

Recreation Commission No. 6 - New Denver, Silverton & Area

Service No. S229

ORGANIZATION	AMOUNT
1. Slocan Lake Art Council	\$ 1,028.00
2. Haven for Ecology	\$ 10,000.00
3. Harvest Share & bear Aware	\$ 1,000.00
4. North Slocan Trails Society	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL:	\$ 13,528.00

Martine denBok

Linda Kalbun

Submission Date Apr 5, 2026 1:47 PM

Date of Application: Apr 5, 2026

Which Recreation Commission are you applying to for Financial Aid: Recreation Commission No. 6 - Area H, New Denver & Silverton (Slocan Lake)

Are you applying for Financial Aid on behalf of an organisation/society? Yes

Organisation/Society Name: Slocan Lake Arts Council

President/Contact Name: Martine denBok

Contact Name: Linda Kalbun

Contact Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Email:

Project Title: Open Mic

Project Type: Operational Project

New or Continuing Project: Continuing

Amount of Financial Aid Requested (Operational): 1028

Project Start Date: Nov 14, 2026

Project End Date: Apr 10, 2027

Estimated Number of Participants: > 50

Will there be a Membership or Admission Fee? Yes

If you answered 'Yes' to the above question, how much will the Membership or Admission Fee be? 5

Brief Description of Project: Open Mic is a drop-in, by donation event that provides a venue for audience members to have time-limited, stage access to perform music, spoken word, comedy etc. Any artist, professional or amateur, can sign up for a time slot on the stage. Open Mic is hosted in Knox Hall, a fully accessible building in New Denver. Audience is in no way required to perform but rather, simply enjoy and support the performers. This is an all-ages, all cultures, all sexual orientation event. Amplification equipment and operation is provided by the Slocan Lake Arts Council. Funds provided by Rec 6 will be used toward producing the event: Host fee, advertising, venue. Open Mic has traditionally tended to attract musicians

Project Location: New Denver

Please provide a brief bio/credentials of the main project leader(s): The Slocan Lake Arts Council (SLAC) has a long history of providing arts and cultural opportunities to the North Slocan Lake region. SLAC has successfully run previous Open Mic experiences hosted by a variety of SLAC Board members or SLAC members. Board Member Michael Huber, an accomplished guitarist and song writer, is one host and a previous member also ran Open Mic for one season. In an effort to keep the event fresh, and to encourage more spoken word participants, an upcoming Open Mic will feature comedian, Andrew Verge. Other qualified Open Mic Hosts will also be considered but for the two events being applied for in this grant, SLAC will focus on Michael Huber and Andrew Verge.

What is the purpose and goal(s) of the project? The purpose of Open Mic is to provide a forum for emerging and established artists to present their work in a supportive atmosphere in an accessible venue for community enjoyment and engagement. The goal is to have two Open Mic evenings where 40-50 audience members enjoy the work of 10-12 artists over a two hour evening that is financially accessible to all performers and audience members.

How does this support and help to develop the local economy or add value to the community? Performers and audience come to New Denver from the local communities of New Denver and Silverton but also from Kaslo, Nakusp and Slocan, bringing their money with them to purchase food and gas. People meet new people or reacquaint with those not seen for some time. Emerging artists get a lift and encouragement with their craft from audience support.

Does this project compete with already established groups or businesses? No

Will this proposed activity/project be advertised and if so, how? Open Mic will be advertised with a poster that is posted throughout Silverton and New Denver and in the Valley Voice newspaper. A press release will also be provided to the Valley Voice. Social media - SLAC Facebook and Instagram - will also promote the event. The poster and press release will also be published in the online newspaper, the Updraft.

How will support from the Recreation Commission be recognised?

The poster will have the RDCK logo printed on it. The press release will acknowledge the support of the RDCK. The Open Mic Host will thank the RDCK Rec 6 for its support at each of the events.

Do you have a partner for this project?

No

Have you accessed other funds for this project?

