# FUNDING PROPOSAL – NEW OR EXPANDED for 2022-2023

## SNOWMOBILE PROGRAM

The Winter Recreation Program may consider proposals for funding for new or expanded, Priority 5 and 6, budget commitments for the 2022-2023 winter season in the snowmobile program. However, please be aware that the Committee's top priorities are to restore previous budget reductions to grooming, snow removal, sanitation and E & E. To apply for funding, please complete the following form. **Please Note: All Proposals must be postmarked by June 1, 2022 to be considered. No late applications will be accepted.** Examples of new or expanded funding requests could include: requests for grooming frequency increases, expanded or new trails, new Sno-Parks, trail improvements, increased enforcement, etc.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROPOLENT INFORMATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NAME OF INDIVIDUAL, ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Methow Valley Ranger District, Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAILING ADDRESS</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 West Chewuch</td>
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<tr>
<td>CITY, STATE, ZIP</td>
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<tr>
<td>Winthrop, WA 98862</td>
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<tr>
<td>TELEPHONE NUMBER &amp; EXTENSION</td>
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<td>509-996-4021</td>
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1) Please give a thorough description of the intended purpose of the proposed funding, including location, and affected Sno-Parks and trail systems. Please fill out table if you are requesting new trail miles.

This grant would fund the second year of a Forest Protection Officer (FPO) during the busiest winter recreation months at 8 Sno-Parks. Primary motorized Sno-Parks include: 8 Mille, Goat Creek, Yellow Jacket, Twisp River, Silver Star, North Summit, Black Canyon, and South Fork Gold Creek. Public contacts would focus on education related to shared use responsibilities, trail, avalanche, and safety considerations, preparedness and preventative SAR, and compliance with Sno-Park permits and snowmobile registrations. Staff would also check and maintain signage, ensure information is current and well-maintained, create social media posts relevant to winter recreation and safety, provide a presence at special winter recreation events, and act as a liaison between user groups, organizations, and the Forest Service. Staff would also provide operations and maintenance support as needed for sanitation and cleanliness of the vault toilets at each of the Sno-Parks. This grant would also fund a limited amount of replacement safety equipment for the FPO, including updated helmet, avalanche gear, and sled accessories such as waterproof bags for gear transport.

The Forest Service would match the grant funds with patrols from the District Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) and volunteer education rangers. We would also provide match by providing most equipment, certification and training for snowmobile use for the winter recreation staff, and training in avalanche awareness and skills. Having an FPO to assist and accompany the LEO on patrols will expand the safety and patrol abilities of our current enforcement program.

a. Does your total request factor in the potential need for Snow Removal, Grooming, Sanitation, Education, Enforcement and possible need for dirt/land work?
Yes, this request supports existing Snow Removal and Grooming efforts by our partners, by providing for Education and Enforcement, and some Sanitation services (cleaning and routine maintenance). The FS also provides sanitation services via routine pumping of the existing CTX vault toilets located at the snow parks (prior to the winter season). These services will be covered by existing FS sanitation contracts, unless an unexpected event or emergency occurs.

2) Amount of funding requested. Please give as much detail as possible and the dollar amount required for each element of the proposal. For new trail grooming requests fill out the Table A. NEW TRAIL GROOMING MILES REQUESTED FOR 2022-2023 (on the last page of this application)

| $7,675 |

See budget spreadsheet with full details, attached.

3) What is the estimated target audience (snowmobilers, dog mushers, cross country skiers, snowshoers, others) and what percentage do you anticipate each use at?
The target audience is motorized users including snowmobile riders (80%) as well as non-motorized users such as skiers, snowshoers, and fat biking.

4) Why is this project essential? (New or expanded area, local economic impacts, recreational demands)
This project is essential to ensure compliance with the existing snow park regulations, including snowmobile registration and snow park permits, and to ensure the safety of the numerous winter recreation users on winter trails. The Methow Valley is a very popular winter sports mecca, with opportunities for groomed Nordic, groomed snowmobile routes, fat bike trails, and more. It also has a robust snowpack in most winters, and as such attracts winter recreationists from around the state, including visitors who are new to the sport.

Winter use increased significantly during the winter of the pandemic, and as the new Silver Star Sno-Park attracted use. Mixed use is common, including many snowmobilers who also enjoy backcountry skiing. The terrain accessed via the Silver Star Sno-Park provides relatively easy access to attractive high elevation terrain with powder bowls that are popular with more advanced sledgers, as well as skiers. This area enters avalanche terrain within a short distance of leaving the trailhead, and includes significant avalanche terrain around Washington Pass, which is a very popular destination.

Partner groups installed an avalanche check station at the Silver Star trailhead, which the grant-funded ranger maintained during the winter 2021-2022, providing a very important safety service to the public. This grant will fund the continued presence of winter recreation staff to assist with maintenance and to provide an educational message related to avalanche hazards, terrain, and safety measures.

