



“Moving Trails Forward”

Wenatchee Conference Center

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 the agencies, organizations, businesses, and people who *Move Trails Forward* for all to use and enjoy.

DRAFT 2024 Conference Schedule

Thursday Oct 3				
		Pre-conference Recreational Activities	You must pre-register for these activities via Eventbrite	
12p – 2p		Leavenworth Trail Run	Join Wenatchee Outdoors for a guided 5-6 mile run outside Leavenworth	
1p – 2:30p		Wenatchee Trail Run	Wenatchee Run Club will guide you on a 6 mile run through Sage Hills	
12p – 2ish		Wenatchee Hike	Wenatchee Outdoors offers a guided hike in the Wenatchee Foothills	
12p – 2p		Wenatchee Educational Hike	Chelan Douglas Land Trust staff will lead a 4 mile hike on a recent trail maintenance project in the Wenatchee Foothills. We will stop periodically to take in the sweeping views of the foothills, downtown Wenatchee, and the Columbia River. While pausing for the views, we will also discuss the reasons for the trail maintenance, challenges with project design, and share lessons learned from construction.	
1p - 3p		Moderate Mtn Bike Ride - Wenatchee	Join Evergreen Mtn Bike Assoc on a led ride at #2 Canyon for beginner-intermediate skill level riders. Enjoy 4 miles with lots of berms and flow. Bring your own bike and gear.	
1p - 3p		Difficult Mtn Bike Ride - Wenatchee	Evergreen Mtn Bike Assoc will take intermediate to advanced riders on a led ride at #2 Canyon. Must have black diamond skills to ride a trail with technical flow, mandatory drops, and jumps. Bring your own bike and gear.	
2:30p - 3:30p		Moderate Mtn Bike Ride 2 - Leavenworth	Experience a led ride at Leavenworth's Ski Hill Trails system with Evergreen Mtn Bike Assoc. The ride will consist of a lap connecting For the Boys, Lower Rosy and Magic Carpet trails. Super fun with lots of flowy sections and berms. Some technical riding. A Blue Square flow kind of day. Bring your own bike and gear.	
1p - 2p		Voyageur Canoe Experience	Wenatchee Paddle and Row Club offer a Voyageur Canoe experience that promises to be an enriching journey. Working together in one of our large canoes, you will navigate the Columbia River waters, all while taking in the beautiful landscape that is our home.	
5:30p - 7:30p	Early Check-in and Social	Wenatchee Conference Center – Orchard South (lower level)	Appetizers and no-host bar	

Friday Oct 4				
7:30a - 8:30a	Breakfast and Check-in	Lower Lobby and Orchard Room		
8:30 - 9:00	Welcome and Opening Remarks	Orchard Room		
9:00 - 9:45	Trail Talks		Sign up for your 10 minutes to introduce your organization, your favorite trail, your favorite project, etc...	
9:45 - 10:00	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
		(Title)	(Desc)	(Who)
10:00 - 11:00	Concurrent Sessions A			
	Fuji	Leveraging Partnerships: Accelerating Trail Expansion in Pierce County	In the world of trail development, timing, funding, and bureaucracy can hinder progress. The Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition, partnering with Pierce County Parks, addresses these challenges by combining expertise and leveraging resources to facilitate trail planning, funding, and implementation. This collaboration accelerates the realization of new trails and amenities; and, united by common goals, the alliance boosts capacity and effectiveness. Case studies spotlight successful joint ventures, illustrating their dedication to advancing trail expansion in Pierce County.	
	Gala	Silver Star Vision Plan - Collaborating to Modernize A Trail System	The Silver Star Vision Plan is a timely case study in re-imagining an outdated trail system across a beautiful and varied landscape within eyesight of the Portland-Vancouver Metropolitan Area. Over the course of several years representatives with diverse perspectives including trail user groups, the Cowlitz Tribe, Washington Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service came together with the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to write the plan. Vision plans are typically short on specifics but instead provide the conceptual idea of a place to which future planning efforts should align. Does my project idea need a vision plan? How do you do planning across agency boundaries? How does this type of planning relate to modernizing a trail system? This presentation will address these questions and offer lessons learned in the process.	
	Orchard North	Programming for Safety, Belonging, and Access	In 2021/2022 King County Parks initiated the Community Conversations on Safety, Belonging, and Inclusion as part of updating its Parks, Trails, and Open Space Plan. The results of these conversations, which focused on	

