



March 20, 2023

## Bush House Inn

Established in 1898 | Index, Washington

The Honorable Patty Murray  
 United States Senate  
 154 Russell Senate Office Building  
 Washington, D.C. 20510

### ***RE: Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations: U.S. Forest Service - Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative***

Dear Senator Murray,

The undersigned 178 conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations, elected officials and local businesses are relieved that the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) Legacy Roads and Trails program was reinstated and permanently authorized in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* (IIJA) with a small amount of seed funding. Infrastructure projects on national forests that were shelved for 3 years due to the defunding of the program can now move forward putting people to work improving watersheds. However, the backlog has grown in

the years of neglect and with the barrage of storms. This is why **we request that the FY 2024 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill include \$100M for the Legacy Roads and Trails program.** Last year's IJA funding was not enough to meet the need, providing \$40 million nationwide, of which just over \$6 million landed in Washington, and all on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. Over the last year Forest Service roads all across the state have been battered and damaged by atmospheric river events, wildfires and other severe weather events.

The Legacy Roads and Trails program is a national program that has benefitted visitors to national forests and improved waterways across the U.S. for more than a decade. From 2008-2018, thanks in large part to the support of Washington's Congressional delegation, this unique, job-producing bi-partisan program invested nearly \$32 million in Washington State leading to better water quality in streams, reconnected waterways for fish migration and more resilient road and trail infrastructure. Trails, wildlife and watersheds on USFS lands are often critical to other protected landscapes including neighboring national parks. Moreover, Legacy Roads and Trails created or maintained 330-528 jobs annually across the nation, bringing dollars and jobs into rural communities and saving America's taxpayers \$3 million per year in road maintenance costs.

Despite the decade worth of progress, and partially due to the lack of funding for three years, there is a large backlog of work to be done. This past winter, the back-to-back atmospheric river events have once again highlighted what happens when national forest infrastructure is neglected: culverts plug, roads wash out, salmon eggs are buried, access is lost and repair costs skyrocket. The Legacy Roads and Trails program is specifically designed to identify, target and fix or decommission road and trail problems now before they get exponentially worse.

We are grateful that this cornerstone program has been reestablished and we are seeing positive signs that the Forest Service intends to deliver results. As partners, we are pitching in with volunteer work, matching grants, and additional coordination. With committed funding in FY 2024, we can expect to see progress with the following:

- Restored fish passage on key streams by fixing culverts while also protecting roads from storms;
- Improved habitat connectivity and water quality by reclaiming unneeded roads, preventing sediment from entering waterways; and,
- Ensured access to Forest Service lands by storm-proofing roads and trails.

The Legacy Roads and Trails program helps adapt the Forest Service Road system to a more manageable size over time, reducing fiscal and environmental burdens and enabling the agency to ensure better and more reliable access. It focuses on the key areas where projects improve salmon and trout habitat, improve water quality and ensure road/trail resilience in a changing climate. It's a clear solution to a formidable problem. But it needs funding to succeed.

We understand that Legacy Roads and Trails proposals are now included in the annual National Asset Management Program call for projects, submitted by Forests and prioritized by Regional Offices. Although this new pathway may streamline the process, the IJA states that the Secretary shall "solicit and consider public input regionally in the ranking of projects for funding under the Program."<sup>1</sup> However, public engagement has, thus far, been non-existent. **Clarification and transparency around project selection and the allocation of LRT funding is warranted.**

---

<sup>1</sup> [16 U.S. Code § 538a\(c\)\(2\)\(B\) - Forest Service Legacy Road and Trail Remediation Program](#)

## FY2024 Funding Request Information

- AGENCY: U.S. Forest Service
- SUBCOMMITTEE JURISDICTION: Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies
- FUNDING PROGRAM: U.S. Forest Service Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Program (internal Forest Service funding code: "CMLG")
- FY24 REQUEST: \$100 million (inclusive of salary and expenses)
- PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: Since inception in FY 2008, the Legacy Roads and Trails program has significantly enhanced the Forest Service's ability to address key problems associated with its aging and poorly maintained road system. This includes repairing roads and trails needed for public access, replacing failed or undersized culverts to improve fish passage, and retire unneeded roads to prevent harmful water pollution. As climate change impacts become more pronounced, the program can serve as a model of how to deliver funds to address road problems in real time, enabling the Forest Service to efficiently plan, design, and implement restoration treatments. It is a critical tool for leveraging non- federal funds resulting in stronger projects and enhanced community engagement. And because funds primarily go to actual work on the ground, Legacy Roads and Trails creates high wage jobs for contractors, including those who specialize in stream restoration, environmental design, and heavy equipment operation.

