

January 23, 2017

The 2017 Washington State Legislative Session has started!! The fate of our only cross-state trail is being decided now!!

A Legislative Call to Action from The Tekoa Trail and Trestle Association

The Current Situation:

The John Wayne Trail is a center piece of the WA Parks Department and Governor Inslee's 2017 biennium budget. \$4 million in repairs are in the WWRP grant program and \$2 million in capital budget requests.

The Washington State Legislature will decide if the allocation goes through in the next few months. Currently the trail has wide support among legislators from both sides of the aisle.

You may recall that in the last full session 2015, behind closed doors the trail was closed to the public and control of the land was given away to adjacent land owners, but a typo in the proviso kept the trail open.

This session the legislature has a chance to honor a renewed Washington Parks mission to preserve our linear trails. These repair funds will lead to an increase in tourist revenue for many small farm towns on the trail, access to a state wide recreational benefit for all and the preservation of Washington's history and culture.

The greatest influence on the proposed funding for the trail this session will rest in the hands of Senate GOP Caucus (<http://src.wastateleg.org/>) which is led by Sen. Mark Schoesler. Unfortunately, Sen. Schoesler was part of the small group that closed the trail before.

Help us save Washington's only cross state trail.

Please Contact Sen Schoesler at 360-786-7620, tell him where you are from and ask him to please reconsider his opposition to the trail.

Also, please send a brief message to any district legislators through the in-state toll-free Hotline number: 800.562.6000. Call yours ASAP!!! (remember there are two state representatives and one state senator for each district in Washington) You can also find yours here <http://app.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/>

Here is some more info about the trail:

Go here to watch a really cool two-minute video of the trail and the controversy

<https://vimeo.com/200048136>

Go here to read the WA parks trail management plan

<http://parks.state.wa.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/7653>

Go here to visit our web page (and sign the petition)

<http://savethejohnwaynetrail.com/>

Also attached is a summary of the parks budget request for linear trails, a map of the trail and some pictures. If you have any email lists or friends that you can share this information with, please do. And thank you and all of Washington for the ongoing support that this cross-state trail is receiving.

The most important thing we can do now is to connect citizens to the trail and to their legislators.

- The Officers of the Tekoa Trail and Trestle Association
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