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## Grade Crossing Protection Fund APPLICATION FOR FUNDING

The Commission's objectives in distributing monies from its Grade Crossing Protective Fund (GCPF) are as follows: To reduce accident/incident frequency and severity at both public and private railroad crossings; and to reduce pedestrian trespassing and the frequency of trespass-related deaths and injuries along railroad rights-of-way. Any public, private, or nonprofit entity may submit an application to the Commission for GCPF monies.

The focus of the GCPF program is to fund projects that demonstrate a need for improved public safety related to one of the following four categories:

- **Grade crossing safety projects** (the Commission's original GCPF program).
- **Trespass prevention projects.** Examples of projects in this category include fencing or other physical barriers that prevent trespassing on railroad rights-of-way; pedestrian warning devices; establishing new public grade crossings; installing channeling devices; media/public relations campaigns; and enforcement-related activities.
- **Private crossing safety improvements.** Examples of projects in this category include private crossing closures; installation of private crossing-specific warning devices; installation of nighttime/off-hours locked gates; and improvements to reflectorization/conspicuousness of existing warning devices.
- **Miscellaneous safety projects.** Examples of projects in this category include improvements to motorists' ability to see approaching trains, including the removal of physical obstructions; participation in roadway improvements at or approaching grade crossings; and mitigation of crossing closures.

All projects that fall within any of these four general categories are eligible for funding consideration.

Applicant Name: **Mark Gillespie**  
Organization: **WA State Parks and Recreation Commission**

Address: **2201 N. Duncan Drive, Wenatchee, WA 98801**

Office Phone: **509-663-9601**

E-mail: **Mark. Gillespie@parks.wa.gov**

Cell Phone:

Fax Number: **509-663-9754**

Type of Application: **Grade Crossing Safety Projects**

Private crossing safety improvement

Trespass prevention

Miscellaneous

Please list all of the other companies (e.g., railroad companies) organizations, or state or local agencies that may be involved in implementing this proposal and the name, address and phone number of each.

**Mike Cowles**  
**BNSF Railway**  
**2454 Occidental Ave., South**  
**Suite 1-A**  
**Seattle, WA 98134**  
**206-625-6146**

**Kammie Bunes**  
**Interagency for Outdoor Recreation (IAC)**  
**1111 Washington Street**  
**Floor 2 East**  
**P.O. Box 40917**  
**Olympia, WA 98504-0917**  
**360-902-3019**

## **Project Information – Please attach additional information if needed.**

- 1) Provide a detailed summary of the hazard being addressed, including any accident/incident information or other supporting data. If filing this application electronically, photographs, drawings, or other optional materials that are not in electronic format may be sent to the mailing address specified in the “instructions” section and should be clearly identified as an attachment to your application:

**The only access to the boat launching ramp into the Columbia River at Columbia Hills (formally Horsethief Lake) State Park crosses a main line of the BNSF rail line. 50 +/- trains per day, including AMTRAK, pass the unprotected access road to the public boat access ramp. The combination of the curvature of the approaching track and the speed of the trains creates a visibility and safety problem. In 1991, a small child was killed at the crossing and conditions at the site have not changed.**

- 2) Provide a detailed description of your proposed project and explain how its implementation will eliminate or mitigate the hazard. If available, please attach any drawings or construction plans for your proposed project (see section 1 if filing electronically):

**State Parks and BNSF, with financial assistance from IAC have a project to relocate the direct boat access to the Columbia River by the construction of a new bridge under the existing rail line that would permit boat passage from Horsethief Lake to the Columbia River. This new water access route and improved facilities at the boat launching facility to the Lake will allow closure of the existing boat launch facility and the road/railroad crossing, thus eliminating the safety hazard associated with its use. The first phase of this project will complete design, environmental permitting and construction documents for the future construction implementation.**

- 3) Provide cost estimates, including those related to long-term maintenance:

***Phase 1 Cost is \$275,150 for the design, environmental permitting and completion of construction documents of the rail road bridge and the boat launching facility at Horsethief Lake. Of this total, \$175,000 (value of staff time) will be provided by BNSF, \$80,150 (cash) will be provided via a Boating Facilities Grant by IAC, with the balance of \$20,000 available from the GCSP grant.***

- 4) Estimated timeline of project, if approved:

***Phase 1 Completion would be June 30, 2006. Phase 2, construction, would be June 30, 2008.***

- 5) If known, provide a description of how the project’s success would be measured:

***Success will be measured by securing environmental permitting and completion of construction documents. Total success will be when the construction is completed and the existing hazardous railroad/public access road crossing is closed.***

- 6) Other comments:

For questions or assistance, please contact Ahmer Nizam at 360-664-1345 (e-mail [anizam@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:anizam@wutc.wa.gov)) or Sally Turnbull at 360-664-1230 (e-mail [Sturnbul@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:Sturnbul@wutc.wa.gov))  
Instructions

After completing the Grade Crossing Protective Fund application, please send the original and two copies to:

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Attention: Grade Crossing Protective Fund  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250**

Applications are available at [www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants), and may be filed electronically at [railinfo@wutc.wa.gov](mailto:railinfo@wutc.wa.gov). When filing electronically, please specify "Grade Crossing Protective Fund" in the subject line.

Please ensure that the names and addresses of representatives from the relevant railroad company and local jurisdiction are correct and listed in the application.

**Funding**

RCW 81.53.271 allows the Commission to grant up to twenty thousand dollars for selected projects without requiring a monetary match. The Commission, however, may limit the amount of funding per project to a lesser amount so that an optimal number of projects may be funded with regard to relative safety benefits and project costs. The Commission may also consider funding for larger safety projects for which the GCPF grant would constitute some portion of the total cost.

**Selection of Projects**

The Commission will initiate a "call for projects," soliciting applications within a specific timeframe. After the specified submittal deadline, all applications will be reviewed simultaneously. Further information about the Grade Crossing Protective Fund may be obtained on the Commission's website at [www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants](http://www.wutc.wa.gov/GCPFgrants), or by contacting Ahmer Nizam at (360) 664-1345 or Sally Turnbull at (360) 664-1230.

The Commission will review and select projects for funding based on the relative severity of the hazard being addressed, the safety benefits resulting from a project, the costs of implementing a project, and geographic diversity. For projects that require physical installations and are selected after an initial prioritization of applications,\* Commission Staff will organize an on-site meeting with representatives of the railroad, local agency, the applicant (if different from the railroad or local agency), and other entities if appropriate. The purpose of the meeting is to verify information included in the application, gain first-hand knowledge of the hazard and proposal, and give all relevant parties an opportunity to recommend alternatives or additional safety needs. The Commission will approve at an open meeting all projects that receive GCPF funds, as well as the amount of any GCPF funding, if any, to be awarded to each project. Final award of GCPF grants will be contingent upon the recipient signing an agreement specifying the terms of the grant.

\* Since funding is limited, an initial prioritization will reduce the number of eligible applicants to a number consistent with the amount of funding available.