

Community Focus Statement B: Reduce the impacts associated with seasonal visitors and tourist activities.

Action Statement B.5: Advocate with the National Forest Service (NFS) to provide snow play/recreation areas and parking that does not impact the environment.

B5

Benchmark: A partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF), receive resources and tools from the NFF, provide a list of projects to the NFF so that it can work with the National Forest Service to acquire funding, and implement projects.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Volunteer time.



Family snow play. Photo source: Steven Depolo

During the winter months, visitors flock to the Hilltop communities for snow recreation. Often these visitors drive up the mountains from the lowlands and use any piece of land for recreation, parking their vehicles on the shoulders of highways, or inundating designated parking lots. This use of the natural environment is not only a safety issue but also an environmental hazard, as recreation occurring in environmentally sensitive areas could cause permanent damage.

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), a sub-group of the NFS, focuses specifically on on-the-ground projects and programs that address watershed health and restoration, community-based forest stewardship, wildlife habitat, and recreation. A partnership between the NFF and interested community members would help the NFS better understand the issues facing the forest lands in this area and begin to make changes that will serve the community and the environment. The National Forest Foundation could provide resources and tools to the community to help concerned community members better understand the issues impacting their local forest land. The community members could provide a list of projects to the NFF that they believe would help to alleviate impacts. The NFF could then work with the National Forest Service to acquire funding and implement the projects.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a group of concerned community members to act as champions for the forest.	Champion	Month 1	National Forest Foundation https://www.nationalforests.org/ National Forest Service http://www.fs.fed.us/
2. Create a partnership with the National Forest Foundation (NFF).	Community Group	Month 2	
3. Receive resources and tools from the NFF to better understand the issues impacting the local forest land.	Community Group	Months 3 – 6	
4. Work to create a list of projects and give it to the NFF.	Community Group	Months 6 – 10	
5. Review the list and work with the National Forest Service to acquire funding for the projects.	National Forest Foundation	Years 1 – 2	
6. Implement projects with the help of the NFF.	Community Group	Years 2 - 4	