FUNDING PROPOSAL – NEW OR EXPANDED for 2022-2023

NON-MOTORIZED PROGRAM

The Winter Recreation Program may consider proposals for funding for new or expanded, Priority 5 and 6, budget commitments for the 2022-2023 winter season in the non-motorized program. To apply for funding, please complete the following form. Please Note: All Proposals must be postmarked by June 1, 2021 to be considered. No late applications will be accepted. Examples of new or expanded funding requests could include: requests for grooming frequency increases, expanded or new trail systems, new Sno-Parks, trail improvements, increased enforcement, etc.

PROPOONENT INFORMATION

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<tr>
<th>NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY</th>
<th>NAME OF REPRESENTATIVE</th>
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<tr>
<td>USDA Forest Service, Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest</td>
<td>Aleta Eng</td>
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<tr>
<th>MAILING ADDRESS</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
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<tr>
<td>2930 Wetmore Ave Suite 3A</td>
<td>Partnership Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<th>CITY, STATE, ZIP</th>
<th>E-MAIL ADDRESS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Everett, WA 98201</td>
<td><a href="mailto:aleta.eng@usda.gov">aleta.eng@usda.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
<th>TELEPHONE NUMBER &amp; EXTENSION</th>
<th>FAX NUMBER</th>
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<td>425.293.1780</td>
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1) Please give a thorough description of the intended purpose of the proposed funding, including location, and affected Sno-Parks and trail systems.

This new proposal is a companion to the "ongoing" US Forest Service proposal that funds Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center staff to sell Sno-Park passes, provide public winter recreation and safety information, and patrol backcountry trails. The Washington State Parks funding allows the US Forest Service to open the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center before Christmas and stay open continuously (4 days a week, Thursday-Sundays) through March.

This new proposal requests additional funds to cover the actual cost of two GS-05 staff with a duty location of North Bend (King County). The duty locations for the GS-05 positions changed from Cle Elum to North Bend during the 2019-2020 season, resulting in increased staffing cost. The GS-05 pay rate is determined by the U.S. Office of Personnel and Mangement's General Schedule for pay and includes the required adjustment of 27.02% increase for the Seattle-Tacoma locality pay area. Within the "ongoing" proposal, staff receive $17.50/hour, but the actual 2020 rate is approximately $21.37/hour (includes Social Security, L&I, etc). We are asking for an additional $3.87/hour totaling $812.70. This total is derived from the following calculation: $3.87/hour x 10hrs x 21 days = $812.70. The US Forest Service will be providing the cash match to fund a minimum of 20 additional staff days at the rate of $21.37/hour or higher.

It is is important to note that the Visitor Center was closed to the public during the winter 2021-2022 season due to COVID-19 safety precautions. Due to the closure, the U.S. Forest Service did not receive Washington State Park funds for winter 2021-2022. The U.S. Forest Service is preparing to resume in-person services for the winter 2022-2023 season. The Snoqualme Pass Visitor Information Center has moved to the remodeled "Firehouse" located across the street from the current center. The new site includes a outdoor recreation retail center and café/market. We anticipate visitor interactions increasing at the new location. In addition, a Washington State Park ticket machine will be relocated outside the center allowing the public to conveniently purchase a Sno-Park pass on site 24/7.
Sno-Parks served are: Hyak, Gold Creek, Lake Easton, Kachess, Swuak, Pipe Creek, Iron Creek, Old Blewett, Mineral Springs, Teanaway. The Visitor Information Center provides information and sells Sno-park passes for all the Sno-Parks on the Interstate 90 corridor and the Highway 97 corridor. Areas patrolled are backcountry winter recreation routes along the Interstate 90 corridor from Exit 47 - 54. Granite Mountain, Pratt Lake, Annette Lake, Franklin Falls, Source Lake, Commonwealth Basin, Kendall Ridge, Gold Creek Pond, Keechelus Ridge, Mt. Catherine and Cold Creek.

a. Does your total request factor in the potential need for Snow Removal, Grooming, Sanitation, Education, Enforcement and possible need for dirt/land work?
   N/A

1) Amount of funding requested. Please give as much detail as possible and the dollar amount required for each element of the proposal. For new trail grooming requests fill out the Table A. NEW TRAIL GROOMING MILES REQUESTED FOR 2022-2023 (on the last page of this application)
   $812.70

2) What is the estimated target audience (snowmobilers, dog mushers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, others) and what percentage do you anticipate each use at?
   Snowmobilers (30%), snowshoes (30%), cross country skiers (20%), back country skiers/snowboarders (10%), sledders (5%), and others (5%)

3) Why is this project essential? (New or expanded area, local economic impacts, recreational demands)
   Other than the Hyak Sno-Park and intermittent staffing at the Gold Creek Sno-Park, the Snoqualmie Visitor Center is the only vendor who sells all the Sno-Park permits and the Discover Pass for quite a distance on either side of Snoqualmie Pass. Funding the Visitor Information Center ensures that visitors are buying the pass that is correct for the Sno-Park they will be visiting and are less likely to be issued a citation. The Visitor Center staff also inform users about overcrowding in certain Sno-Parks and encourage them to visit other areas that could meet their needs.

