties and Why We Should All Have Them!	Trail use continues to increase and the need for trail organizations to collaborate is growing. With potential new funding sources through the Great American Outdoors Act, Legacy Trails, and from the WA State Legislature for backlogged maintenance, the need to collaborate on both trail maintenance and planning is growing. The Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance and Transcascadia have successfully coordinated joint multi-use work parties that not only made a tremendous difference in restoring and re-opening trails, but also generated camaraderie between user groups with lasting friendship and unforgettable volunteer work party experiences and campfire stories. This session explores the model, benefit, and need for multi-use work parties and why they build understanding, respect, and volunteer ethic amongst all trail user groups.	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assn
	A2	Walking into the Past: Public History on the Trail	By utilizing public recreation trails, QR codes, and cell phones to teach local history, we can dramatically increase the public's connection to place and past. In one example, small inexpensive signs were placed along the Centennial Trail in Snohomish County, WA, each with a place name and QR code. The trail is the former Seattle, Lakeshore and Eastern Railway grade, passing through several examples of railroad trestles and numerous	Snohomish Co. Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources

			historical (now invisible) sites. By merely pointing their phone at each sign, participants were offered historical facts and pictures. By answering multiple choice questions, they could earn "virtual" badges. The second example introduced an historic character and followed the character's life and career around a tour of related agricultural, industrial, and domestic displays at the 2021 Evergreen State Fair. The phone-based "game" aspect appeals to all ages and it's a fun family activity. This activity could easily be adapted to a trail context.	
	A3	Trails for All: Incorporating Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) into Trail Planning	Representatives from Washington State Parks will share what they've learned from outreach with BIPOC and other marginalized communities about trail accessibility and ways to make public recreation spaces welcoming for all. The panel will discuss the findings and recommendations from two DEI studies including signage and wayfinding and communicating trail characteristics in a manner that inspires confidence for disabled and novice trail users.	Washington State Parks
	A4	Training Volunteers: Trails Academy Development	Learn how and why the Back Country Horsemen of Washington and Region 6 of the USFS are developing a Trails Academy in order to provide consistent, safe and effective training in Trail Development and Maintenance.	Back Country Horsemen of Washington
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
11:30 - 12:30	Concurrent Sessions B			
	B1	Trails and Transit: Two Great Ideas that Work Well Together	In the Puget Sound region, nearly 83% of transit riders access transit by walking, rolling, or by transfer. Providing a seamless experience for people accessing stations is essential for maintaining and expanding ridership on these major civic transportation investments. This panel discussion will focus on how trails can enhance access for people walking or riding bicycles to new and planned light rail stations.	Parametrix
	B2	Regional Investment Approach for the Mountain Loop Highway	This presentation will highlight Quantified Ventures' efforts to build a Regional Council among communities along the Mountain Loop Highway in order to be more competitive for state & federal funding, implement outdoor recreation projects, and solve issues of mutual concern. This presentation will spotlight the challenges of investing in outdoor	Quantified Ventures

			recreation projects in rural areas, lay out the vision for how a holistic regional effort can leverage innovative funding & financing approaches to achieve success, and highlight our ongoing efforts on the Mountain Loop Highway as a case study.	
	B3	Laying the Groundwork: How Interpretive Planning Leads to Good Stewardship	Trails connect people to each other, to nature and history, and even to difficult concepts like responsible stewardship in a changing world. Each trail is packed with potential for telling stories that invite people to learn, explore, and take action in support of your mission. Interpretation is a valuable and engaging tool for visitor education and outreach. In this workshop, we'll talk about how interpretation can add value to your site, and we'll break down the interpretive planning process into simple steps. We'll guide you through a quick, fun exercise, resulting in a basic framework for action-inspiring storytelling along your trail, as well as a loose design concept.	Watershed
	B4	One Outdoor Recreation Map for All: TREAD Map App	Why another App? Other Apps focus on profits and advertising and disregard local input from land managers, tribes, and local stakeholders. TREAD Map (TM) is different. We created this smartphone app to create the connection for all outdoor enthusiasts through real-time interaction between land managers, user groups, and local stakeholders. TREAD App will inform users on snow levels, fires, closures, trees that are down, and parking lots that are full, all on one platform. During this session, we will share how TREAD Map can be used as a community-powered platform that equips users to recreate respectfully, strengthens communities, and generates possibilities for sustainable recreation and economic development in your region. Participants will be able to ask questions about their region and how they can get involved. This session will allow participants to see a live demo of the TREAD Map App, engage in questions, and plan how to get TREAD Map (TM) active in their community.	TREAD
12:45 - 2:00	Buffet Luncheon with Speaker		Sophia Danenberg – Washington State Parks Commissioner	
2:00 - 3:00	Concurrent Sessions C			
	C1	All About Washington Water Trails and	Hear why Washington Water Trails was established and how the Cascadia	Washington

