

SILVER STAR RAC GRANT TALKING POINTS

- Silver Star Mountain on our eastern horizon is important to CTA:
 - place where Don and Ed first developed their vision for the Chinook Trail
 - centerpiece of the currently completed section of the Chinook Trail
- The Forest Service closed the Silver Star area to motorized use in the 1989 Forest Travel Plan to protect the meadows from vehicle damage and to enhance non-motorized recreation.
- In 1990, the Forest Service designated the 10,350-acre Silver Star Scenic Area
- In 1993, the Forest Service went through a public decision process to convert approximately 8.5 miles of old roads to trails, including the old 4109 road across the top
- Substantial illegal motorized use over the years due to temptation of old roads and lack of law enforcement on both Forest Service and DNR lands
 - all Forest Service efforts to block access have been thwarted
 - damage not confined to old roads
 - vandalism of trailheads
- Last winter, CTA, WTA, USFS and DNR held several meetings to develop a plan and cost estimates
 - 500 boulders embedded at 10 access points
 - improved gates at three locations on DNR
 - 25 signs
 - CTA and WTA volunteer crews do finishing
 - funding needed
- CTA and WTA submitted a grant proposal for more than \$59,000 to South Gifford Pinchot Resource Advisory Committee – RAC. Congress gives counties payment in lieu of taxes on federal lands to make up for the loss of revenue from declining Forest Service timber sales. Counties are required to spend between 15 and 20 percent of their payments on projects benefitting the national forest.
- RAC impressed by public-private partnership and eloquent statements in support from Forest Service – project was recommended for funding
- Announcement last week – \$66,802.50 awarded
- Work will happen next summer
- *Washington Trails article*