   In addition to providing crucial up to date recreation and safety information, staff are also aware to mitigate potential user group conflicts. Staff inform visitors of areas that are multi-use and educate them of the user groups that they may come into contact with and any information on best practices to help them move diplomatically through areas by groups who’s concerns they may not have otherwise known of (ex. explaining to snowshoers about cross country ski grooming tracks and where they should walk or maybe redirecting them to a location that can avoid that conflict altogether).

4) Briefly describe the recreational benefits of the proposal. How will this funding improve the recreational experience of visitors? What types of recreational uses will be enhanced?
   The Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center is a crucial onsite location for the public to purchase a Sno-Park pass, receive latest information on Sno-Park conditions, and obtain winter recreation information. The Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center is typically visited by more than 2,000 vistors annually and receives numerous phone calls. This center serves as a resource to help the public have an informed and safe recreation experience. The center fields questions from all recreation users including snowmobilers, snowshoers, cross-country skiers, backcountry skiers/snowboarders, and sledders with varying winter recreation experience (from well experienced recreaters to families visiting the Snoqualmie Pass area for the first time).
The US Forest Service also hosts a cadre of 25 volunteers that primarily lead public snowshoe walks from the visitor center. These volunteers also help to answer questions at the visitor information desk, patrol the backcountry routes, and provide winter recreation and safety information to the public. The US Forest Service also sponsors numerous winter recreation opportunities for underserved audiences (partnering with community organizations and Title 1 elementary schools) at Snoqualmie Pass, with the intent of providing a safe introductory winter recreation experience (snowshoeing) and connecting the importance of the winter ecosystem to their neighborhood communities.

5) Is the requested funding one-time only, or on-going?
   One Time ☐
   On-going ☒

6) Has Landowner Permission been obtained? (Funding agreements may be approved on condition that Landowner Permission will be obtained prior to the beginning of the project)
   N/A

7) If adjacent homeowners/housing developments/land owners will be impacted by the proposed action, do they support the proposal?
   N/A

8) Describe what communications were conducted to obtain homeowners/housing developments/land owners support.
   N/A

9) Are there any permitting or environmental review requirements associated with implementation of the proposal? (i.e. NEPA, SEPA, Environmental Assessment, Hydraulics Permit, Building Permit, etc.)
   None

10) Is the funding proposal consistent with the elements of the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan (to be found at http://parks.state.wa.us/149/Strategic-Plan) Explain how:
    This proposal meets the Winter Recreation Program Vision listed in the Strategic Plan
    Responsive to the recreational demands of the public:
    US Forest Service will open the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Information Center before Christmas and stay open continuously (4 days a week, Thursday-Sundays) through March. This schedule allows the Forest Service to engage the public during busiest periods for winter recreation.

    Facilitates public access to diverse snow-based recreation opportunities:
    The Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center serves the important role of selling Sno-Park passes, providing Sno-Park condition updates, and winter recreation information on diverse snow-based recreation opportunities.

    Encourages responsible use and protection of national and cultural resources:
The US Forest Service staff and volunteers actively share best practices with recreating on multi-use trails, Leave No Trace principles, and winter safety with the public.

Closely integrated into the communities it services through effective relationships with volunteers, federal, state, and local governments and private property owners: The US Forest Service has partnered with Washington State Parks for more than 10 years to sell Sno-Park passes and provide winter visitor information at the Snoqualmie Pass Visitor Center. The US Forest Service hosts a cadre of 25 committed volunteers, several are residents of the Snoqualmie Pass community.

11) Has the Area Winter Recreation Program Advisory Committee member been advised of this request? Yes

12) Who will be presenting this proposal at the funding meeting? Aleta Eng or Brian McNeil

See Question 2.

A. NEW TRAIL GROOMING MILES REQUESTED FOR 2022-2023 (16 week season)
   - List the trail grooming miles planned for next season for each groomed trail system.
   - Grooming schedules will be required by October 16, 2022.

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<tr>
<th>Trail Name or Road Number</th>
<th>From which Sno-Park</th>
<th>Map Miles</th>
<th>Trip Miles</th>
<th>Trips per Week</th>
<th>Trips Per Season</th>
<th>Total Miles</th>
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TOTAL GROOMING MILES FOR TRAIL SYSTEMS LISTED ABOVE:

Total funds requested for new grooming miles. $

Agreement

In the event funding is recommended by the Snowmobile Advisory Committee or by the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee for this project and approved by State Parks, either an existing Purchased Services Contract will be modified to reflect the approved budget, or a new Purchased Services Contract will be awarded through a public bidding process.
The applicant certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct.

Signature of Applicant

Signature of Grooming Council Representative

Aleta Eng, Partnership Specialist
Printed Name and Title of Applicant
05/25/2022
Date

Aleta Eng, Partnership Specialist
Printed Name and Title of Grooming Council Rep.
05/25/2022
Date