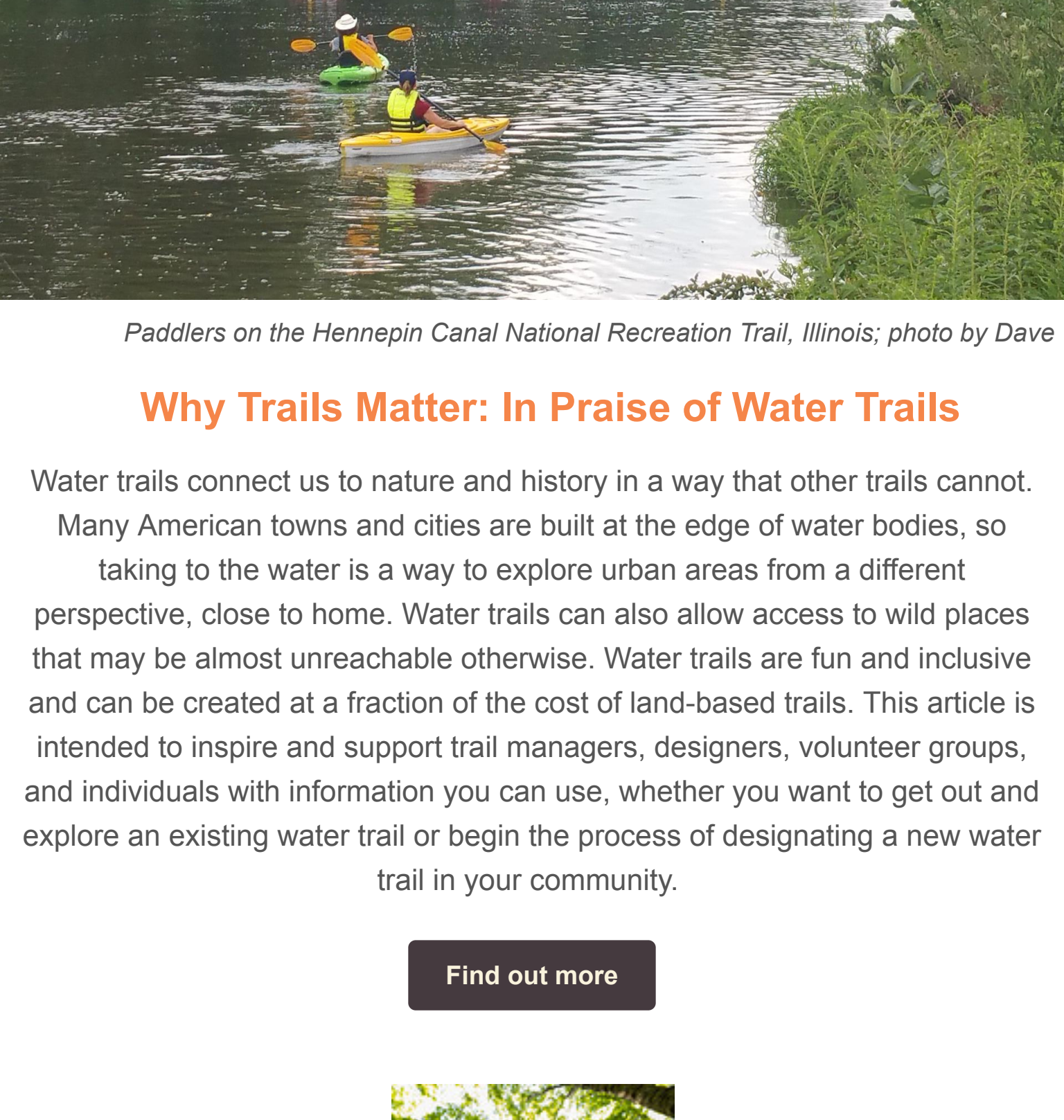




TRAIL TRACKS

July 2023

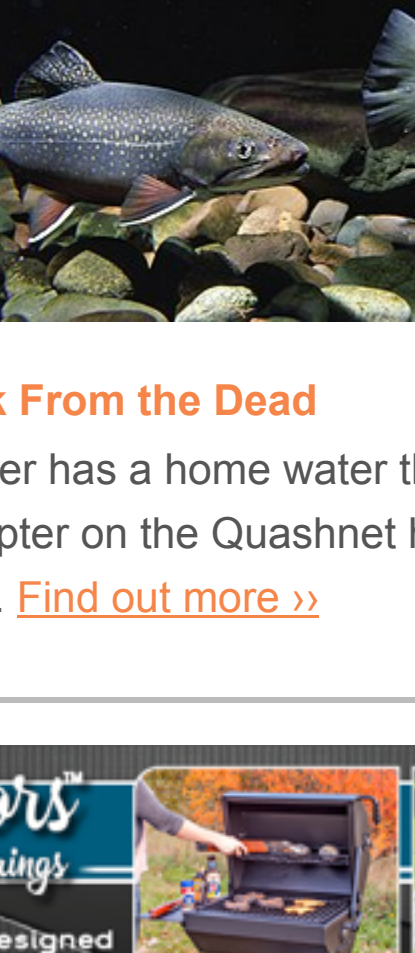


Paddlers on the Hennepin Canal National Recreation Trail, Illinois; photo by Dave

Why Trails Matter: In Praise of Water Trails

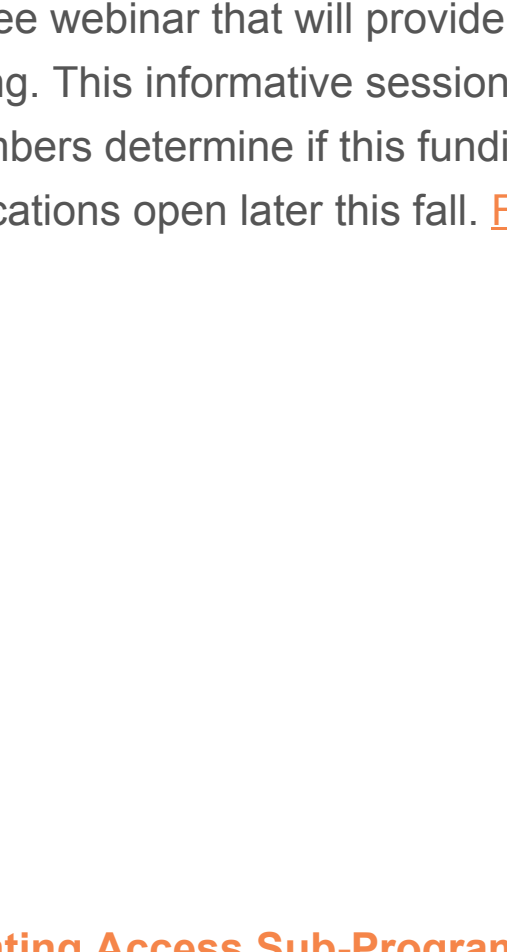
Water trails connect us to nature and history in a way that other trails cannot. Many American towns and cities are built at the edge of water bodies, so taking to the water is a way to explore urban areas from a different perspective, close to home. Water trails can also allow