		the Cascadia Marine Trail	Marine Trail, extending from Olympia to Canada, provides access to the water in the face of continuing privatization of waterfront parcels.	Water Trails Assn
	C2	Get Grounded with Bellingham Trails: A Look Inside How We Do It All	The City of Bellingham is a playground for all things recreation related. We are known for our expansive trail network and accessible parks. Bellingham is also the gateway to the Mount Baker National Forest and San Juan Islands. From mountains to sound, there is no shortage of places to roll, ramble, run, stroll, or pedal. So how do we do it all? Panelists from the City of Bellingham Parks and Recreation Department will share our approach to projects and how we're able to accomplish so much in a time of limited resources and increased awareness about ecological impacts.	City of Bellingham Parks
	C3	Choosing the Best Tool: The Limits of the Volunteer Stewardship Model	Volunteer labor is a vital resource in the maintenance of recreation trails on public lands. Volunteer stewardship can create deep connections between individuals and the natural world as well as strong community of advocates. However, there are practical limits to volunteer labor that reduce the effectiveness of volunteerism in achieving certain trail maintenance objectives. This session will share experiences from the non-profit and government sector where panelists have found that volunteers are not the most cost effective and productive form of labor.	Pacific Crest Trail Assn, Washington Trails Assn (WTA), Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)
	C4	Envisioning a Vibrant Equestrian Future in Snohomish County - Opportunities and Challenges	In 2019, the Executive Horse Council of Snohomish County - a community/volunteer-driven entity - was launched to engage equestrians from all disciplines in working together to create a vibrant future for horses and humans in the county - and beyond. This session will explore the creation, purpose and vision of this effort including successes in partnering with parks staff, public lands leadership and other user groups. It will also discuss opportunities and challenges, and the search for effective strategies that will bring about a positive trail-sharing future.	Executive Horse Council of Snohomish County
3:00 - 3:30	Coffee Break and Exhibits			

3:30 - 4:30	Concurrent Sessions D			
	D1	Trails Planning Across Partners - A Case Study of the West Fork Teanaway Community Forest	This presentation will discuss the ups and downs of a trails planning process across agencies and nonprofits, studying the West Fork Teanaway Trails Planning process undergone throughout 2020 and 2021. Presenters from the Department of Natural Resources and Washington Trails Association will review how to these organizations and other recreation leaders have turned the Teanaway Community Forest Recreation Plan's recommendations into a full-blown trails plan for the West Fork Teanaway.	DNR, WTA
	D2	Structuring and Growing a Trails Not-for-Profit to Successfully Partner with Land Conservation and Recreation Organizations	Back by request: Come learn about the operations model and inner workings of a non-motorized trails not-for-profit. Over the past 5 years, the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance quadrupled its membership, doubled its budget, doubled its construction and maintenance team, completed a statewide reorganization, and opened more than 300 new miles of new mountain bike trails in WA State. Join Evergreen's Executive Director and trails Director in a presentation about the strategies, tools, cost share models, fundraising techniques, and project development methods that have allowed the organization to grow into the largest trail construction non-profit in the nation. Participate in a discussion about strategic plans and operational decisions for not-for profits in the outdoor recreation industry.	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assn
	D3	Redefining Outdoor Recreation: Increasing the Diversity of Natural Spaces through Collaboration	Wild Society, a wilderness education nonprofit based out of Kitsap County, is always looking for new ways to get people outside and connected with their own backyards and the public lands that are available to us all. Through a partnership with ACHD, African Community Housing & Development, they are working together to break down the barriers that exist in outdoor education and redefine what it means to belong to the outdoor recreation community. ACHD's mission is to provide opportunities for African Diaspora immigrant and refugee communities, families and individuals in King County to attain health and housing stability, economic development, high-quality education, and referrals to legal services.	Wild Society
	D4	Developing a Vision to Connect Communities by Trail	Learn how Leafline Trails Coalition developed a map vision for the trails network spanning Kitsap, Snohomish, King, and Pierce counties. Speakers will delve into: Data coordination, including challenges, replicability, and benefits of a shared system; Branding, marketing, and communication;	Leafline