The British Columbia Arts Council assists the Slocan Lake Arts Council with operational funding but not Program Funding. Previous Open Mic iterations have accessed Rec 6 and CBT funds.

REVENUE:

	Budget	Description
Recreation Grant Funds	1028	
Donations	400	Estimate \$200/event x 2 events
Organisation's Contributions	200	
Incoming Revenues		
Fundraising		
Other Grants		
Other	200	Sound equipment \$100 x 2 events
Other		
Other		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL REVENUE	1828	

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	Description
Professional Fees/Honoraria	400	Host fee \$200/event x2
Office Expenses*		
Facility Rentals	200	\$100/night x 2 nights
Equipment/Supplies		
Advertising/Marketing	70	Printing costs
Other*	150	Poster design
Other*	288	Valley Voice advert \$144 x 2
Other*	140	Social Media promotions \$70 x 2
Other*	180	Admin
Other*	400	Sound tech support \$200 x 2
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1828	
TOTAL REVENUE - EXPENDITURES	0	

1. List of Executive Officers for your Organisation/Society, if applicable.



Directors 2025-26.docx

2. Copy of your Organisation/Society's AGM minutes, if applicable.



Draft Minutes SLAC AGM May 5_2025.docx

3. Copy of your Organisation/Society's latest fiscal financial statement, if applicable.



Balance Sheet 2026 01 31.pdf



Income Statement 2026 01 31.pdf

I Acknowledge That:

I have read, understood the above and consent to the information herein provided.

Authorised Signature:



Date Signed:

Apr 5, 2026

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<https://rdck.jotform.com/draft/019d5eb09f9870e998e49d5daef34a81d138>

Email

recreationgrants@rdck.bc.ca

Lorna Visser

Lori Barkley

Submission Date Apr 13, 2026 10:04 PM

Date of Application: Apr 13, 2026

Which Recreation Commission are you applying to for Financial Aid: Recreation Commission No. 6 - Area H, New Denver & Silverton (Slocan Lake)

Are you applying for Financial Aid on behalf of an organisation/society? Yes

Organisation/Society Name: Haven for Ecology

President/Contact Name: Lorna Visser

Contact Name: Lori Barkley

Contact Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Email:

Project Title: Creating a more accessible educational trail at the Snk'mip marsh nature sanctuary

Project Type: Capital Project

New or Continuing Project: New

Amount of Financial Aid Requested (Capital): 10000

Project Start Date: Aug 1, 2026

Project End Date: Jul 31, 2027

Estimated Number of Participants: > 50

Will there be a Membership or Admission Fee? No

Brief Description of Project: The three components of this project are:

1. Restore the land, including making accessibility improvements to the pathways at Snk'mip which are always open to the public for the quiet appreciation of nature.
2. Create an educational trail at the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary that explains both ecology of the plants and trees there and educates settlers on First People's names for trees and plants, and
3. Create interactive educational materials and public outreach and events that support the above goals.

The proposed project site is the ancient Sinixt village site at Snk'mip marsh, now a nature sanctuary stewarded by our organization.

This project is a partnership between Haven for Ecology (formerly Valhalla Foundation for Ecology, we changed our name as of January 1st of this year) and the Autonomous Sinixt (First People). A foundation of decolonization and reconciliation in unceded Sinixt t̄mxwúlaʔxw is critical to the success of our partnership with Autonomous Sinixt, which is evident in the number of successful co-lead projects we've undertaken collaboratively to date.

This project has three components which support each other and are interwoven like a Sinixt tule-mat (a traditional woven mat made from cat-tail reeds found in the marsh) -- just as the working relationship between Haven for Ecology and Autonomous Sinixt is a partnership woven by mutual respect and shared goals.

Because the health of the land is tied to the health of its people and the well-being of every living thing in it, Haven for Ecology's ecological conservation goals are aligned with the responsibility of Autonomous Sinixt to care for the land.