			<p>why people feel unsafe in the outdoors and what could be done to make them feel safer, resulted in a number of ongoing programs. One is the Mobile Engagement Team, a group of four interns and one full-time staff that hosts Mobile Welcome Desks throughout the County. The other is the King County Park Ranger program which supports visitors and staff by providing education and assistance. Finally, the Community Van Access program, a partnership with King County Metro, allows folks to use Community Vans to access trailheads and other destinations at no cost.</p>	
Friday Oct 4				
	Orchard South	East Fork Mission Creek: Restoring Habitat through Collaborative Recreation Planning	<p>Chelan County Natural Resources (CCNRD), USFS and Evergreen MTB staff collaborated to address habitat and water quality issues in East Fork Mission Creek caused by an unraveling road prism within the floodplain and both moto and non-moto recreational uses within the stream channel. Through a variety of funding sources, a 3 mile trail re-route, a road section closure, and habitat/water quality restoration effort was planned and constructed to improve steelhead habitat and water quality in East Fork Mission Creek. The project successfully restored a severely damaged 2.8 mile reach of the East Fork Mission Creek AND provided a high quality recreational trail experience. Collaboration between agencies involved successfully improved water quality and habitat for the ESA listed steelhead within the East Fork Mission Creek, while simultaneously improving the user experience for the public.</p>	
11:00 - 11:15	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
11:15 - 12:15	Concurrent Sessions B			
	Fuji	Trolling Issaquah Trails	<p>Issaquah's Rainier Trail has been invigorated with the addition of Jakob Two Trees, an iconic troll created by Danish environmental artist, Thomas Dambo. Artistic components integrated along trail systems can compliment a city's art program, draw visitors to support economic development, and educate visitors on culturally significant elements that support ancestral lands, historic elements, and the community's values.</p>	
Friday Oct 4				

	Gala	A Future of Responsible Recreation: Inspiring People in the Outdoors Statewide through Collaborative Ambassador Programs	Learn about ambassador programs teaching environmental stewardship behaviors, outdoor ethics, and practical skills of responsible recreation to recreators throughout the state. Whether on trails, at trailheads, or bustling camping areas and water access sites, these accessible programs are striving to build an informed community of responsible recreators in Washington by meeting people where they are – outside. Be ready to learn the behind-the-scenes details of programs like these through people who have experience with them on the ground, as well as the future needs of recreational education in Washington.	
	Orchard North	This is what Pack Stock can do for you Part 1	How to augment your Trail Programs through integration of Pack Stock Support. Up your Output!!!! Pack Stock can really enhance your trail maintenance project. Tools, camp gear/provisions, supplies, timber, these amazing creatures can do it all. The Stock Handlers are pretty awesome too! Part 1, Strategic Planning. Show the process that goes into getting Pack Stock in the Field.	
	Orchard South	Developed Outdoor Recreation Assessment Process (DORAP)		
12:30 - 1:45	Buffet Luncheon with Speaker		Max Djenohan is an Elite Survivalist, Creator, Snowboarder, Outdoorsman, and Storyteller.	
2:00 - 3:00	Concurrent Sessions C			
	Fuji	Career Pathways & Partnerships for BIPOC Early Professionals	In 2020, Washington Trails Association (WTA) launched its Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) to invest in paid development opportunities for future leaders in the outdoor industry, specifically for communities who experience inequitable access to the outdoors, including BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and people of color) individuals. The 14-week program provides hands-on training in technical trail skills, leadership and professional development. Over the last four years, the program has evolved and expanded to engage agency partners and several community organizations. In collaboration with Washington State Parks, the program has been funded for three years through the WA state legislature. Sixty-five percent of program alumni have gone on to work at WTA or partner	

