

**SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 110-343
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE**

Name of Resource Advisory Committee:
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2016

2. Project Name: Remodel of the Mt. Townsend Trailheads	3a. State: WA 3b. County(s): Jefferson
4. Project Submitted By: Nicole LaGioia	5. Date: July 23, 2015
6. Contact Phone Number: (360)765-2213	7. Contact E-mail: nllagioia@fs.fed.us
8. Project Location: Upper and Lower Mt. Townsend Trailheads	
a. National Forest(s): Olympic NF	b. Forest Service District: Hood Canal Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) Upper Mt. Townsend TH: T 27N, R 3 W, Sec. 3 Lower Mt. Townsend TH: T 27N, R 3 W, Sec. 2	
<p>9. Project Goals and Objectives: The goal of the project is to improve the traffic flow of vehicles and the safety of visitors using the Mt. Townsend trail system. The Mt. Townsend trail is one of the most popular hikes in the northeast corner of the Olympic National Forest. It is also an important access point to the Buckhorn Wilderness. The access road to the Upper Mt. Townsend Trailhead is out-sloped and in need of maintenance. The parking area at the Upper Mt. Townsend Trailhead is limited to approximately 15 vehicles. The current use of this trailhead is so high that people park all along the roadway, making safe access difficult. There is a larger, safer parking area at the Lower Mt. Townsend Trailhead that is rarely used. Our primary objective for this project is to switch the use patterns between the two trailheads by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Installing “No Parking” signs along the 2700-190 Road, - Install signage along the 27 Road at the junction with the 2760 Road to direct use to the Lower Mt. Townsend Trailhead, and - Grade and rehabilitate the Lower Mt. Townsend Trailhead to accommodate the new use. 	
<p>10. Project Description:</p> <p>a. Brief: The project proposes to shift the pattern of use and flow of recreational traffic between the Upper and Lower Mt. Townsend Trailheads through a combination of signage and restoration of parking facilities.</p> <p>b. Detailed: The project proposes to attempt to shift the pattern of use and flow of recreational traffic between the Upper and Lower Mt. Townsend Trailheads by installing new signage and restoring a larger, safer parking area. The Upper Mt. Townsend Trailhead is one of the highest used sites in the northeast corner of the Olympic National Forest. However, it is limited in capacity to approximately 15 vehicles. Due to the extreme popularity of this trailhead and the small capacity of the parking lot, recreational users tend to park along the roadway. This creates a major safety issue for recreational users, Forest Service staff, and emergency response. The majority of the work for this project would focus on the restoration of the Lower Mt. Townsend Trailhead. There already exists a large open area at the Lower Mt. Townsend trailhead, however, this trailhead is rarely used because it isn’t on Forest</p>	

Service maps and has no signage to help visitors find the site. By rehabilitating the parking area and adding some signage to help direct traffic and adding the site to future Forest Service maps, we will be able to increase the safety of our recreational users.

Average peak season use at the Mt. Townsend trails is approximately 53 people per day between the months of June and August or a total of almost 5,000 visitors. Non-peak season use is typically 30 people per day or about 2,000 people over a 3 month period. Weekend usage is much higher with about 44 people per day on non-peak season weekends and approximately 86 people per day on peak season weekends. This high weekend usage leads to parking lot capacity issues. In a parking lot with a maximum capacity of 15 vehicles it is easy to exceed the safe vehicle limit; especially with such a high amount of daily usage. This leads to unsafe crowding of the parking lot and overfill parking along the roadside. We have fairly accurate numbers due the collaboration between the City of Port Townsend and the Forest Service on use of trails within the City of Port Townsend watershed. Our research shows that the large majority of our users are from the local commuting area. This project would directly increase the safety of our local recreational users.

This project would also help disperse the recreational impact at the trailhead. Currently, at the Upper Mt. Townsend Trailhead, people are parking wherever possible. This is damaging the vegetation around the parking area as well as causing erosion and other resource concerns. Dispersing the use between two trailheads would help mitigate these resource impacts.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? Yes No

Land Status: Olympic National Forest

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

Restores and improves land health.

Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

Road Maintenance

Trail Maintenance

Road Decommission/Obliteration

Trail Obliteration

Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

Soil Productivity Improvement

Forest Health Improvement

Watershed Restoration & Maintenance

Wildlife Habitat Restoration

Fish Habitat Restoration

Control of Noxious Weeds

Reestablish Native Species

Fuels Management/Fire Prevention

Implement CWPP Project

Other Project Type (specify): Public Safety

b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): **Public Safety**

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish	
Miles of road maintained: 1.5 miles	
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:	
Number of structures maintained/improved:	
Acres of soil productivity improved:	
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:	
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:	
Acres of native species reestablished:	
Miles of trail maintained: 2 trailheads maintained	
Miles of trial obliterated:	
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):	
Acres of rangeland improved:	
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved:	
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:	
Timber volume generated:	
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks:	
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention):	
Direct economic activity benefit:	
Other: Increased Public Safety of Recreational Users	
15. Estimated Project Start Date: 05/2016	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: 05/2016

17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

18. Identify benefits to communities. This project would increase the safety of recreational users, the majority of which are from the local communities.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources? This project would benefit federal lands and resources by dispersing the recreational use between two trailheads instead of the focus on a single trailhead. This would increase the use of the lower trail and spread the use over a larger area rather than the focused area at the Upper Mt. Townsend trailhead.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews

<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? Yes No

22. Anticipated Project Costs
a. Title II Funds Requested: \$10,000
b. Is this a multi-year funding request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding: Employee time would come from allocated money and the Recreation Enhancement Act collection money.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.
- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:
- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
- Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)
Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	2,000		2,000	
b. NEPA/CEQA				
c. ESA Consultation				
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering	3,000			
f. Contract/Grant Preparation				
g. Contract/Grant Administration				
h. Contract/Grant Cost		10,000		
i. Salaries				
j. Materials & Supplies			5,000	
k. Monitoring	2,000			
l. Other				
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. Indirect Costs				
o. Total Cost Estimate	7,000	10,000	7,000	

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.

24. Monitoring Plan

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

The results will be tracked through two primary methods: vehicle monitoring and trail use monitoring.

Vehicle monitoring will be achieved through a comparative study of parking lot and roadside parking use along the 2700-190 before and after the implementation of the plan. Vehicles will be counted in the Upper Mount Townsend Trailhead parking lot, the Lower Mount Townsend parking lot, and parked alongside the road where parked vehicles make the road narrow and unsafe for two-way traffic. These numbers will be taken 2-3 times per week between June and August when the Recreation Technician visits the trailheads. The results of the study will be analyzed to assess the impact of the proposed changes. A decrease in Upper Parking lot saturation, decreased road parking and an increase in Lower Trailhead parking lot usage would indicate an achievement of the goals outlined in this proposal. Furthermore, when monitoring the area, the Technician will note situations where cars are boxed in due to inadequate parking lot space.

Because of the time it would take for the Recreation Technician to complete this monitoring, the use of a game camera will be proposed in conjunction with or as an alternative to vehicle counting. The game camera takes a photo every three seconds and would allow us to create high speed videos that show the parking lot over time. A game camera placed at the Upper Mount Townsend Trailhead parking lot for a period of ten days (Friday to the following Sunday during peak season) would give us valuable insight into usage and common issues that arise in the parking lot. The game camera would be placed before and after implementation of the proposal to assess the effectiveness of the proposed changes.

Trail use monitoring on the Upper and Lower Mount Townsend Trails will also be used to assess the success of the proposed changes. The project seeks to increase usage on the Lower Mount Townsend Trail in order to relieve the stress of too many vehicles at the Upper Trailhead. Thus, it would be beneficial begin visitor use monitoring on the Lower Mount Townsend Trail using trail counters to see if improved signage, map addition, and trail improvement increases Lower Trailhead usage.

Following collection of all the data, a report will be compiled to be presented and discussed by the recreation management staff. They will discuss the findings and whether or not the actions were adequate and if further actions will be necessary. A synopsis of the meeting will be available afterwards.

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Recreation Technicians will conduct the vehicle monitoring throughout the summer. Recreation or wilderness staff will conduct the trail use monitoring.

- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

Trail counter: \$500

Game camera: \$200

Employee Time: \$1,300



Figure 1. Road to the Upper Townsend Trailhead showing parking issues.



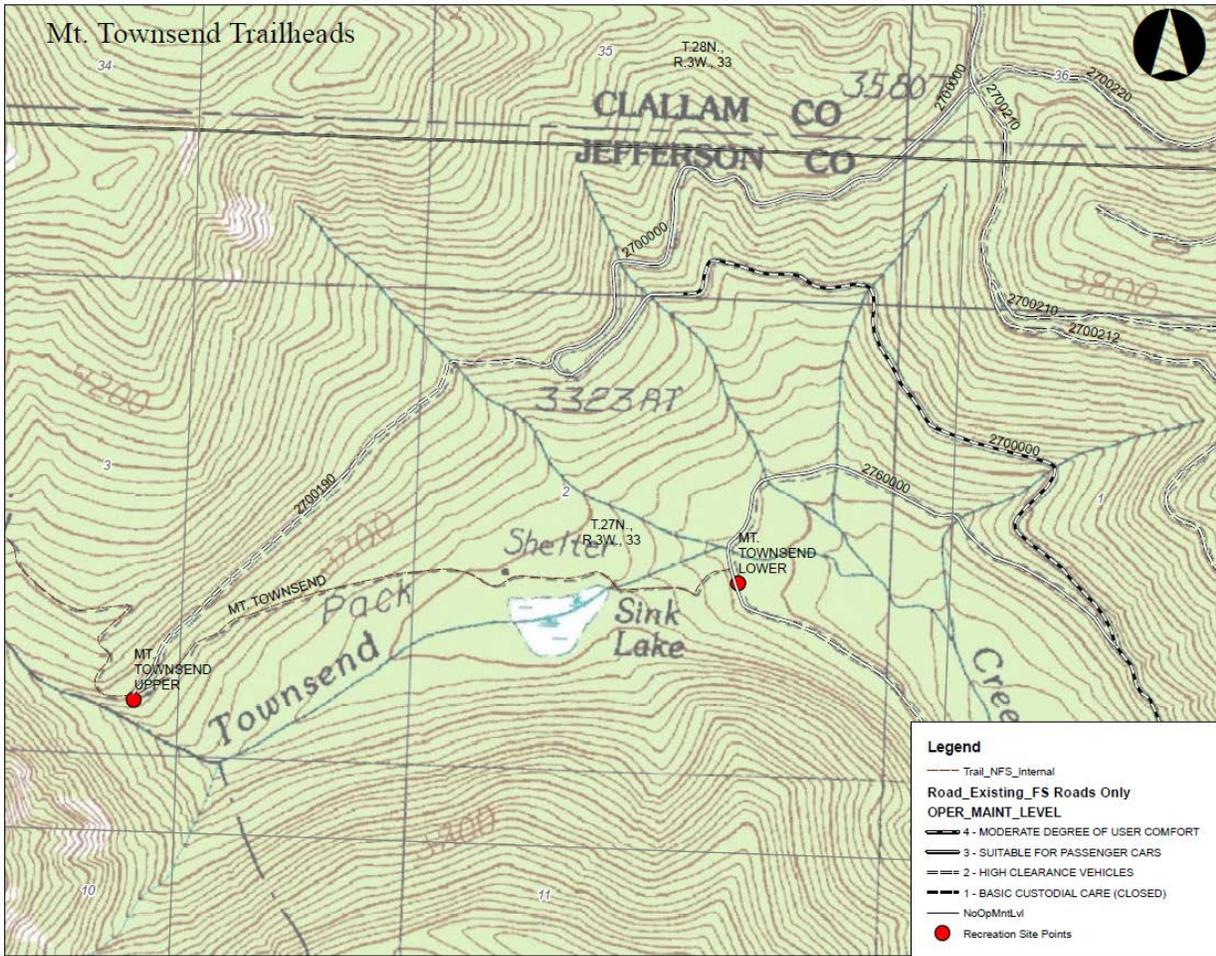
Figure 2. Photo showing evidence of use and resource damage from user expanding parking.