This project will also work toward the revitalization of the Sns̄lxcin dialect, educate settlers and raise consciousness about Indigenous issues in this t̄mxwúlaʔxw, and make on-the-ground ecological improvements to the habitat at the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary.

All of this will contribute to habitat enhancement for at-risk and threatened species, the creation of new pollinator areas, improved accessibility for people with disabilities, and the improvement of the ecology of this precious wetland nature sanctuary.

As with all of our work, the demographic target group is every single human being that wants to visit Snk'mip Marsh! Our nature sanctuary is open to all for outdoor recreation, bird-watching, meditation, forest bathing, and the peaceful enjoyment of nature.

Project Location: At the Snk'mip marsh nature sanctuary (north end of Slocan Lake)

Please provide a brief bio/credentials of the main project leader(s): On behalf of Haven for Ecology (formerly Valhalla Foundation for Ecology), Lorna Visser will be the project leader. Lorna has been the Executive Director of this organization since 2018, since then she has successfully lead a multi-million dollar restoration of both the wetland and upland

components of this nature sanctuary. With a background in journalism, fundraising, organizational and community development, Lorna has put her skills to work for the restoration of the natural world, particularly for the securement and restoration of ecologically vital land such as Snk'mip Marsh. She was a recipient of a Queen's Diamond Jubilee medal for her work to secure a large parcel of land on Slocan Lake called the Valhalla Mile, purchased and subsequently donated to BC Parks.

On behalf of the Autonomous Sinixt, K.L. Kivi (working in close collaboration with Autonomous Sinixt Matriarch Marilyn James) will be project liaison. K.L. is a published author, head of Maa Press publishing company, and an ecologist with a deep love of Mother Earth. For several decades she has worked as the projects co-ordinator for the Autonomous Sinixt. She is in daily contact with Matriarch Marilyn James and takes direction from her. K.L. is a skilled project manager and co-ordinator of multiple projects including publishing Marilyn James and Taress Alexis's book "Not Extinct" as well as multiple publications in Snsəlxcin (the Interior Salish dialect spoken by Sinixt people). K.L. will co-ordinate the Indigenous-learning components of this project.

What is the purpose and goal(s) of the project?

1. Restore the land, including accessibility improvements

In the fall of 2017 a parcel of land was purchased in the Slocan Valley region of BC by what was then called Valhalla Foundation for Ecology (now Haven for Ecology). We quickly learned the land needed a massive amount of restoration work and we subsequently learned that the area was the site of an ancient Sinixt village. (See our film Snk'mip Dig Deeper for a close-up look at how that worked out, happy to send you a link!).

Those two realities brought our two groups into collaboration and since then we have worked under the guidance of traditional Sinixt elders and knowledge-keepers to restore and care for the land, with Sinixt Matriarch Marilyn James as our primary Sinixt traditional knowledge-keeper/provider. We work in collaboration with the Autonomous Sinixt and with western scientists and experts.

We still have much to do to make the nature sanctuary a great place to reflect Indigenous practices of caring for the land, make it a better place for ceremony and quiet reflection, a better place for native plants, medicine plants, the Sinixt spiritual practice of 'taking it to the water,' and to re-establish native plants to support pollinators and other beneficial insect people. We also need to improve the drinking water situation at Snk'mip (there is a primitive well but we need to test the water to see if it is potable).

A portion of the grant funds would go toward Indigenous consultation and hands-on involvement in this work, with financial support provided for the invaluable skills and knowledge of Indigenous elders and knowledge keepers as well as their travel costs and out-of-pocket expenses. In addition to an honorarium we generally provide a small gift and a meal on-site whenever Sinixt allies journey to Snk'mip to give us planting or restoration consultation or hands-on help.

Grant funds would also be used for stewardship including the grinding physical labour of hand-removal of invasive plants like knapweed, to purchase plants and native seed blends, and to hire the workers needed to replant with native species, to water and tend young plants until they are established, and to do all the stewardship and monitoring work necessary.