			<p>Relationship-building, including how this year-long process strengthened the Coalition; Use case and next steps.</p> <p>The Leafline Trails Network was created by Leafline Trails Coalition, a coalition of more than 60 organizations, agencies and businesses working together to complete the network. Our vision is for an interconnected, intuitive, well-traveled, and treasured trails network spanning the Central Puget Sound region, providing equitable access, health benefits and recreational opportunities for all.</p>	
5:30 - 8:30	Reception and Trail Awards Ceremony		<p>Sons of Norway Hall 2725 Oakes Ave, Everett (0.2mi from Conference Center)</p>	WSTC
Saturday Oct 29				
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast and Registration			
8:00 - 9:00	WSTC Annual Business Meeting			
9:00 - 10:00	Concurrent Sessions E			
	E1	<p>Timberline Middle School: Site Ecology & Learning Landscapes Along Regional and Local Trails</p>	<p>The Watershed Company collaborated with Lake Washington School District, McGranahan Architects, and Weismann Design Group to design a multi-phase interpretive plan, as well as 14 outdoor wayside exhibits for educational features that were integrated into the campus of Timberline Middle school along a regional trail and connected 'learning loops'. Our team of interpretive designers researched and created educational content along with original digital illustrations to enhance the learning landscape of the school. The content spanned broadly across natural systems and engineered systems, reaching a wide audience that included middle school students and their families, as well as those traveling along the public regional trail that passes through the campus.</p>	Watershed
	E2	<p>Packgoats as Alternative Stock for Travel in the Backcountry</p>	<p>The North American Packgoat Association (NAPgA) collaborates with land managers advocating for goatpacking using best management practices. We strive to educate and mentor responsible and competent use of packgoats on and off trails. At our presentation we would like to share</p>	North American Packgoat Association

			NAPgA's Best Management Practices, the environmental benefits of low impact packgoats, community building with past service projects, and packgoats as an affordable easy to handle pack stock. Additional discussions include increased access to WA trails for those who need assistance due to health, a growing family, or a desire to push deep into the backcountry.	
	E3	Finding the Right Balance Between Recreation Infrastructure Development and Protecting Our Natural Resources: Lessons from the Field Part 1	Evergreen Trail School: Hour 1 of 2 of bike trail design, building, and maintenance with an after conference field trip to Japanese Gulch in Mukilteo.	Evergreen Mtn Bike
	E4	Finding Wheelchair Friendly Trails in Washington	Working with Jenny Schmitz and a cohort of other wheelchair hikers, WTA added a wheelchair-friendly filter to our hiking guide in spring 2022. We'll discuss how we built it, what we learned, and what wheelchair hikers need to know to hike safely.	WTA
10:00 - 10:30	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
10:30 - 11:30	Concurrent Sessions F			
	F1	TREAD Bringing Together Local Land Managers, Partners, and Outdoor Recreation Non-Profits to Plan, Build and Maintain Trails through Collective Impact in Rural Washington	Do you live in a community with outdoor recreation groups and land managers working in silos and lacking coordination? TREAD (Trails, Recreation, Education, Advocacy, and Development) will be sharing how we were able to create an Outdoor Recreation Collaborative, bringing together 62 current partners across Chelan and Douglas Counties with the goal of collaborating on current and future outdoor recreation projects. In our session, we will share how we successfully lead land managers, nonprofits, local businesses, and government agencies to share current projects and plan sustainable and economically beneficial recreation opportunities for a better community. We will share the success stories of 7 outdoor recreation collaborations in Washington State and how to get an ORC started in your region. This session offers participants opportunities to engage in questions, discussions, and future planning.	TREAD
	F2	The Old Military Road Trail Project - San Juan Island	Several members of the Old Military Road Trail Committee of the San Juan Island Park and Recreation District will present a short slide show of the	San Juan Co. Park and