			organizations. The program offers career paths for early professionals of color and builds stronger connections between WTA, Washington State Parks and local communities.	
Friday Oct 4				
	Gala	Northup Connector - Building Sustainable Trails for the Future through Partnerships and Creative Funding	The Northup Connector, while a short segment of trail, represents the culmination of years of planning to make an important connection between two major trail routes, to transit, and to an area of employment and economic development, completing a key link in a resilient trail system. It wouldn't have been possible without creative partnerships and funding. Led by Eastrail Partners on behalf of King County, with funding from Meta and REI, this is a unique project bringing funding from the private sector directly to the trail. Eastrail Partners used a progressive design-build contracting approach to meet a fast-track schedule. Using this approach, the contractor was able to contribute to a value engineering process that ensured the project also met budgetary constraints. Come hear more about this process from the Eastrail Partners and from Parametrix (design engineer).	
	Orchard North	This is what Pack Stock can do for you Part 2	How to augment your Trail Programs through integration of Pack Stock Support. Up your Output!!!! Pack Stock can really enhance your trail maintenance project. Tools, camp gear/provisions, supplies, timber, these amazing creatures can do it all. The Stock Handlers are pretty awesome too! This would be a 2 part presentation. Part 2, Tactical Planning. Drill down into some of the logistic considerations that go into utilizing stock on your project.	
	Orchard South	No2 Canyon: A Case Study in developing a sustainable, innovative, and comprehensive trail network through Community Vision, Public Private Partnerships, Creative Funding, and Ethic of Volunteerism and Celebrating the Outdoors.	Join project team members from the USFS, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, and TREAD to walk through all phases of vision, planning, funding, and construction of the innovative trail network at No 2 canyon. Developed over the past decade and now in its very final development phase, this non-motorized trail network caters to hikers and mountain bikers, and creates a back-country outdoor recreation experience less than 5 miles from downtown Wenatchee. The network includes a network of progression trails to provide a range of looped trail experiences, a community gathering facility, a mountain bike skills park, road and trailhead infrastructure upgrades, and is now the site of community events	

			and mountain bike classes. This comprehensive project development effort is a prime example of the USFS definition of a modern, sustainable trail system. A combination of conservation, economic and social benefit, as well as exceptional user experiences makes No2 Canyon one of the most unique and comprehensive trails systems in WA State.	
Friday Oct 4				
3:15 - 4:15	Concurrent Sessions D			
	Fuji	Laying the Groundwork: How Interpretive Planning Leads to Impactful Visitor Engagement	Trails connect people to each other, to nature and history, and even to challenging concepts like responsible stewardship in a changing world. Each trail is packed with potential for telling stories that inspire people to take action in support of your mission. In this workshop, we'll talk about how interpretation can add value to your site, and we'll break down the process of interpretive planning and design. We'll guide you through a quick, fun exercise, resulting in a basic framework for storytelling along your trail, as well as a loose design concept for trail signage or other media.	
	Gala	Washington Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Access and Responsible Recreation Strategic Plan	As DNR prepares to publish its first ever strategic plan for statewide recreation and access management, join the project team for a reflection on the planning process, discussion on plan themes, and anticipated next steps.	
	Orchard North	Tribal Art and Lushootseed Trail Signs at Tennant Trailhead Park: a case study in collaboration, vision, and modern-day trail network development.	Tennant Trailhead Park is Washington State's first community trail network with integrated native art and Lushootseed language on both the park's kiosk and trail signs. This non-motorized multi-use trail network opened in April 2024 as a collaboration between the Snoqualmie Tribe, Si View Parks District, the City of North Bend, and the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. The small park is North Bend's first in-town and dense network of hiking and progression mountain bike trails, developed on in-fill lots with a keen eye on integrating native imagery and language to connect the trail user to the lands, the tribe, and native language to encourage mindful recreation and trail stewardship. This session explores the planning, process, construction, and collaboration of many stakeholders to bring the project vision to reality.	
Friday Oct 4				