We also require funds to modify the physical layout of the sanctuary's trails to improve accessibility for the elderly and persons with disabilities or those differently-abled. While there is a wheel-chair accessible area already established, this will need to be expanded and upgraded in order to properly implement 'Taress's Trail' (see below).

2. Create an educational language trail at the Snk'mip Marsh Sanctuary

We hope to create a public trail called 'Taress's Trail' as an educational experience for visitors to Snk'mip.

It will be established in memory of a Sinixt Matriarch who joined her ancestors on January 19th of this year. This was a great loss as she was only 44 years old when she was taken by an aggressive cancer. Taress Lum Alexis was a cornerstone matriarch of the Autonomous Sinixt, she was dedicated to preserving her culture and perpetuating the Snsəlxcin dialect spoken by Sinixt People. We seek to honour her legacy with the creation of an educational interpretive trail in her name.

We would like to create a trail at Snk'mip with plants (trees, shrubs, grasses, edible and medicine plants: 'Green People' as Sinixt people say) identified with both their English and their Snsəlxcin names.

At Taress's memorial fire, her mother Marilyn James exhorted us to go to the wilds and address the trees and plants by their proper names. Marilyn told us they say: 'call me by my name.' We wish to do this to honour Taress, to advance the revitalization of Snsəlxcin, and to provide settlers with an enlightening educational experience.

Call Me By My Name (as Marilyn said to us at the fire) is a project that would involve placing beautiful signs on/beside trees, shrubs and other Green People at Snk'mip. Each would say 'Call Me By My Name' and have the Snsəlxcin name of the tree or shrub with a beautiful artistic rendering and information about that plant, as well as the English name.

3. Create interactive educational materials and public outreach/events

To support the 'Taress's Trail' language revitalization initiative, we plan to create materials so both Sinixt people and settlers better understand Snsəlxcin and better understand the complex history of the Sinixt (particularly their disenfranchisement by colonial powers).

Activities and events we would facilitate include:

- Developing educational materials for school children who regularly come to visit Snk'mip,
- Developing a brochure that explains the language with lovely artwork,
- Creating aural materials to accompany signage at the marsh (language recordings so we can hear and learn Snsəlxcin pronunciation),
- Holding a public event such as a frog chorus listening event (with a bonfire and storytelling) on the night of the summer solstice (which is also National Indigenous People's Day). This event would celebrate frogs both literally and symbolically so people can connect with nature at Snk'mip and understand how important and symbolic frogs are to Sinixt life-ways -- and to settlers.
- Frog-chorus-listening, Sinixt storytelling with a focus on frogs and the Captikwlt Swarakxen (legend of Frog Peak), a bonfire (if it's safe, considering the possible fire hazard) and sharing tea made from native plants that grow at the marsh.
- To go with Taress's Trail we would create a brochure that can provide information on the plants and send people to digital audio files where they can hear the words pronounced.
- As well, educational public outreach would provide an opportunity for sharing/disseminating existing publications such as the Not Extinct book by Marilyn James and Taress Alexis, the Sinixt Plant Protocols brochure, the mivm s?a?acs i? styitca? (Caribou colouring book in Snsəlxcin), and Captikwlt Swarakxen (the story of Frog Peak, the first book to be published entirely in Snsəlxcin).

How does this support and help to develop the local economy or add value to the community?

Adding more interpretive features and better wheelchair accessibility to the Snk'mip marsh sanctuary enhances its value as a visitor destination for both locals and tourists. There is excellent signage guiding visitors to the sanctuary entrance, which will be further upgraded once this project goes

ahead.

Many school and community groups visit the marsh, as well as the general public, bird-watchers, hikers, people who enjoy forest bathing, etc. We are pleased to provide a space that is free to access where the human community can connect with nature in an environment that soothes the soul.