access to wild places that may be almost unreachable otherwise. Water trails are fun and inclusive and can be created at a fraction of the cost of land-based trails. This article is intended to inspire and support trail managers, designers, volunteer groups, and individuals with information you can use, whether you want to get out and explore an existing water trail or begin the process of designating a new water trail in your community.

[Find out more](#)



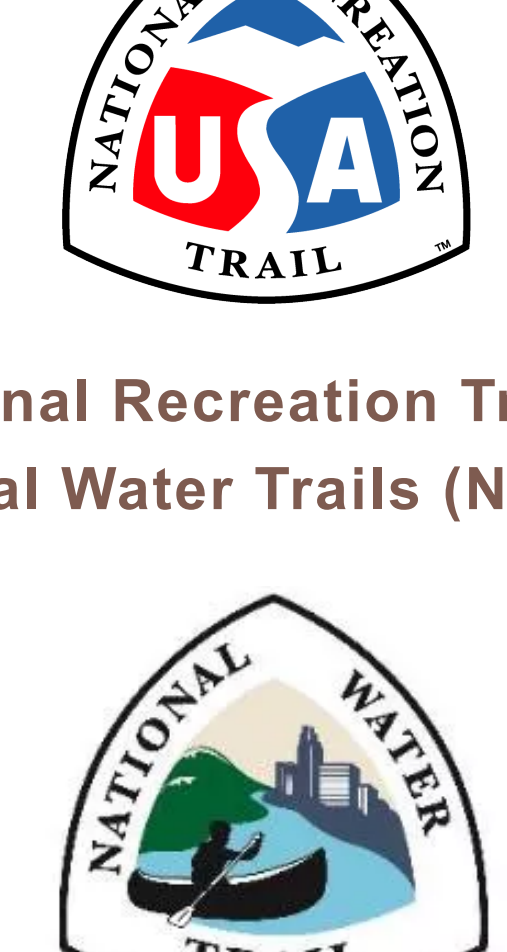
New Research Can Help Support Health of National Forests