We ask for your support of the program by **allocating \$100M to Legacy Roads and Trails in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Interior-Environment Appropriations Bill. Please make a formal request to the Appropriations Committee from your office before the FY24 appropriations request deadline using the information provided in the box above.** This ask is due to the lost ground over the last few years and the growing problems impacting watershed health and resilience, and how people access and experience opportunities on our public lands.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jesse Salomon  
State Senator (Dist. 32)  
WA State Senate

Sen. Sharon Shewmake  
State Senator (Dist. 42)  
WA State Senate

Sen. John Lovick  
State Senator (Dist. 44)  
WA State Senate

Sen. Jamie Pedersen  
State Senator (Dist. 43)  
WA State Senate

Rep. Cindy Ryu  
State Representative (Dist. 32)  
WA State House of Representatives

Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos  
State Representative (Dist. 37)  
WA State House of Representatives

Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon  
State Representative (Dist. 34)  
WA State House of Representatives

Rep. Alicia Rule  
State Representative (Dist. 42)  
WA State House of Representatives

April Berg  
State Representative (Dist. 44)  
WA State House of Representatives

Rep. Larry Springer  
State Representative (Dist. 45)  
WA State House of Representatives

Rep. Amy Walen  
State Representative (Dist. 48)  
WA State House of Representatives