Our educational programming is shaped by the feedback received from educational institutions and the broader community, as well as our keen observations of the ways in which people interact with the marsh ecosystem. For example, realizing that our site was not accessible to all, we created wheelchair-friendly pathways so people with different mobility needs could better access the site beyond the parking lot --something all too rare in wild spaces. (More work needs to be done but we've made a start.)

Our most important partners are the endangered and threatened species we are trying to support guide all of our work. They tell us by their behavior and presence how the partnership is going. When we see a rare species of salamander thriving under our care, when we see a (threatened species) Western Painted Turtle sunning on a log, when we see garter snakes coming out of hibernacula we created, that's when we know we've created right relationships with our animal kin.

Does this project compete with already established groups or businesses?

No

Will this proposed activity/project be advertised and if so, how?

Yes, we regularly advertise in our local newspaper The Valley Voice (paid ads) and we receive excellent coverage of events and news stories. We have a very engaging website and an email distribution list containing more than 1,000 names, thus we have the ability to disseminate our messages very effectively.

How will support from the Recreation Commission be recognised?

On signage on-site, all media coverage, and in our blog posts and outreach materials.

Do you have a partner for this project?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes' or 'Other', please provide further details:

We are partnering with the Autonomous Sinixt for this project, please see their letter of support and explanation.

Have you accessed other funds for this project?

Yes, we have applied for one other grant (Real Estate Foundation of BC) and we have funds from individual donors set aside for this project.

REVENUE:

	Budget	Description
Recreation Grant Funds	10,000	Our request to Rec. Comm. 6
Donations	20,000	Already raised for this project
Organisation's Contributions	17,000	To be raised by Haven
Incoming Revenues		
Fundraising		
Other Grants		
Other		
Other		

	Budget	Description
Other		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL REVENUE	47,000	

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	Description
Professional Fees/Honoraria	SEE ATTACHED	YOUR FORMAT DOES NOT PROVIDE
Office Expenses*		ADEQUATE SPACE
Facility Rentals		
Equipment/Supplies		
Advertising/Marketing		
Other*		
Other*		
Other*		
Other*		
Other*		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	47,000	SEE ATTACHED DETAILED BUDGET
TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURES	0	

Please upload any additional budget information here:




RDCK Rec Comm 6 grant submission BU... .pdf

1. List of Executive Officers for your Organisation/Society, if applicable.



Board member list as of 2026.pdf

2. Copy of your Organisation/Society's AGM minutes, if applicable.



Minutes_HAVEN March 4 2026 AGM.pdf

3. Copy of your Organisation/Society's latest fiscal financial statement, if applicable.



VFE Income Statement Dec 2025-FINAL.pdf



VFE Balance Sheet Dec 2025_FINAL.pdf

7. List of other organisations or businesses that support your idea, and attach any letters of support.



Autonomus Sinixt Letter of Support - topdf



Popoff Final_letter of support_25-07-24pdf

I Acknowledge That:

I have read, understood the above and consent to the information herein provided.

Authorised Signature:

Date Signed:

Apr 13, 2026

Full Name:

Lorna Visser

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<https://rdck.jotform.com/210174658170049>

Email

recreationgrants@rdck.bc.ca

Marcy Mahr

Nicky Blackshaw

Submission Date: Apr 21, 2026 9:10 PM

Date of Application: Apr 21, 2026

Which Recreation Commission are you applying to for Financial Aid: Recreation Commission No. 6 - Area H, New Denver & Silverton (Slocan Lake)

Are you applying for Financial Aid on behalf of an organisation/society? Yes

Organisation/Society Name: Harvest Share & Bear Aware

President/Contact Name: Marcy Mahr

Contact Name: Nicky Blackshaw

Contact Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Email:

Project Title: Bear Safety on the Trails

Project Type: Operational Project

New or Continuing Project: New

Amount of Financial Aid Requested (Operational): 1000

Project Start Date: Jun 20, 2026

Project End Date: Jun 20, 2026

Estimated Number of Participants: 20 - 30

Will there be a Membership or Admission Fee? Yes

If you answered 'Yes' to the above question, how much will the Membership or Admission Fee be? 20

