



EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE

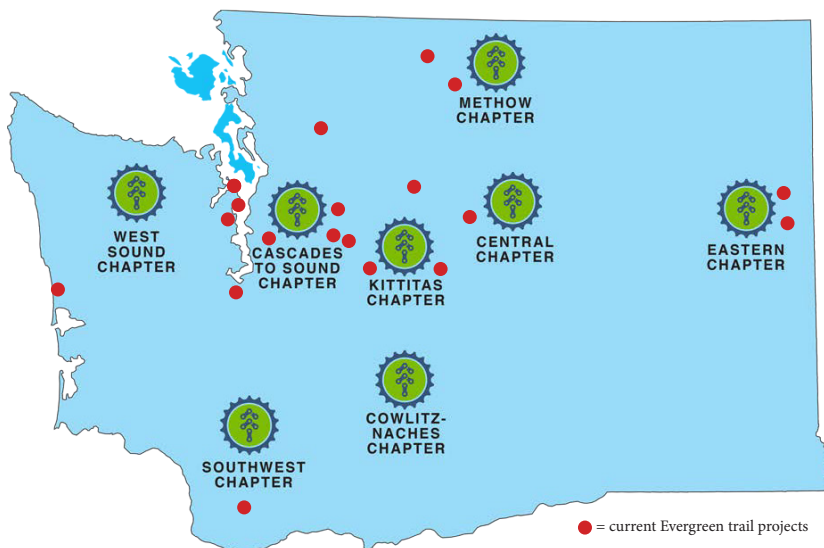
MAKING WASHINGTON THE BEST PLACE TO RIDE

Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance (Evergreen) develops, protects and maintains sustainable mountain biking opportunities in the State of Washington. Our membership includes **5,400 mountain bikers and 48,000 supporters**, organized through **8 regional chapters**. We are the largest state-wide mountain bike not-for-profit (501c3) in the nation.

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 2018, we engaged more than **4,800 volunteers** to contribute **29,695 hours of volunteer labor** and **maintain over 350 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, creating **impactful public-private partnerships** with multiple state agencies. Our work benefits public lands, encourages healthy lifestyles in communities statewide, and ignites economic development in rural communities.



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: 39 days/year.
- Current facility capacity only satisfies 30% to 45% of recreation needs.

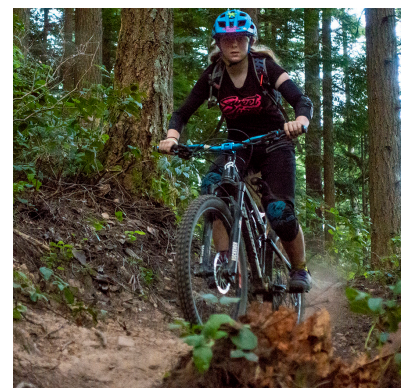
Front-country trails and mountain bike parks near urban areas are seeing significant increases in use. **Continued investment in mountain bike facilities is crucial to meet demand and provide easily accessible and healthy outdoor activities for families and communities across Washington.**

MOUNTAIN BIKING BENEFITS THE ECONOMY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Outdoor recreation has a greater impact than information technology and aerospace industries! According to the Economic Analysis of Outdoor Recreation in Washington, \$21.6 billion in annual spending is directly tied to outdoor recreation. Additionally, outdoor recreation supports more than 200,000 jobs and generates \$2 billion in state and local taxes.

Biking accounts for almost \$3.2 billion of economic contribution annually. \$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.





2019 PROJECT & LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR)

Evergreen has developed a strong partnership with the Washington Department of Natural Resources on recreational resource development in their working forests and Natural Resource Conservation areas. **We support full funding of the Washington Department of Natural Resources' recreation request, including:**

- \$3.9 million for the Outdoor Recreation and Community Engagement Program
- \$444,000 operating budget for the Natural Areas Program
- \$8.5 million capital budget for the Sustainable Recreation Program

DNR has taken innovative leadership in establishing new recreational resources in working forests and has opened more than 60 new miles of trails to mountain biking statewide. The agency has shown great leadership in addressing the underserved trail needs for our mountain bike community and has partnered with Evergreen to set progressive new trail standards, which have gained national recognition and awards. With a fast-growing recreation community, **State investment is imperative to completing several planned new recreational resource projects**, including new trail development, trail maintenance, trailhead development, and funding for skilled employees to manage, oversee and maintain trails and facilities on DNR lands.

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Interest and initiative in developing new trails and trailhead resources for the mountain bike community within our State Parks has grown steadily in recent years. Several state parks have become popular riding destinations, such as Squilchuck State Park in Wenatchee, the new Olallie trail in North Bend, and Moran State Park on Orcas Island.

Evergreen enthusiastically supports the Washington State Parks' 2019 funding request to keep this momentum going, including:

- \$196 million operating budget
- \$120.6 million capital budget requests

We specifically endorse State Park's \$9.05 million operating budget request to protect and maintain park properties, **\$4.78 million operating budget** to improve customer service related to park user experience, **\$951,000 operating budget to engage more youth**, as well as their **\$130.2 million capital budget for new projects** and critical funding appropriations. Funding State Parks at their full ask is crucial to reducing their \$500+ million deferred maintenance backlog relate to trail maintenance, equipment upgrades, and having adequate staffing levels to keep up with fast increasing park user numbers.

WASHINGTON WILDLIFE & RECREATION PROGRAM (WWRP)

Without the successful and innovative Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition, many of our trail projects would never have come to fruition. **Evergreen enthusiastically supports the WWRC's request to fully fund:**

- \$130 million capital budget to support the WWRP.

WWRP is a critical to developing new and maintaining existing mountain bike trails. This program supports the largest amount of funding for hiking, biking, equestrian, and winter ski trails in Washington State. **Evergreen believes funding the full WWRP budget request is critical** – maintaining high quality of life for residents statewide, encouraging healthy lifestyle, fostering rural economic development, and bringing critical capital projects to fruition.

RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE (RCO)– NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE GRANT PROGRAM (NCLI)

We want to bring more youth to trails and the outdoors.

No Child Left Inside has proven to be invaluable for delivering grant funding to communities, who are focusing on getting kids outside experiencing and learning about the natural world. This has been specifically beneficial to underserved youth and rural communities. Evergreen endorses full funding of the following Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) request:

- \$1.5 million operating budget for RCO to implement the NCLI grant program.

Evergreen has worked hard to provide scholarships and access to opportunities for youth to discover the outdoors and learn invaluable bike handling skills. These lifelong skills both build confidence and understanding of the value of simply spending time having fun with their peers in the outdoors. With this program youth will learn trail maintenance and soil science, while having fun outdoors.

LET'S GO BIG -

Our dream is to build a cross-state mountain bike trail.

Will you help us connect the Oregon Timber Trail to the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail?
Will you help us create a long distance hut-to-hut bike experience in Washington?

With your help, we can do this. Call Yvonne Kraus to bring this dream to reality.