Girmay Zahilay  
Councilmember (Dist. 2)  
Metropolitan King County Council

Sarah Perry  
Councilmember (Dist. 3)  
Metropolitan King County Council

Dave Upthegrove  
Councilmember (Dist. 4)  
Metropolitan King County Council

Jeanne Kohl-Welles  
Councilmember (Dist. 5)  
Metropolitan King County Council

Dave Somers  
County Executive  
Snohomish County

Megan Dunn  
Council Member (Dist 2)  
Snohomish County Council

Kaylee Galloway  
Council Member  
Whatcom County Council

Ryan Walters  
Council Member  
City of Anacortes

Carolyn Moulton  
Councilmember  
City of Anacortes

Anthony Young  
Council Member, At-large  
City of Anacortes

Marilyn Oertle  
Council Member  
City of Arlington

John Stokes  
Council Member  
City of Bellevue

Seth Fleetwood  
Mayor  
City of Bellingham

Michael Lilliquist  
Council President  
City of Bellingham

Daniel Hammill  
Council Member  
City of Bellingham

Lisa A. Anderson  
Council Member  
City of Bellingham

Hannah Stone  
Council Member  
City of Bellingham

Valerie Rosman  
Council Member  
City of Brier

Sean Smith  
Mayor Pro Tem  
City of Covington

Dan Rankin  
Mayor  
Town of Darrington

Steven Yarbrough  
Mayor  
City of Gold Bar

Chuck Lie  
Council Position 4  
City of Gold Bar

Diane Buckshnis  
Council Member  
City of Edmonds

Susan Paine  
Council Member  
City of Edmonds

Paula Rhyne  
Council Member  
City of Everett

Norm Johnson  
Mayor  
Town of Index

Alysse Hotz  
Council Member  
Town of Index

Bruce Albert  
Council Member  
Town of Index

Bert Shephardson  
Council Member  
Town of Index

Angela Kugler  
Council Member  
City of Kenmore

Corina Pfeil  
Council Member  
City of Kenmore

David Baker  
Council Member  
City of Kenmore

Debra Srebnik  
Council Member  
City of Kenmore

Brenda Fincher  
Council Member  
City of Kent

Julieta Altamirano Crosby  
Council Vice President  
City of Lynnwood

Victoria Schroff  
Council Member  
City of Maple Valley

Craig W. Reynolds  
Councilmember  
City of Mercer Island

Richard Brocksmith  
Council member  
City of Mount Vernon

Laura Sonmore  
City Council member  
Mountlake Terrace

Riaz Khan  
Council Member  
City of Mukilteo

Rob McFarland  
Mayor  
City of North Bend

Mary Miller  
Council Member  
City of North Bend

Heather Koellen  
Council Member  
City of North Bend

Angela Birney  
Mayor  
City of Redmond

Jessica Forsythe  
Council Member  
City of Redmond

Jeralee Anderson  
Council Member  
City of Redmond

Varisha Khan  
Council Member  
City of Redmond

Vanessa Kritzer  
Council Member  
City of Redmond

Kent Treen  
Council Member  
City of Sammamish

Erin Sitterley  
Councilmember  
City of SeaTac

Peter Kwon  
Councilmember  
City of SeaTac

Dan Strauss  
Councilmember  
City of Seattle

Mike Millman  
Mayor  
City of Woodinville

Brian Bogen  
Council Member  
City of Woodway

Andrew Valaas  
Council Member  
Town of Yarrow Point

Tom Uniack  
Executive Director  
Washington Wild

Ryan Talbott  
Pacific Northwest Conservation Advocate  
WildEarth Guardians

Molly Doran  
Executive Director  
Skagit Land Trust (Mount Vernon)

Jen Syrowitz  
Conservation Program Manager  
Conservation Northwest

Megan Birzell  
Washington State Director  
The Wilderness Society

Brian Stan  
Owner  
Old Stove Brewing

Sarah Shaffer  
Executive Director  
Wenatchee Outdoors (Wenatchee)

Hilary Eisen  
Policy Director  
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Amy Brockhaus  
Deputy Director  
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Joseph Bogaard  
Executive Director  
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition

Mari Kemper  
Owner  
Chuckanut Brewery (Mount Vernon)

Jack Guinn  
Owner  
Hellbent Brewing Company

Jill Silver  
Executive Director  
10,000 Years Institute (Forks)

John Bridge  
President  
Olympic Park Advocates (Sequim)

Justin Gerardy  
Owner  
Standard Brewing/Sovereign Brewing

Jeff Lambert  
President  
Inland NW Trails Coalition (Spokane)

Glenn Ekberg  
Vice President  
Vancouver Wildlife League (Vancouver)

Brenda Cunningham  
Support Team member  
Indivisible Skagit (Mount Vernon)

Janet Strong  
President  
Grays Harbor Audubon Society (Westport)

Andree Hurley  
Executive Director  
Washington Water Trails Association

Ashley Short  
Policy Manager  
Cascade Forest Conservancy (Vancouver)

Susan Jane M. Brown  
Senior Staff Attorney  
Western Environmental Law Center

Peter Bahls  
Executive Director  
Northwest Watershed Institute (Port Townsend)

Craig Nobley  
CEO  
Lighthouse Roasters

Lara Zahaba  
Co-Owner  
Stoup Brewing

Kelsey, Ben, Liz & Craig Curran  
Owners  
Watershed Pub & Kitchen

Susan Saul  
Conservation Chair  
Vancouver Audubon Society (Vancouver)

Rob Smith  
Northwest Regional Director  
National Parks Conservation Association

Betsy Robblee  
Conservation & Advocacy Director  
The Mountaineers

Judy Hallisey  
President  
Kittitas Audubon Society (Ellensburg)

Robert Kaye  
Conservation Chair  
North Cascades Audubon Society (Bellingham)

Larry Brandt  
Conservation Chair  
Willapa Hills Audubon Society (Longview)

Devon Richardson  
Sr. Impact Manager  
MiiR

Colin Lenfesty  
Owner/Head Brewer  
Holy Mountain Brewing Co.

Raymond Kwan & Barry Chan  
Owners  
Lucky Envelope Brewing

Jim Goedhart  
Conservation VP  
Fly Fishers International Washington State Council

Timothy Manns  
Conservation Chair  
Skagit Audubon Society (Mount Vernon)

Sam Merrill  
Chair of Conservation Committee  
Black Hills Audubon Society (Olympia)

J Michelle Swope  
Washington State Coordinator  
Native Fish Society

Rick McGuire  
President  
Alpine Lakes Protection Society

Louise Lindgren  
Board member  
Friends of Heybrook Ridge (Index)

Sarah Kliegman  
Co-Executive Director  
Okanogan Highlands Alliance (Tonasket)

Bill Derry  
President  
Pilchuck Audubon Society (Everett)

Becca Gray and Nate Schons  
Owners  
Island Hoppin' Brewery (Orcas Island)

Debbie Copple  
Director  
Sky Valley Chamber of Commerce (Sultan)