Brief Description of Project: This bear safety and recreation workshop provides participants with a comprehensive understanding of how to avoid bear encounters while out recreating, how to recognize bear behaviour, and respond effectively in different types of situations. It covers key factors that contribute to negative encounters and attacks, the advantages of bear spray, and the regulations surrounding its transport, use, and disposal. Participants learn when and how to use bear spray safely, including the S.P.R.A.Y. framework (S – Stop, P – Prepare, R – Remove Safety, A - Aim for the face or Build A wall, Y - Yield).

Project Location: New Denver

Please provide a brief bio/credentials of the main project leader(s): Nicky Blackshaw is the Harvest Share & Bear Aware Coordinator. She possesses exceptional skills in planning, organizing, promoting, and executing events. This is Nicky's third year as Harvest Share's Coordinator. She has a proven track record of coordinating projects, writing communications and reports, and recruiting and managing an ever-expanding volunteer base. Nicky is also an avid outdoor enthusiast and has extensive experience in bear habitat and best human practice while out recreating.

Cora Skaien is a biologist and since 2020 she has provided support locally and provincially for WildSafeBC through delivering electric fencing presentations, bear spray workshops, Bare Campground training and she also responds to Media requests for the organization.

What is the purpose and goal(s) of the project? The goal of this workshop is to educate and ensure human and wildlife safety by avoiding potentially dangerous encounters through providing practical, scenario based training using inert bear spray so participants can experience how the spray behaves and build confidence in deploying it quickly and effectively while practicing the S.P.R.A.Y. acronym (described above). The workshop blends evidence based information with hands on skill development to help people prevent wildlife conflicts while utilizing local trails and harvesting fruit and preserves in areas bears may frequent. A foundation in understanding bear ecology and bear behaviour supports participants in making good choices to stay safe in both front country and backcountry settings.

How does this support and help to develop the local economy or add value to the community? Harvest Share & Bear Aware provides a community-based solution that aims to increase community-well being reduce human-wildlife conflicts, and increase community education and awareness. Our Slocan Lake communities have an abundance of trails that supports healthy and well-being for residents and visitors. New Denver is a Bear Smart community, and the region aims to support outdoor recreation and nature-based tourism as a foundation of community and economic development. It is critical that people are aware of how to recreate responsibly and have the knowledge and tools while in bear habitat. This keeps community members safe, supports positive experiences for visitors, and provides safety for wildlife too.

Does this project compete with already established groups or businesses?

No

Will this proposed activity/project be advertised and if so, how?

The workshop will be advertised in the Valley Voice, the online Up Draft publication, on community Facebook pages, and emails will be sent directly to Harvest Share & Bear Aware volunteer program participants and shared with local trail societies to advertise to their membership base. Posters will also be posted on the local bulletin boards and trailheads.

How will support from the Recreation Commission be recognised?

The Recreation Commission name and logo will be included on printed posters, in all advertising and on social media posts. Emails to members and volunteers will also include a note that the workshop is supported by the Recreation Commission.

Do you have a partner for this project?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes' or 'Other', please provide further details:

We are partnering with WildSafe BC to host this workshop in New Denver.

Have you accessed other funds for this project?

Yes, we have applied for 2026 ReDi grant support. At the present time this funding is not confirmed. Our request included \$1,200 to host two community workshops in 2026.

