



January 10, 2025

Mackenzie Dolstad
Field Program Senior Manager
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust
2701 First Avenue, Suite 240
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Dolstad,

I am writing on behalf of The Mountaineers to express our strong support for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust's grant applications for the *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail Maintenance 2025* (#24-2509) and *Mountains to Sound Greenway Trailhead Ambassadors* (#24-2793) projects that have been submitted to the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office.

The Mountaineers is a committed partner of the Greenway Trust in improving and maintaining recreational trails and building public support, understanding, and awareness of trail and recreation stewardship in the Greenway for more than a decade. The Mountaineers has also partnered with the Greenway Trust for many years on "National Public Lands Day" and other volunteer celebration events to connect people with the Greenway's Trails and natural areas and to help care for the trails they love.

Many of the trails in the Mountains to Sound Greenway, where there are more than 1,000 miles of wildland trails, are among the most heavily used in Washington State; several of the trails to be maintained through this project see more than 150,000 hikers annually. Trail maintenance funding has dwindled through the years and has resulted in a significant trail maintenance backlog. Highly-concentrated public trail use amplifies this backlog, leading to environmental damage and creating significant public safety concerns. Support from the Recreational Trails Program is crucial to the ongoing trail maintenance work and responsible recreation education in the Greenway.

The Mountaineers has long supported the Mountains to Sound Greenway and the collaborative efforts to improve recreational access in the Middle Fork and across the Greenway. These proposals represent a significant enhancement of recreational access opportunities to the spectacular Mountains to Sound Greenway National Heritage Area and we strongly support it.

Sincerely,



**THE
MOUNTAINEERS**

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