			project to highlight its success to date. Thereafter, a small panel will focus on how this small team has leveraged its Vision into an effective strategy. They will explore the challenges of creating a new 20+ mile long, rural trail to traverse mostly conserved land owned by public or nonprofit agencies, the key partners.	Recreation District
	F3	Finding the Right Balance Between Recreation Infrastructure Development and Protecting Our Natural Resources: Lessons from the Field Part 2	Evergreen Trail School: Hour 2 of bike trail design, building, and maintenance with an after conference field trip to Japanese Gulch in Mukilteo.	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assn
	F4	STO (Sound to Olympics) Trail	The STO (Sound to Olympics) Trail is a project that has been in the works, planning, grant writing, document adopting, etc. since 2007. Linking the cross nation "Rails to Trails" and the cross Washington State connections between Mountains to Sound Greenway and Olympic Discovery Trail, the plan is to move people along a multi-user path from Bainbridge Island and Kingston Ferries to the Hood Canal Bridge.	Sound to Olympics
11:45 - 1:00	Buffet Luncheon			
1:00 - 2:00	Concurrent Sessions G			
	G1	The Naches Trail	What has and what is the ORV community doing to keep the Historical Naches Trail open for mixed use.	PNW 4 Wheel Drive Assoc.
	G2	"Yes We Can"- A Community Saves a Forest	This is the story of how a small group of people organized to create a park. In 2008, a 95-acre parcel was slated to be clear cut. Through the efforts of Friends of Heybrook Ridge, it is now the 150-acre Heybrook Ridge County Park. The Leovy Trail is popular for its view of Mount Index and Bridal Veil Falls. Soon it will be joined by a forested ADA trail. We will present the steps taken by an impactful Snohomish County community to make it so.	Friends of Heybrook Ridge
	G3	E-Bike Access Trails: A Diversity Equity and Inclusion Perspective	Presentation and Roundtable discussion on e-bike access wishes and implications and the results of a 7-month e-bike access committee facilitated by Evergreen.	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assn

2:15	Conference Adjournment			
3:30 or later	Field Trips			
	FT1	Japanese Gulch	Walk and talk at this Mukilteo park's bike trails as a follow-up to the Evergreen Trail School session	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assn
	FT2	Centennial Trail	Experience Snohomish Co. Public History via QR codes on this 30 mile paved trail for walking, running, biking, equestrians and commuters.	Snohomish County Parks
	FT3	Spencer Island Trail	Spencer Island is one of the best places in the Snohomish River Estuary to view waterfowl and shorebirds. Deer, coyote, river otter, and a host of small mammals and amphibians also inhabit the large island. The island has a dike top trail system, which provides scenic views of the wetlands, sloughs, and mountains.	Snohomish County Parks
	FT4	Narbeck Wetland Sanctuary	ADA Accessible trail and boardwalk. Narbeck offers two walking trails, a small loop trail and a 1/2 mile interpretative trail around the perimeter, with educational signs and self-guided tours.	Snohomish County Parks