

April 4, 2023

RE: Request to fund the State Parks's Recreation Land Maintenance at the Senate proposed level of \$7.5m additional per biennium

Dear Senators Rolfes, Robinson, Wilson, and Gildon and Representatives Ormsby, Bergquist, Gregerson, Macri, Stokesbary, Chambers and Corry:

On behalf of the 12 undersigned organizations, we thank you for your strong investment in reducing Washington's recreation lands and trails maintenance and operations backlog.

We respectfully urge you to fund Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission's Recreation Land Maintenance at the Senate proposed level of \$7.5m additional per biennium ongoing in the final 2023-2025 operating budget.

Last year the Legislature made a critical investment in our public lands by providing critical funding to help address the recreation maintenance backlog at our three land management agencies. However, while the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) were each provided \$10m per biennium ongoing, Washington State Parks only received \$2.5m in ongoing funding.

By supporting the Senate proposed level of an additional \$7.5m ongoing in the 2023-2025 operating budget, Washington State Parks will be brought up to \$10m per biennium, which puts it at parity with its sister agencies as originally intended.

We deeply appreciate the investment made by the Legislature last year and request your continued support of this invaluable funding as it has already provided critical improvements to recreation lands across the state and with your support, will continue to do so into the future.

Sincerely,

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Thomas O'Keefe
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Peter Steelquist
Washington Policy Manager
Surfrider Foundation

Amy Brockhaus
Deputy Director
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Jacqueline Reyes
Program Manager
The Wilderness Society

Yvonne Kraus
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Tom Bugert
State & Local Government Relations Manager
REI co-op

Betsy Robblee
Conservation & Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers
Washington Program Manager, Outdoor Alliance

Mike Brady
President
JW Pioneer Wagons and Riders

Kathy Young
Public Lands Chairman
Back Country Horsemen of Washington

John Floberg
Executive Director
Washington State Parks Foundation

Ted Jackson
President
Washington ATV Association