Sara McCabe  
General Manager  
Flying Lion Brewing

Kurt Larson  
President  
Silver City Brewery (Bremerton)

Dana Ward  
Conservation Chair  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (Tri-Cities)

Levi Wyatt  
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager  
Yakima Chief Hops (Yakima)

Gabriel Villenave  
Managing Partner  
Outer Planet Craft Brewing

Caitlin Singer  
Quality & Sustainability Manager  
Georgetown Brewing Company

Michelle Connor  
President & CEO  
Forterra

Carol Price  
Co-President  
Kitsap Environmental Coalition (Hansville)

Deborah B Jensen, PhD  
Vice President and Executive Director  
Audubon Washington

Wytold Lebing  
President  
Northwest Fly Anglers (Poulsbo)

Mike Morrison  
Board Chair  
Pacific Rivers

Jacob Young  
Owner  
Old Schoolhouse Brewery

Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum  
President  
Friends of Grays Harbor (Westport)

Yvonne Kraus  
Executive Director  
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Kim McDonald  
Founder  
Fish Not Gold

Patricia A. Jones, PhD  
Executive Director  
Olympic Forest Coalition

Mark Boyar  
President  
MidFORC Coalition

Matt Perkins  
Founder  
Washington Climbers Coalition

Paul Fish  
President  
Mountain Gear, Inc (Spokane)

Travis Merrigan  
Co-Founder  
GRAYL

Sara Giuffrida  
Co-Owner  
Dru Bru Taproom & Brewery

Michael DeCramer  
Policy and Planning Manager  
Washington Trails Association

CaraMia & Kevin Murry  
Owners  
Hot Cakes Molten Chocolate Cakery

Harry Romberg  
Co-Chair, National Forest Committee  
WA Chapter of the Sierra Club

Thomas O'Keefe, PhD  
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater

Jesse Swedlund  
Club President  
Paddle Trails Canoe Club

Peter Tryon  
President  
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club (Bellingham)

Taldi Harrison  
Government and Community Affairs Manager  
REI

J Michelle Swope  
Owner  
Oly Women on the Fly Guide Service (Olympia)

Kathleen S. Gobush, PhD  
Director, Northwest Program  
Defenders of Wildlife

Bruce McGlenn  
Founder  
Human Nature Hunting

Dave McCoy  
Owner  
Emerald Water Anglers

Gina Claeys  
Conservation Chair  
Spokane Mountaineers (Spokane)

Scott Holm  
Owner  
Chainline Brewing Company

Renée C Paradis  
Board Member  
Washington Kayak Club

Zach Turner  
Co-Owner  
Single Hill Brewing

Trish Rolfe  
Executive Director  
Center for Environmental Law & Policy

Andrew Pogue  
Owner  
Fair Isle Brewing

Layne Carter  
Operations Manager  
Aslan Brewing Co. (Bellingham)

Genia Moncada  
Leadership Team, Polly Dyer Seattle Broads  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness

Pat Hesselgesser  
Chair  
Washington Council of Trout Unlimited



Rev. AC Churchill  
Executive Director  
Earth Ministry/WA Interfaith Power & Light

Kevin and Meghann Quinn  
Co-Owner  
Bale Breaker Brewing Co. (Yakima)

Dan Wilson  
Co-chair  
WA Chapter Backcountry Hunter & Anglers

Timothy Coleman  
Executive Director  
Kettle Range Conservation Group (Republic)

Sarah Dyrdaahl  
Northwest Region Director  
American Rivers

Mark Larabee  
Advocacy Director  
Pacific Crest Trail Association

Erin Farris-Olsen  
Regional Executive Director (Northern Rockies,  
Prairies, and Pacific  
National Wildlife Federation

Mary Taylor Goforth  
South Sound Broadband Co-Leader  
Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Olympia)

Andrew Puhl  
Volunteer Policy Coordinator  
American Alpine Club - Cascade Section

Chris Danforth  
Co-Owner  
Icicle Brewing Company (Leavenworth)

Kathy Corson  
Proprietor  
Bush House (Index)

Art Wolfe  
Owner  
Art Wolfe Inc.

Todd Owsley  
Owner  
Farmstrong Brewing/Ragged & Right Cider Project  
(Mount Vernon)

Art Campbell  
President  
North Central Washington Audubon Society  
(Wenatchee)