	Orchard South	The STO and The PS2P (Sound to Olympics/Puget Sound to Pacific)	Imagine a linear park from Puget Sound to the Pacific Ocean (PS2P), filling in the gaps and the missing links of the Rails to Trails system through partnerships. Learn how the PS2P partnership is using a \$16.31 million dollar grant to study and design 34+ transportation components addressing approx. 100 miles of gaps, community connections, and multi-use trails to link the Sound to Olympics and Olympic Discovery Trails.	
5:30 - 8:30	Reception and Trail Awards Ceremony	Pybus Public Market – LocalTel Room 3 North Worthen, Wenatchee		
Saturday Oct 5				
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast and Registration	Lower lobby and Orchard Room		
8:00 - 9:00	WSTC Annual Business Meeting			
9:00 - 10:00	Concurrent Sessions E			
	Fuji	Crafting Adaptive Paths for Inclusive Mountain Biking	<p>Join us for an enlightening discussion as we explore the exciting world of adaptive mountain biking (aMTB), trail design and program implementation. Our panelists, comprised of trail builders, adaptive athletes, and educators, will reflect on the last 3 years of Evergreen’s dive into making an inclusive space for riders with disabilities.</p> <p>Through dialogue and Q&A, we will explore the unique experiences that adaptive athletes have on the trail; share our learnings and recommendations on trails that are accessible to 3 and 4 wheeled bikes; and give our best tips for creating inclusive spaces.</p> <p>Discover the collaborative efforts driving the expansion of aMTB opportunities and gain valuable perspectives on the importance of universal access in outdoor recreation. Whether you're a seasoned rider, a trail enthusiast, or a passionate advocate for inclusivity, this panel</p>	

			discussion promises to inspire, educate, and ignite a shared vision for the future of adaptive trails.	
Saturday Oct 5				
	Gala	Advocating for our Trails: Best Practices for State and Federal Advocacy	More than 90 percent of Washingtonians experience our shared lands and waters using trails. The local and regional trail organizations that build communities of recreationists and trail stewards across the state are well positioned to make a lasting impact for Washington's trails through compelling and effective advocacy. Outdoor Alliance Washington is a state-based network of human-powered outdoor recreation groups representing more than 75,000 human-powered trail users advocating together with Washington's lands and waters and protecting our climate. Representatives of Outdoor Alliance Washington share current and upcoming state and federal advocacy priorities and best practices leaders from the trails community can leverage for greater advocacy impact for trail funding, maintenance, and operations. Join this session to get the tools to help you engage with lawmakers to shape a better future for Washington's trails.	
	Orchard North	Pasayten Wilderness Project - A success story in bring Partners and Agencies	BCHW, WTA, PNTA and the USFS came together to get some much needed and meaningful work accomplished in the Pasayten Wilderness. Utilizing all the available tools and working closely together results in good things happening on the landscape. And the Pasayten isn't the only place. Plus, there are plenty more opportunities to use these same models going forward. More. Good. Ahead.	
	Orchard South	High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) Part I	<p>A brief intro into how data can be collected using the HETAP cart. Talk also on how data can be shared with the public. Also a hands on segment is offered.</p> <p>The High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) is an automated version of the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP), utilizing both specialized software and hardware. A HETAP/UTAP training will not only teach you how to look for the issues in a trail system but also how to measure them using the system. Beneficial Designs provides the necessary training for management and staff to walk down a trail and catch all of the attributes that need to be addressed.</p>	