REVENUE:

	Budget	Description
Recreation Grant Funds	1000	pending
Donations		
Organisation's Contributions		
Incoming Revenues	400	suggested donation \$20 per person
Fundraising		
Other Grants		
Other		
Other		
Other		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL REVENUE	1400	

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	Description
Professional Fees/Honoraria	375	for workshop presenter
Office Expenses*		
Facility Rentals	125	Knox Hall Rental Fee
Equipment/Supplies	350	cost of inert bear spray canisters
Advertising/Marketing	100	Valley Voice Ad and poster printing

	Budget	Description
Other*	400	coordinator fees
Other*	50	shipping costs for inert bear spray
Other*		
Other*		
Other*		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1400	
TOTAL REVENUE - EXPENDITURES	0	

Please upload any additional budget information here:



Harvest Share, Bear Aware - financial sta....xlsx



VWS support letter April 212026.pdf



RDCK Rec_6 - RBS Trails Letter of Suppo... .pdf



directors list.jpg

1. List of Executive Officers for your Organisation/Society, if applicable.



directors list_8658.jpg

3. Copy of your Organisation/Society's latest fiscal financial statement, if applicable.



Harvest Share, Bear Aware - financial sta....xlsx

7. List of other organisations or businesses that support your idea, and attach any letters of support.



RDCK Rec_6 - RBS Trails Letter of Suppo... .pdf



VWS support letter April 212026_2323.pdf

I Acknowledge That:

I have read, understood the above and consent to the information herein provided.

Authorised Signature:



Date Signed:

Apr 21, 2026

Full Name:

Nicky Blackshaw

Get Page URL

<https://rdck.jotform.com/210174658170049>

Email

recreationgrants@rdck.bc.ca

Bryn Perry

Gerald Wagner

Submission Date Apr 22, 2026 5:32 PM

Date of Application: Apr 22, 2026

Which Recreation Commission are you applying to for Financial Aid: Recreation Commission No. 6 - Area H, New Denver & Silverton (Slocan Lake)

Are you applying for Financial Aid on behalf of an organisation/society? Yes

Organisation/Society Name: North Slocan Trails Society

President/Contact Name: Bryn Perry

Contact Name: Gerald Wagner

Contact Phone Number:

Mailing Address:

Contact Email:

Project Title: Ranch Ridge Trail Build

Project Type: Operational Project

New or Continuing Project: Continuing

Amount of Financial Aid Requested (Operational): 1500

Project Start Date: May 4, 2026

Project End Date: Oct 30, 2026

Estimated Number of Participants: > 50

Will there be a Membership or Admission Fee? No

Brief Description of Project: Thanks to last year's support from ReDi grants, the RDCK and the CBT, we have completed our masterplan for the Ranch Ridge trail network and also flagged and cleared three trail corridors ready for building this year. The funds we are applying for will go towards hiring the crew (local job creation!) to hand build the new trails in conjunction with the CBT Trail Crew grant and will also include some machine time. These initial trails will complement the existing trails by making them more user-friendly; improving the flow of access across Ranch Ridge. We are keen to break ground on our new non-motorised trails and look forward to seeing many of the mountain bikers we see passing through the villages stop, enjoy our local trails and spend their money in the community on accommodation, supplies and food.

Project Location: Ranch Ridge, above Rosebery

Please provide a brief bio/credentials of the main project leader(s): Bryn Perry is our president and will be co-managing this project. He grew up on Slocan Lake and has mountain biked locally his whole life, building some of the area's first downhill singletrack. These days he is a Dad to three outdoorsy kids and works locally as a mountain bike guide. Bryn is motivated by seeing a variety of trails locally that attract further families into the area and give his own family the opportunity to improve their skill levels whilst having fun close to home.

Gerald Wagner is our vice-president and is working alongside Bryn on the Ranch Ridge project. He is a keen mountain biker and local business owner who is eager to see expanded visitation into the shoulder months and more facilities for locals to enjoy without a long drive. Gerald is practical and hard-working with much experience managing projects and budgets.