Also, some motorized use has occurred in non-motorized Wilderness areas. Enforcement staff would ensure that appropriate signage and information is available to all riders, including the location of Wilderness areas, to protect these resources and ensure visitors are familiar with boundary restrictions.

Without the funds provided by this grant, the district would have no Winter Recreation staff to address these needs. The District is staffed with one Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) who also covers multiple other ranger districts, and cannot provide sufficient coverage. This grant would allow us to continue to partner with the LEO for safe and effective patrols, and expand Education and Enforcement coverage in all areas, to meet the needs of the increasing winter recreation use. During the winter of 2021-2022, the grant-funded ranger also recruited and trained volunteers to assist in providing a safety partner for field activities, and to support the program. This was very successful and expanded our reach significantly. After the first season, the LEO noted that “The state funded staff and volunteer partners were critical to my ability to conduct E&E snowmobile patrols. The state got a great value from their funds due to [grant funded staff] managing and leveraging the winter rec volunteers.” The LEO also noted increased compliance over past years, which is an important trend that we would like to continue.

Recreational Benefits:
The funding will benefit the recreational user by providing improved education and information, including critical safety information related to avalanches, winter preparedness, and current conditions. Users will experience cleaner, more sanitary facilities, with sufficient toilet paper. With the first season of funding,
grant funded staff helped to place new signage that included maps and better information, which visitors expressed appreciation about. This funding allows for improved enforcement, which benefits all users as it ensures appropriate fees are returned to the site and thus helps maintain better conditions for all. Grooming partners, local outfitter and guides, and trail partners all were enthused to see the grant funded employee in the field, as all these groups benefit. Lastly, the public will benefit from improved emergency response, as the staff will continue to work with the local Search and Rescue team to ensure readiness in the case of an emergency.

See also attached support letters.

Briefly describe the recreational benefits of the proposal. How will this funding improve the recreational experience of visitors? What types of recreational uses will be enhanced?

5) Is the requested funding one-time only, or on-going?
   One Time ☐
   On-going ☒

6) Has Landowner Permission been obtained? (Funding agreements may be approved on condition that Landowner Permission will be obtained prior to the beginning of the project) NA - Work will occur on Forest Service lands, currently under management by the applicant.

7) If adjacent homeowners/housing developments/land owners will be impacted by the proposed action, do they support the proposal?
   NA - Work occurs on Forest Service lands that is not adjacent to or near homeowners or housing developments.

8) Describe what communications were conducted to obtain homeowners/housing developments/land owners support.
   NA

9) Are there any permitting or environmental review requirements associated with implementation of the proposal? (i.e. NEPA, SEPA, Environmental Assessment, Hydraulics Permit, Building Permit, etc.)
   No, none required for education and enforcement activities.

10) Is the funding proposal consistent with the elements of the Winter Recreation Strategic Plan (to be found at [http://parks.state.wa.us/149/Strategic-Plan](http://parks.state.wa.us/149/Strategic-Plan)) Explain how:
    This Education and Enforcement proposal is consistent with the Winter Recreation Program Vision #3 that “encourages responsible use and protection of natural and cultural resources.” It aligns with the Guiding Principles, Goals and Objectives such as providing timely, credible information and prioritizing safety. It also supports public enjoyment of outdoor winter recreation opportunities. It directly aligns with Upper Level Objective #3, which includes the goals that “Safety, education and resource stewardship are high priorities; We provide accurate and up to date information to the public; and We respond to complaints and disputes in a timely and sensitive manner.”

    This proposal also meets Plan Implementation Strategies to provide “better enforcement presence at Sno-Parks and increased on-trail enforcement.” Having an FPO in the field dedicated to reaching users where they are is key to meeting these strategic plan objectives. It will also help meet other plan objectives such...
as improved information on linked websites, as the grant-funded staff would be able to ensure the Forest Service website included relevant and timely educational and safety messages for winter recreationists.

11) Has the Area Snowmobile Advisory Committee member been advised of this request?  
Yes, Bob Henrie notified via email on May 3, 2022

12) Who will be presenting this proposal at the funding meeting?  
Forest Service staff (Rosemary Seifried or representative)

See Question 2.

A. NEW TRAIL GROOMING MILES REQUESTED FOR 2022-2023 (16 week season)
   - List new or expanded miles proposed for next season for each groomed trail system.
   - Grooming schedules will be required by October 16, 2022.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Name or Road Number</th>
<th>From which Sno-Park</th>
<th>Trail Miles</th>
<th>Trips per Week</th>
<th>Trips Per Season</th>
<th>Total Miles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NA</td>
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TOTAL GROOMING MILES FOR TRAIL SYSTEMS LISTED ABOVE:

Total funds requested for new grooming miles.  
To calculate: Public: $16.25 (average cost per mile) x total miles  
Private: $31.75 (average cost per mile) x total miles  

$NA

Agreement

In the event funding is recommended by the Snowmobile Advisory Committee or by the Winter Recreation Advisory Committee for this project and approved by State Parks, either an existing Purchased Services Contract will be modified to reflect the approved budget, or a new Purchased Services Contract will be awarded through a public bidding process.
The applicant certifies that, to the best of his/her knowledge, the information in this application is true and correct.

