



## 2024 Washington State Trails Conference

### *Moving Trails Forward*

October 3 - 5

Wenatchee Convention Center

### Request for Presentations

The Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) is excited to sponsor the 14th 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 3 - 5, 2024, the Washington State Trails Conference will bring together agencies, organizations, businesses, and people to explore the best ways to ensure Washingtonians keep *Moving Trails Forward*.

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 Sustainable Trails for the Future:** Inspired by the Forest Service definition of sustainable trails: *“A sustainable trail system is a holistic network of diverse physical and social resources comprised of actual on-the ground routes and associated community health and economic benefits. It is a resilient system consisting of a wide array of well-planned, well-designed, well-constructed, and well-managed trails that are supported by a mosaic of public and private interests,”* this track will include components that make a trail sustainable ecologically, financially, and socially. From the envisioning of a trail through tribal engagement, multi-year planning processes, and creative funding solutions – to the partnerships, contracting, technology, and construction techniques needed to create and maintain the physical trail for decades to come. Classroom and field session proposals are welcome.

2. **Envisioning Trails for All Users:** As we look toward the future, the demographics of trail users are changing, and we need new approaches to meeting their needs. Sessions will explore: how research into user expectations and behaviors can inform trail management; how trail design and management can protect natural resources and reduce conflicts between different types of users. Case studies can also highlight new ways of connecting users with trails (ex: public transportation to trailheads, partnerships to reach new audiences, user fees/permitting/regulations).
3. **Educating and Empowering Tomorrow's Trailblazers:** This track explores innovative ways to engage and support new hikers, bikers, equestrians, and motorized users of every age. Topics should highlight impactful mentorship and training programs that foster future careers in the outdoor recreation field as well as ambassador programs, community groups, and marketing strategies designed to inspire and educate new trail users.
4. **BONUS: Trails Spotlight:** Showcasing 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, 2024**.

**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 14, 2024.

**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.

**2024 Washington State Trails Conference:**  
***Moving Trails Forward***  
**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 Sustainable Trails for the Future
2. Envisioning Trails for All Users
3. Educating and Empowering Tomorrow's Trailblazers
4. BONUS: Trails Spotlight

Thank you for your proposal!

Please complete the online [Proposal Form](#) by **April 30, 2024**

Inquiries: Presentation Committee, [presentations@watrails.org](mailto:presentations@watrails.org)