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STATE OF WASHINGTON
RECREATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICE

January 8, 2019

Dear 2018 NOVA and RTP Applicants:

The U.S. Forest Service submitted 46 percent of the 2018 grant applications for the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) and Recreational Trails Program (RTP). It is one of many agencies directly impacted by the federal government shutdown. In addition, many of the applications submitted by nonprofit organizations are for work on Forest Service land. The Forest Service must sign a landowner agreement approving work on its lands. Forest Service staff have been on furlough for the past 2 weeks and this has severely limited their ability to complete their grant applications and sign landowner agreements for non-federal applicants.

In light of the federal government shutdown, RCO is extending the technical completion deadline for NOVA (all categories) and RTP to **January 31, 2019**. By this date, applicants must complete all of their revisions and re-submit their applications, using PRISM Online. If you have already completed the suggested changes to your application, we strongly encourage you to re-submit it to RCO now. This will give us time to complete the final review and prepare your project for evaluation.

We believe it is important to give all of our applicants a chance to complete their applications and USFS staff cannot return to work until the federal government reopens. Extending the technical completion deadline directly affects the timeline for evaluations. Below is the tentative schedule for evaluations.

- NOVA Education and Enforcement (written): March 1-25
- NOVA Nonmotorized, Nonhighway Road, and ORV (in-person): February 25 to March 1
- RTP (written): April 1 to May 6

This schedule is tentative because we do not know exactly when the federal government will reopen and we need to make sure the revised dates work for most of the advisory committee members who will evaluate your project proposals.

We are sorry for any inconvenience this change may have caused. If the shutdown continues for a longer period, we may need to make some additional adjustments to the schedule. Please pay close attention to emails from RCO. We do not want you to miss a crucial deadline.

Thank you for your patience and willingness to work with us through this uncertainty. If you have questions, please contact your RCO outdoor grants manager.

