



# 2012 Washington State Trails Conference

## *Request for Proposals*

On October 26-28, 2012, the Washington State Trails Coalition (WSTC) is will sponsor the 12<sup>th</sup> bi-annual Washington State Trails Conference at the Vancouver Convention Center and Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, Washington. Trail advocates, consultants, agency representatives, and recreation and transportation professionals from across Washington and Oregon will gather to share skills, insights, and resources, celebrate successes, and inspire new trail projects. Learn more about the WSTC and our conference at [www.w-s-t-c.org](http://www.w-s-t-c.org).

The conference's Program Committee is now seeking presentation proposals consistent with the conference's theme of "Bridging Communities with Trails". This year's conference will pay special attention to how trails act as bridges: connecting the natural and human environments, joining urban and rural areas, and even connecting diverse ecological and social communities. The Conference will offer breakout sessions following three themed tracks:

### **1. Planning for Success**

*Strategies to help your trail project gain traction, including successful fundraising, partnerships and coalition-building, and legislation and advocacy.*

### **2. Managing Trails on the Ground**

*Case studies and presentations focused on effective trail design and construction as well as best practices for resource protection and managing trail use.*

### **3. Community Engagement**

*Tactics and success stories for trail outreach and communication to diverse audiences, cultivating volunteers and involving youth.*

General interest proposals will be considered, but proposals that best address the theme or tracks will be given priority. It is important that conference proposals focus on trails, whether urban or backcountry, public or private. The most attractive proposals will contain subject matter applicable to a range of trail projects, but proposals focused on trails specific to hiking, ORV, equestrian, bicycle, canoe, cross-country ski or other activities will also be welcomed.

**Submissions:** Email your one page proposal to [proposals@washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org](mailto:proposals@washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org) by **March 30, 2012**, including the following information:

1. Contact information for speaker(s) and moderator (if applicable)
2. Presentation title and proposed program track it should fit into
3. Proposed format and any equipment needs (solo presentation, panel or other format)
4. Proposed length of presentation (60 minutes, including 15 minutes for Q&A, or 90 minutes, including 25 minutes for Q&A)
5. Presentation description, approximately 150 words (may be edited for the conference program brochure)
6. Speaker biography (approximately 50 words)

**For proposal submission and questions, contact:** Sarah Krueger, WSTC President-elect and Program Committee Chair, at [proposals@washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org](mailto:proposals@washingtonstatetrailscoalition.org) or call 206-521-6012.

**Review and selection:** Program Committee members will select proposals on the basis of relevance and appropriateness for this conference. The Program Committee aims to confirm final program selections by April 30, 2012.

**Registration policy:** Conference organizers work to keep overall registration and meal costs low in part by asking all presenters to pay the full registration fee and their other expenses. However, speakers who wish to attend only their session, and perhaps one or two other sessions, with the exception of a meal event, may request a waiver of this policy.