			Conference workshop will be 1 day and consist of both classroom and hands-on training. The day is spent in the classroom explaining the various reasons you might be assessing your Outdoor Recreation features and trails, what you will be assessing, and the details of how to conduct assessments. The afternoon will be hands on trail assessing.	
10:00 - 10:15	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
10:15 - 11:15	Concurrent Sessions F			
	Fuji	Understanding the Forest Service Trails Workforce	The Forest Service manages more than 160,000 miles of trails across the country. In 2023, Forest Service staff analyzed its trails workforce to better understand how the agency divides the immense task of stewarding the largest trail system in the country. The results of that nationwide survey provides new insights into the work of USFS staff, contractors, partner organizations and volunteers. This presentation will share some of the results of the Forest Service workforce analysis and discuss what the agency's findings mean for partners.	
Saturday Oct 5				
	Gala	EMBA Trail School- Classroom Portion	Part I - Classroom Session: Attend the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance Trail School to take a deep dive into multi-use trail design, construction, and maintenance best practices. Evergreen's Trail School highlights techniques to make multi-use trails work for all users. Whether you're a mountain biker, hiker, equestrian, or someone who values trails and outdoor spaces, you'll gain valuable insights into thoughtful, balanced, and proven trail design, construction, and maintenance practices and how to enhance trail accessibility, sustainability, and enjoyment for the entire community.	

	Orchard North	Finding Solitude in Indian Heaven Wilderness	The Cascade Volcanoes Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness has completed its 7th season of partnering with the U.S. Forest Service to monitor Solitude on trails in Washington and Oregon wilderness areas. During 2023, volunteers logged more than 500 hours during 20 trips within Washington's Indian Heaven Wilderness to fulfill project requirements. Data collected included counting the number of visitors noted in the wilderness during daylight hours. This data set was submitted to the U.S. Forest Service and will assist the Mt. Adams Ranger District in increasing scores for solitude quality of wilderness. Funding was provided by the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance. Great Old Broads for Wilderness is a women-led national grassroots organization that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands. Our vision is to ensure that wild public lands are treasured for their intrinsic values and protected for current and future generations.	
Saturday Oct 5				
	Orchard South	Northwest Motorcycle Association: An Organization Built for and by All Dirt Bike Riders	<p>The NMA is dedicated to the preservation and stewardship of motorized trails across Washington State. Doing so requires countless volunteers with a variety of skills and knowledge of a multitude of topics. Our members have risen to the challenge and are what has made us successful since incorporation in 1971.</p> <p>While traditionally a sport comprised mostly of young adult males, the dirt bike riding community has always included a wide range of people from all walks of life. Over time the demographics have slowly shifted to better align with society as a whole, both organically and by intentional actions by leaders within our sport, specifically within the NMA. Involving more youth and expanding involvement to historically under-represented riders is critical to our continued strength and future successes. We are actively taking steps to invite, welcome, educate, involve and empower more riders from more walks of life.</p>	
11:30 - 1:00	Buffet Luncheon	Trail Talks and field session logistics	Sign up for your 10 minutes to talk about your organization, your favorite trail, your favorite project, etc...	
1:00	Conference Send-off/closure			
1:15 - 2:15	Concurrent Sessions G			

