

April 3, 2025

RE: *Request to use the language contained in House proposal for Recreation Land Maintenance at DNR and WDFW*

Dear Senators Robinson, Stanford, Gildon, and Torres and Representatives Ormsby, Gregerson, Macri, Couture, Connors, Penner and Schmick:

On behalf of the seven undersigned organizations, we would like to thank you for your extensive work during a difficult legislative session. We know that the state faces an immensely challenging budget situation. We appreciate the time you have spent working to build a budget that best serves the people of Washington.

Thank you for preserving the majority of funding for maintenance and operations funding per biennium for Recreation Land Maintenance in the proposed Senate and House 2025-2027 operating budgets at Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW).

We respectfully request that you adopt the funding approach and language relating to Recreation Land Maintenance for State Parks, DNR and WDFW contained in the House proposal for the final 2025-2027 operating budget. Our organizations believe the House language best positions agencies to keep our public recreation lands maintained and safe to access for the people of Washington.

Funding for recreation lands maintenance enables agencies to undertake high priority projects as well as plan, manage and monitor recreation lands. Investing in our public lands improves the mental and physical health of Washington residents, protects our natural resources, supports jobs in the outdoor recreation economy and provides long term fiscal benefits. Additionally, we note that maintenance and operations funding provided by this line item is a significant percentage of each agency's current total maintenance spending: about 20% for State Parks, approximately 40% for DNR and nearly 50% for WDFW. These funds repair trails and parking lots, fix shelters and roofs on visitor facilities, improve campground facilities and much more.

Thank you for your continued support for maintaining outdoor recreation on state recreation lands.

Sincerely,



Michael DeCramer

Policy and Planning Manager
Washington Trails Association

Betsy Robblee
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Eddie Espinosa
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