What is the purpose and goal(s) of the project? Expanding our existing trails into a full network will give trail users more variety to choose lower or upper trails on either side of Ranch Ridge which will in turn give us an extended riding season, with lower mountain loops that are free of snow for longer. The new connector trail will immediately benefit all riders, trail runners and hikers, including participants in the local youth outdoor education programme and the Koots Routes 55+ mountain biking group. By improving access between trails, the connector allows for expanded trail clinics and programmes that can be tailored to specific groups, genders, ethnicity, ages and abilities; reducing barriers and strengthening community support. Another positive will be reduced vehicle access as users will not have to use the FSR to make the connection. We are using feedback from our communities to proceed.

How does this support and help to develop the local economy or add value to the community? Economic growth and investment in the community, driven by trail development, is expected to support children's programming, improve school attendance, increase investment in the area and help sustain local hospital services as population growth fills vacant positions. There is an immediate need to increase tourism, as wildfire damage and recreation site closures in 2024 continue to impact tourism-related business revenue. Kootenay Rockies (2023) emphasized the importance of easily accessed trail systems along highway corridors (Ranch Ridge). Visitors stay an average of 2.9 nights in the Kootenay Rockies (Destination-BC, 2025). Accommodation, recreation, and food services account for nearly 80% of visitor spending (Destination-BC, 2025). In 2025 a survey was sent to

neighbouring mountain bike clubs. Of the 166 unique participants, 94% responded 'yes' to travelling through our local communities to reach other developed trail destinations 2–3 hours away. MBTA (2018) found that mountain-biking doubled revenue and employment over a 10-year period. As a non-profit with board and members living, working and recreating in the area, we are highly motivated to make a positive and sustainable economic impact on our villages.

Does this project compete with already established groups or businesses?

No

Will this proposed activity/project be advertised and if so, how?

All our trails are mapped once built and shared onto the Trailforks site. We share information on all our facilities on our website (northslocantrails.ca) and our social media. Our members receive twice-yearly newsletter and we also advertise with articles in the Valley Voice.

How will support from the Recreation Commission be recognised?

Recognition will be via our social media accounts and physical signage on site. We also like to acknowledge support in newspaper articles.

Do you have a partner for this project?

Yes

If you selected 'Yes' or 'Other', please provide further details:

All of our trails are managed in partnership with BC Rec Sites & Trails.

Have you accessed other funds for this project?

Yes:
 CBT Trail Crew Grant \$19,000 confirmed
 RDCK ReDi Grants \$12,000 requested
 RDCK Community Development \$5,000 requested

REVENUE:

	Budget	Description
Recreation Grant Funds	1500	Rec 6 requesting
Donations		
Organisation's Contributions		
Incoming Revenues		
Fundraising		
Other Grants	19000	CBT Trail Crew
Other	12000	RDCK ReDi
Other	5000	RDCK Comm Dev
Other		
Other		
Other		
TOTAL REVENUE	37500	

EXPENDITURES:

	Budget	Description
Professional Fees/Honoraria		
Office Expenses*	750	Book-keeping & admin/printing
Facility Rentals		

	Budget	Description
Equipment/Supplies	2000	Tool allowance and equipment
Advertising/Marketing		
Other*	29000	Trail crew employees
Other*	5000	Machine use for occasional sections
Other*	750	Training courses for crew (First Aid)
Other*		
Other*		
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		
TOTAL REVENUE EXPENDITURES	37500	

1. List of Executive Officers for your Organisation/Society, if applicable.



Board of Directors.pdf

2. Copy of your Organisation/Society's AGM minutes, if applicable.



NSTS AGM minutes 2025.pdf

3. Copy of your Organisation/Society's latest fiscal financial statement, if applicable.



NSTS Balance Sheet 2025.pdf



NSTS Income Statement 2025.pdf

7. List of other organisations or businesses that support your idea, and attach any letters of support.



Letter of Support VPO.pdf



TownofNewDenverSupportforNSTSTrail... .pdf

I Acknowledge That:

I have read, understood the above and consent to the information herein provided.

Authorised Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "G" and "W".

Date Signed:

Apr 22, 2026

Full Name:

Gerald Wagner

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Email

recreationgrants@rdck.bc.ca