Figure 3. More user expansion of parking area.

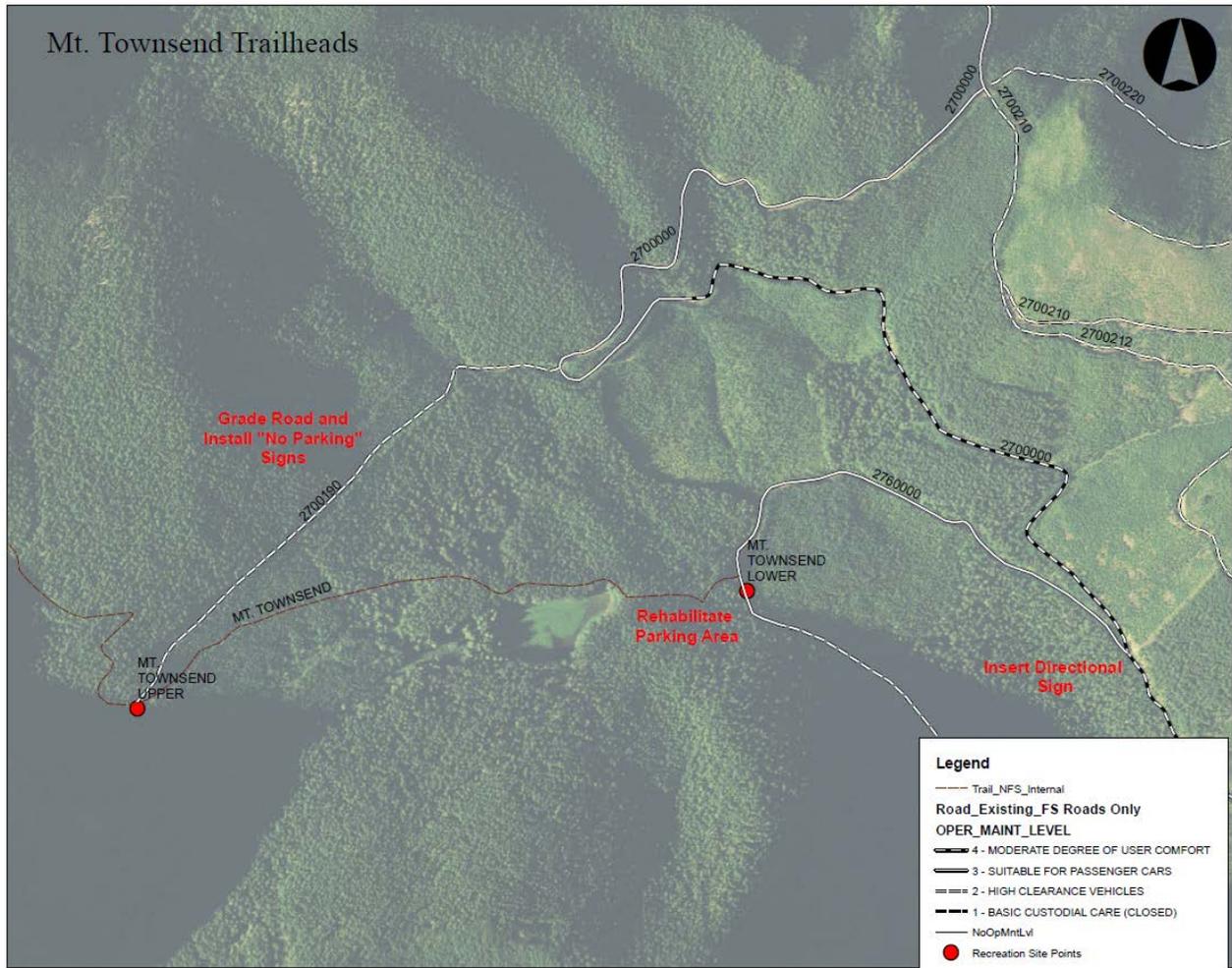


Figure 4. Blocking of roadway and access by vehicles.



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles

Mt. Townsend Trailheads



0 0.125 0.25 0.5 Miles