

OUTDOOR ALLIANCE WASHINGTON

October 17, 2024

Pat Sullivan, Director
Washington State Office of Financial Management
P.O. Box 43113
Olympia, WA 98504-3113

Dear Director Sullivan,

Outdoor Alliance Washington is writing to express our strong support for budget requests from the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA), Washington State Parks (Parks), Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to support the "State-Tribal Recreation Impacts Initiative" (STRII). These funding requests would support a collaborative process between state agencies and Tribal Nations to improve the management of outdoor recreation on state public lands.

[Outdoor Alliance Washington](#) is a network of member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community in Washington and the thousands of Washingtonians who climb, paddle, mountain bike, hike, and enjoy coastal recreation on our state's public lands and waters. Our members include Access Fund, the American Alpine Club, American Whitewater, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance, The Mountaineers, Surfrider Foundation, Washington Climbers Coalition, and Washington Trails Association.

Our community respects and shares an appreciation for protecting and maintaining our shared lands and waters in partnership with Tribes and Indigenous peoples. We believe in the importance of sustainable outdoor recreation for human health and well-being, as well as for Washington's economy. We also believe in respecting Tribal rights and lifeways and ensuring that natural and cultural resources are protected.

Outdoor Alliance Washington strongly supports the STRII and believes it is critical to the future of sustainable outdoor recreation, protection of natural and cultural resources, and protection and exercise of treaty and tribal rights. For the initiative to succeed, it is essential that the State of Washington provide resources for Tribal governments to meaningfully engage in the STRII. **We urge you to fully fund the following operating budget requests in the 2025-2027 biennium budget:**



- **GOIA:** Tribal Capacity grants through the Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs, open to and equally distributed to all applying Tribal governments who wish to engage in the STRII. We understand that the Tribes’ initial request was \$6.2 million, but through conversation with the State they have agreed to support a request of \$3.4 million in Tribal capacity grants. **This funding is our top priority because it is critical to showing State support for the process and respect for Tribal government participation.**
- **WDFW:** \$1.89 million for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s participation in the STRII, specifically their work to develop an ecological integrity framework applicable to Washington state-managed lands and model for estimating visitation to state lands.
- **DNR:** \$637,000 for the Department of Natural Resources’ participation in the STRII, specifically their work to develop standardized resource assessment and adaptive management methodologies for priority areas.
- **Parks:** \$818,000 for Washington State Parks’ participation in the STRII, specifically their work to develop standardized resource assessment and adaptive management methodologies for priority areas.
- Funding for ongoing cross-agency requests, including facilitation, Tribal ethnographic studies, and information-sharing conferences.

We urge you to support these requests and fully fund them in the 2025-2027 Governor’s Budget. The STRII is a thoughtful, data-informed approach to addressing our shared concerns about the growing impact of outdoor recreation and other stressors on the sustainability of natural and cultural resources. We urge the Office of Financial Management and the Governor’s Office to request sufficient resources to allow the State and Tribes to continue to make meaningful progress towards this important goal.

Best Regards,



Betsy Robblee
 Washington Policy Manager
 Outdoor Alliance Washington

Cc:

Sheri Sawyer, Executive Director, Legislative Affairs & Outreach, Office of the Governor
 Jon Snyder, Senior Policy Advisor, Outdoor Recreation & Economic Development, Office of the Governor
 JT Austin, Assistant Director of Policy and Planning, Governor’s Office of Indian Affairs

Louis Geltman, Vice President for Policy and Government Relations, Outdoor Alliance
 Thomas O’Keefe, Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director, American Whitewater
 Eddie Espinosa, Executive Director, Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
 Peter Steelquist, Washington Policy Manager, Surfrider Foundation
 Betsy Robblee, Conservation and Advocacy Director, The Mountaineers



Taylor Luneau, Board Member, Washington Climbers Coalition
Andrea Imler, Advocacy Director, Washington Trails Association