ROSEMARY SEIFRIED
Signature of Applicant

Rosemary Seifried, District Recreation Staff
Printed Name and Title of Applicant

05/24/2022
Date

Signature of Groomina Council Representative

Printed Name and Title of Groomina Council Rep.

5-24-2022
Date
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Personnel / Item</th>
<th>Rate / Cost*</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Winter Recreation Grant Cost</th>
<th>US Forest Service Matching Funds</th>
<th>Explanation of costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GS 07 Forestry Technician, Forest Protection Officer</td>
<td>$ 287.00</td>
<td>25.0</td>
<td>$ 7,175.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25 days of Education and Enforcement (daily rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GL 09 - Law Enforcement Officer</td>
<td>$ 399.00</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 2,394.00</td>
<td>6 days (daily rate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Training - snowmobile certification</td>
<td>$ 2,394.00</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$ 2,394.00</td>
<td>2 FS instructors for 3 days, training and certification for snowmobile use</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education volunteer (hourly rate)</td>
<td>$ 18.00</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Volunteer patrol rangers, hourly rate.</td>
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<td>Safety equipment</td>
<td>$ 1.00</td>
<td>500.0</td>
<td>$ 500.00</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Safety related equipment such as helmets, updated avalanche gear, sled accessories such as waterproof bags, PPE, etc.</td>
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**Grant Request Total** $ 7,675.00

**FS Matching Funds Total** $ 6,588.00

**Project total** $ 14,263.00

* Daily salary rate on file for all FS employees
May 10, 2022

Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program
1111 Israel Road SW
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

To whom it may concern:

Mountain Trails Grooming Association supports the US Forest Service, Methow Ranger District Request for Education/Enforcement funding from Washington State Parks Winter Recreation. This is important funding for the area. Usage has doubled in the last 10 years and more E&E is needed for the trails and Snow parks in Okanogan County.

Multiple user groups on the same trails need to recreate responsibly and increased law enforcement presence will help.

Thank you for supporting this request.

Sincerely,

Adam Osin
Manager
MTGA
May 3, 2022

Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program
1111 Israel Road SW
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

To whom it may concern:

Methow Trails supports the US Forest Service, Methow Ranger District request for Education/Enforcement funding from WA State Parks Winter Recreation. This is important funding for the area. For the last decade, we have seen use increase each year by 10% on average each year. At this rate recreation growth is doubling every 10 years and more law enforcement and education is needed at trailheads and snow parks in Okanogan County.

Multiple user groups on the trails need more direction in order to keep our recreation respectful and responsible. Thank you for your support of this request.

Thank you for supporting this important project.

Sincerely,

James DeSalvo
Executive Director
james@methowtrails.org
Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program  
1111 Israel Road SW  
P.O. Box 42650  
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

To whom it may concern:

North Cascades Mountain Guides would like to offer our support to the US Forest Service Methow Ranger District request for Education/Enforcement funding from WA State Parks Winter Recreation.

With rapidly increasing use, this funding is critical to ensuring that recreation is safer and lower impact through education and enforcement. Having diligent and thoughtful USFS enforcement personnel is a key step in reducing user group conflict, maintaining the natural environment, and promoting responsible (and fun) recreational opportunities. We continue to be impressed by the quality of the Methow District’s outreach and educational initiatives in both summer and winter recreation and want to recognize that they have been consistently putting this funding to good use in a way that benefits all recreational users.

Sincerely, Joshua Cole, Larry Goldie, Paul Butler and Jeff Ward  
Owners, North Cascades Mountain Guides  
josh@ncmountainguides.com
May 31, 2022

Washington State Parks Winter Recreation Program
1111 Israel Road SW
P.O. Box 42650
Olympia, WA 98504-2650

To whom it may concern:

The Methow Valley Snowmobile Association supports the US Forest Service, Methow Ranger District request for Education/Enforcement funding from WA State Parks Winter Recreation. MVSA has witness positive enforcement and education last season from having a additional Winter Recreation Ranger. Since receiving funds from last year’s Winter Recreation program, the trail system has benefited in our area. Trail users from many winter recreation sports have been educated on safety guidelines for using the trails, knowing where to ride and where not too, “pay to play” saying was enforced and help with local restrooms at Snoparks was amazing. Yes, there is still a need for this funding locally this next season. MVSA does support the Methow Ranger Districts request for Education/Enforcement funding this next Season.

Thank you for supporting this important project.

Greatly Appreciated,

Craig Stahl
Methow Valley Snowmobile Association President