



EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE 2017 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is Washington State's largest mountain bike association and the largest state-wide mountain bike not-for-profit (501C3) in the nation. Our mission is to develop and protect sustainable mountain biking opportunities in Washington.

Evergreen represents thousands of riders Statewide through 7 regional chapters.

Evergreen is committed to:

- Promoting and developing sustainable non-motorized recreation opportunities.
- Building and maintaining high quality trails.
- Educating new riders, including youth summer camps and special rides and clinics for women.
- Engaging volunteers statewide to help maintain trails.

In 2016, we engaged more than **1,200 volunteers** to contribute over **17,000 hours of volunteer labor**, and maintained over **150 miles of trail**. We are an important partner to public and private land managers as we leverage state agencies' investments with cash matches and volunteer labor!



MOUNTAIN BIKING IS POPULAR AND GROWING FAST!

The 2013 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) reports that:

- 24% of Washington residents ride bicycles on trails.
- Nearly 700,000 WA residents participate in mountain biking.
- Cycling has one of the highest annual days of activity - at 39 days/year.
- Current facility capacity only satisfies 30% to 45% of recreation needs.

We are seeing significant increase in use of front-country trails and mountain bike parks near urban areas, and need continued investment in our recreation resources to offer our healthy outdoor activity to families and communities across Washington!

ECONOMIC & HEALTH BENEFITS OF MOUNTAIN BIKING

The Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington identifies **\$21.6 billion in spending on outdoor recreation annually**; **200,000 jobs** supported by recreation; and **\$2 billion generated in state and local taxes**. Outdoor recreation has a greater impact than the information technology and aerospace industries!

Biking accounts for almost \$3.2 billion annual total economic contribution. \$3 billion is travel-related expenditures, rather than equipment, and this spending has the greatest impact on rural economies.

Additional community benefits from outdoor recreation include greater physical and mental health, reduced medical costs, and improved quality of life.



Mountain biking is quickly becoming one of the leading forms of recreation on Washington public lands.



EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE 2017 PROJECT AND BUDGET PRIORITIES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Much of our recreation growth is happening on DNR lands and in working forests, and DNR has become a leader in designing and building non-motorized multi use and mountain bike trails.

- Fund the DNR's **Sustainable Rec Program** at **\$8.1M (Capital)**
- Fund the DNR's **Natural Areas Program** at **\$4.5M (Capital)**
- Fund the DNR's **Puget Sound Corps** program at **\$9.2M (Capital)** to employ veterans and youth in the restoration of waterways and forests.



WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

This critical funding is needed to tackle a \$473 Million maintenance backlog and to support key new capital projects.

- Fund Washington State Parks' ask of **\$174.5 Million (Operating)** and **\$96.5 Million (Capital)** budgets.
- Fund the **\$2.2 million (Operating)** budget ask for **No Child Left Inside**. This program provides invaluable grants to Washington state outdoor education and recreation programs for youth.



RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)

- Support the **Non-Highway and Off-Road Vehicle Activities (NOVA)** program and protect the dedicated account. NOVA funds support state agency grants in non-motorized recreation.
- Support, protect, and fully fund the **Governor's \$100 million (Capital) budget request** for the **Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)**.
- Support a **\$125K (Operating)** budget request for an RCO study to measure the economic and health impact of Washington's outdoor recreation activities related to hiking and biking.

TEANAWAY COMMUNITY FOREST

Secure DNR's **\$775.8K (Operating)** and **\$1.48 Million (Capital)** budget requests to ensure access to and sustainable recreation in the Teanaway Community Forest.



**Thank you for your support to create high-quality trail networks
and for helping to make Washington the best place to ride!**