

# North Central Washington EDD Project Proposal 2009-2010 Application

## The Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy A joint proposal from the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land November 20, 2009

Estimated Project Start & Completion Dates: June 2009 – June 2010

Name of Project: Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy

Name of Lead Organization or Individual: A partnership between the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL)

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NCWEDD member: CDLT -Yes                      TPL-No

### 1. Brief Description of Proposed Project:

Working in partnership, the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust (CDLT) and The Trust for Public Land (TPL) are leading a collaborative, community-driven planning effort for the Wenatchee foothills. The *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* will help the community shape the future of the foothills by planning for the protection of open space, viewsheds, critical wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities cherished by so many. The result will be a thoughtful, balanced landscape that enhances the Wenatchee community for generations to come.

Key goals of the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* include:

- Engage the community in a constructive conversation about how to protect the open space values of the foothills while planning for future growth
- Identify key challenges, opportunities, and recommendations for implementing a cohesive conservation strategy for the foothills
- Combine local knowledge with scientific data to thoroughly inventory, map, and analyze open space values and growth pressure in the foothills
- Develop an action-oriented strategy to guide future conservation efforts and inform future land-use decisions in the foothills

With the support of the City of Wenatchee and Chelan County, CDLT and TPL are leading the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*. The two organizations will blend organizational strengths to guide the community to develop a shared conservation strategy for the foothills. CDLT will mobilize their local network of more than 700 members and 250 active volunteers to raise awareness and promote community involvement in the project. TPL will

bring community planning and research expertise to help facilitate the process and ensure the strategy builds from past work and sets an ambitious and realistic action agenda for the community.

We respectfully request \$7,500 in funding from the North Central Washington Economic Development District to support this project. We believe this work helps achieve the goals of NCW EDD by helping to create a vibrant and diverse economy and promoting activities that enhance the stability and future of north central Washington.

**2. If the NCW EDD is used to acquire funds, who will administer those funds? (Lead organization, NCW EDD, or other)**

This is a joint request from CDLT and TPL. Both organizations will administer the funds.

**3. Will your project require the use of the NCW EDD 501c3 status for grant writing?**

No, both CDLT and TPL are 501c3 organizations.

**4. Will this project result in the creation of new jobs or retention of existing jobs? Please explain.**

The creation of the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* will not directly create jobs. However, we believe that the implementation of the strategy, which will happen over the next several years, will enhance the economic resiliency of greater Wenatchee. By protecting the region's natural assets, we will help maintain the outstanding quality of life and spectacular surroundings that draw visitors, new residents, and businesses to the area.

**5. What are the measurable regional economic benefits?**

CDLT's and TPL's ability to help Wenatchee protect its foothills has multiple positive outcomes for the economic health of the region. The results of well-planned growth and a first-rate trail system will be increased property values and tourist activity; reduced cost of community services for local governments; and revitalization and redevelopment of the downtown core.

While it will take time to reap the economic benefits of an integrated open space system in Wenatchee, now is the time to help the community move in the right direction. As the building boom has slightly waned, and the city, county, and other land-management agencies are interested and willing to work together, the community is well-poised to develop a strategy to ensure the region maintains its competitive advantage while continuing to be a great place to live, work, and play.

**6. What are the measurable environmental benefits? If no measurable benefits, please explain why there are no significant environmental effects?**

Currently, the city of Wenatchee is growing into the canyons and foothills as shown by the new roads and homes cut into hillsides and perched on ridgelines. New development and

increased use of the foothills by the public has put more pressure on the ecological values of the landscape. Erosion, invasive weeds, loss of critical habitat such as shrub steppe, all threaten the environmental integrity and natural character of the area. The *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* will not only provide the opportunity to thoroughly inventory significant environmental features, it will also analyze threats to those features and create a plan to guide protection and restoration efforts.

Implementation of the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* will result in better development patterns and practices, conservation of the most at-risk areas, and a better understanding of the significant environmental features in the foothills.

## 7. What are the measurable community benefits?

The community has the potential to benefit from the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* in multiple ways, such as:

- Health and well-being. The foothills offer opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, wildlife viewing, and access to beloved landscapes like Castlerock and Saddlerock. The strategy will lay the foundation for improving recreational opportunities in the foothills through the addition of new trails and trailheads as well as a more sustainable approach for managing the network of trails and open space.
- Environmental protection. As discussed above, the strategy will identify critical environmental and aesthetic features of the foothills. The community will benefit greatly from this inventory as it is used to inform future land-use management and decisions.
- Civic involvement. The strategy will provide ample opportunity for the community to engage in the planning process. The collaboration of the city, county, CDLT, and TPL is unique and provides the community with a meaningful forum to express their priorities for the future.