	Fuji	Engaging the Next Generation of Environmental Stewards	A discussion on the ways conservation and service corps are supporting equitable and inclusive opportunities for young people to develop skills and have a positive impact on natural resources and climate related challenges.	
	Gala	Charting the Course: Collaboration, Innovation, and Sustainability along the Oregon Coast Trail	Traversing Oregon's coastline from border to border, the Oregon Coast Trail (OCT) travels roughly 400 miles across beaches, forests, and rivers. The OCT is part of the Oregon Signature Trails Vision, which designates trails that expand access to iconic places and increase the economic impact and sustainability of Oregon's outdoor recreation. However, more than 150 miles of gaps along the trail limit continuous access for hikers. The OCT Action Plan is a collaborative effort that bridges government agencies, tribes, coastal communities, and private landowners to establish long-term goals and near-term actions for bringing the OCT vision to life in a sustainable manner. This presentation will highlight the challenges and successes of working to close the gaps along this iconic trail that traverses more than 30 communities across 7 counties, and will describe how the Action Plan supports OCT partners as they improve, maintain, and repair the OCT in the years to come. We will provide attendees with lessons learned and "toolkit" strategies for thinking through balancing cost, funding sources, trail maintenance, amenities, equitable trail access, environmental factors, cultural sites, geographical barriers and concerns, and multiple agencies/landowners to equip agencies with action items to move trail projects forward. We will also invite attendees to explore questions around trail management and maintenance strategies, including how to navigate managing trails that cross multiple landowners, how to maintain trails that feel safe and welcoming for everyone, and how to provide better access for and inclusion of local communities and residents.	
Saturday Oct 5				
	Orchard North	A Repurposing Project with a Purpose	The Northern State Hospital campus grounds were originally designed by the Olmsted Brothers in the early 1900's. In its heyday, the mental institution used the concept of a working farm, with patients cultivating the gardens and caring for the stock and poultry. After closing in 1973, the daily pilgrimage of patients moving from the hospital to the farm subsided. It didn't take long before pedestrian bridges fell victim to gravity and trails to become lost to nature. Forty years after closing, a new partnership formed with the mission of restoring trails, rebuilding bridges, and reconnecting the campus routes. This mission includes a "parkscription"	

			component to help restore some of the mental health aspects that trails and nature provide. Our presentation will showcase how a little seed blossomed and the landscape was cultivated for public benefit.	
	Orchard South	Washington State Scenic Bikeways Program	<p>Did you know Washington state is getting a Scenic Bikeways program? The legislature directed WA State Parks and Recreation Commission to create a new statewide program under RCW 79A.05.800, intended to highlight cycling routes throughout the state.</p> <p>What is a Scenic Bikeway? A Scenic Bikeway is a cycling route with exceptional scenic, cultural, historic, and/or recreational value and can be located on existing roadways, trails, bike lanes, shared use paths or some combination thereof.</p> <p>State Parks has been busy working with our partners and stakeholders to develop a framework for the program and hopes to launch it soon. Come to this session and learn more about the route nomination and evaluation processes, how the program will integrate with other trails, agencies, and organizations across the state, and how you and your community can get involved!</p>	
Saturday Oct 5				
2:15 - 2:30	Coffee Break and Exhibits			
2:30 - 3:30	Concurrent Sessions H			
	Fuji	An Overview of Washington Water Trails	Find out more about the various water trails that Washington Water Trails founded and manages throughout the state.	
	Gala	Advancing Accessibility through Community Collaboration: A Case Study of Saddle Rock	The iconic Saddle Rock trail system will be the future home of an accessible trail system, the first of its kind in the Wenatchee Valley. This presentation will review the process of developing the accessible trail, from initial idea to final design, including extensive community outreach efforts to meet the needs and wants of trail users. We will also discuss design considerations including trail sustainability, barriers and limitations to accessibility, mitigation of conflicts between user groups, and the	<div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div></div>

			decision-making process for establishing the final design of the trail and surrounding amenities.	
	Sat Oct 5	Outdoor Field Sessions	Please pre-register for these activities via Eventbrite	
1:15 - 3p		High-Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) Part II	How is the HETAP cart used in collection of trail data? Attend this session to find out in real time.	Beneficial Designs
1:15 - 4p		Collaborating on Trail	Participate in on the ground learning with a trio of trail experts. Evergreen Mtn Bike will discuss how they work through the planning, design, and construction of high-use multi-user trails. Washington Trails Assoc. will detail their successful model of leadership, training, and volunteer retention in their work building and maintaining trails in the state. To illustrate how using pack stock can aid your project, the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington – Wenatchee Chapter are bringing mules, tools, and specialized gear to demonstrate.	EMBA, WTA, BCHW