## 8. For the following items either enter (C) for completed, (U) for underway, (N) for needed, (EDD) requested from the EDD, or (NA) not applicable:

Feasibility Study	N/A
Engineering report	N/A
Permits	N/A
Business or strategic plan	C
Grant application(s)	C and U
Implementations financing	U and N
Letters of support	C
Partners organized	C
Project coordination	C

## 9. From pages 17-21 of the current NCW EDD Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS Report 2008-2009) document, list the goals and strategies this project will accomplish. This document can be found at <http://www.ncwedd.com/scope.htm>

By engaging all stakeholders in a plan to balance conservation, recreation, and development in north central Washington’s largest community, this project meets several points in the 2008-2009 CED Strategy, including, “*Work with other organizations to develop and offer facilitation, leadership, economic development, and other training opportunities as needed to build capacity and strengthen partnerships,*” and “*Facilitate on-the-ground resources to enhance entrepreneurial efforts.*”

We see this project as being entirely consistent with several of the Guiding Principles of the Economic Development Strategy, including:

- *We recognize the importance of maintaining rural lifestyles and enhancing the quality of life.*
- *We value the preservation of unique and significant natural and cultural resources, and respect diverse cultures.*
- *We encourage participation of all citizens and consensus-based planning and recognize that success requires a long-term commitment.*
- *We value the importance of understanding our regional economy and using that to shape the future.*
- *We believe partnerships expand opportunities.*
- *We encourage sustainable economic development, believing that the integration of community, economy and environment is key to success.*

**10. List local, county, regional, community and government agency supporters of the project:**

As mentioned above, CDLT and TPL are working closely with and have the full support of the City of Wenatchee and Chelan County. Other supporters include Chelan County Public Utility District, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, private landowners, the Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association, Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, Wenatchee Valley Sports Council, Port of Chelan County, Wenatchee Valley Trails Committee, and the North Central Washington Association of Realtors. Other key stakeholders that will be involved in the planning process include Washington Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Land Management, Chelan County’s volunteer Development Advisory Committee, and the U.S. Forest Service.

**11. List sources of match dollars (S) secured, (P) planned, (N) needed, or (NA) not applicable:**

The Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy project budget totals \$120,000. Sources of revenue include:

The Icicle Fund (S)	\$50,000
Alcoa Corporation (S)	\$15,000
The Community Foundation of NCWA (S)	\$10,000
NCWA EDD (pending this proposal)	\$7,500
The Bullitt Foundation (P)	\$25,000
NCW Resource Conservation and Development Council (P)	\$7,500
Wenatchee Sportsmen’s Association (P)	\$2,000
<u>Other foundations and individuals, to be identified (N)</u>	<u>\$3,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

**12. Identify and estimate the cost of what you are requesting the NCW EDD to do for your project:**

A \$7,500 grant from the North Central Washington Economic Development District would help our organizations advance the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy* and provide crucial funding for the second phase of work. Over the past several months we have gathered community input through workshops, meetings, and surveys and now we are ready to launch the second phase of this effort, which will emphasize stakeholder involvement to identify priority conservation areas, the highest probability areas for development, and the most feasible recreational trail system. This phase will lay the groundwork for phase three, which is the development of an action plan for the foothills. The majority of NCW EDD funds will be used for phase two, which will greatly advance our efforts to engage the community in assessing the most valuable resources in the foothills.

**13. Identify and estimate the project costs and tasks to be completed by your organization:**

**Estimated Budget:**

Project Kick-off and Scope Refinement	\$3,000
Community Profile and Baseline Inventory	\$4,000
Community Outreach and Involvement	\$45,000
Community Resource Assessment and Analysis	\$19,000
Conservation Funding and Case Study Research	\$8,000
Community Celebration and Implementation Kick-off	\$19,000
Project costs (travel, office supplies, etc.)	\$5,000
<u>Management and support costs</u>	<u>\$17,000</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$120,000</b>

**14. List sources of non-match dollars such as State, Federal, County, or Foundation money as (S) secured, (P) planned, (N) needed, or (NA) not applicable:**

No public funds will be raised for the creation of the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*, however, we have secured several state and private grants to implement some initial projects for the foothills. In June 2007, the City of Wenatchee adopted its Foothills Trails Plan, which was the precursor to the more comprehensive *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*. Working in partnership with the City of Wenatchee, CDLT and TPL have secured nearly \$3.3 million for “early implementation” of land acquisition and trailhead development priorities as part of the *Wenatchee Foothills Community Strategy*:

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Status</u>
City of Wenatchee	Horse Lake, Day Drive Trailhead	\$342,000	S
CDLT	Horse Lake Reserve	\$2,250,000	S
CDLT	Blue Sage Property	\$600,000	S
CDLT	Trails and land restoration	\$17,000	S

In summer 2010 we will seek funding from the Washington State Wildlife and Recreation Program to implement the community’s goals and priorities developed through the strategy. We believe that the initial investment of \$120,000 into the strategy will yield many times that

in state and federal funding to implement the plan. This effort will invariably improve the quality of life and economic health of the greater Wenatchee area.

**15. What is your current and anticipated schedule of work? Please list.**

Please see Attachment A.

**16. Is there a sponsor for this project? If so, what is the sponsoring organization?**

N/A

The Chelan-Douglas Land Trust and The Trust for Public Land thank the North Central Washington Economic Development District for this opportunity to apply for funding.