The Forest Service is [accepting public comments](#) on how it can improve the management of National Forest lands and be climate-change-ready. The agency **must hear from the public by July 20** about the need to update its policies to support the sustainability of our nation's forest landscapes. [Find out more >>](#)



Use of Electric Bicycles Within the National Park System

The National Park Service (NPS) seeks [public input](#) on the potential impacts of e-bikes in parks across the National Park System. The NPS is **accepting comments through July 21** on a proposal to give NPS park superintendents greater authority to allow the use of e-bikes wherever traditional bicycles are currently allowed. [Find out more >>](#)



How to Bring a River Back From the Dead

Every Trout Unlimited chapter has a home water they work to care for and recover. The Cape Cod chapter on the Quashnet has salter brook trout returning to a famous creek. [Find out more >>](#)



Funding and Legislation



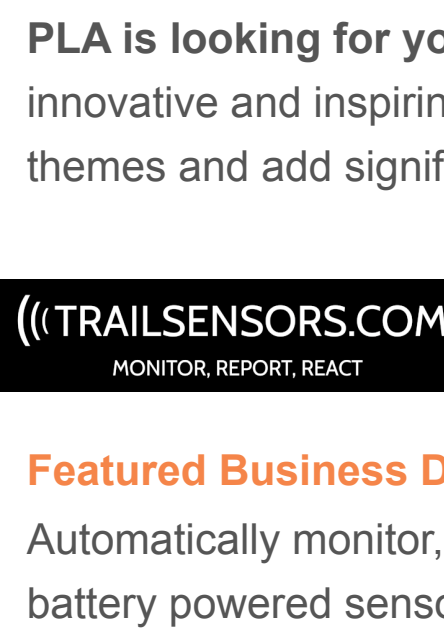
August 3 Webinar on the Legacy Trails Grant Program 2023 Pre-Application Overview

Come and join us for a free webinar that will provide details on an exciting opportunity for trail funding. This informative session is specifically designed to help trail community members determine if this funding program aligns with their requirements. Applications open later this fall. [Find out more >>](#)



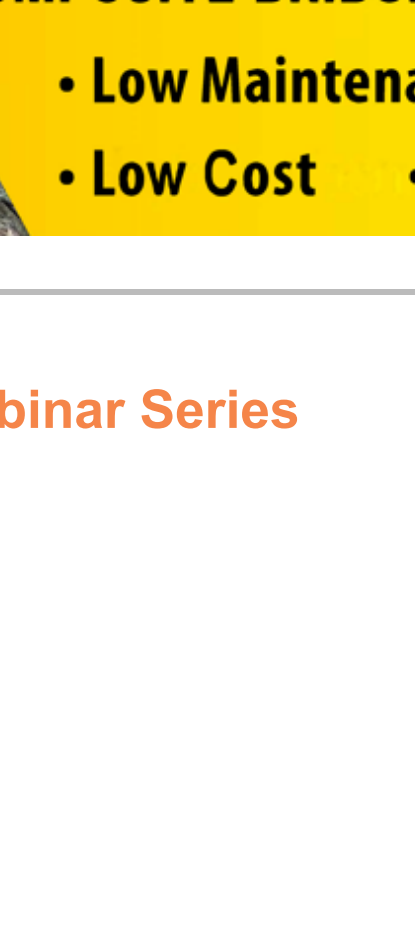
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Boating Access Sub-Program

The Boating Access sub-program of the Sport Fish Restoration Grant program provides federal funds for facilities that create or add to public access for recreational boating and improvements to waterways that increase access to recreational boating opportunities. [Find out more >>](#)

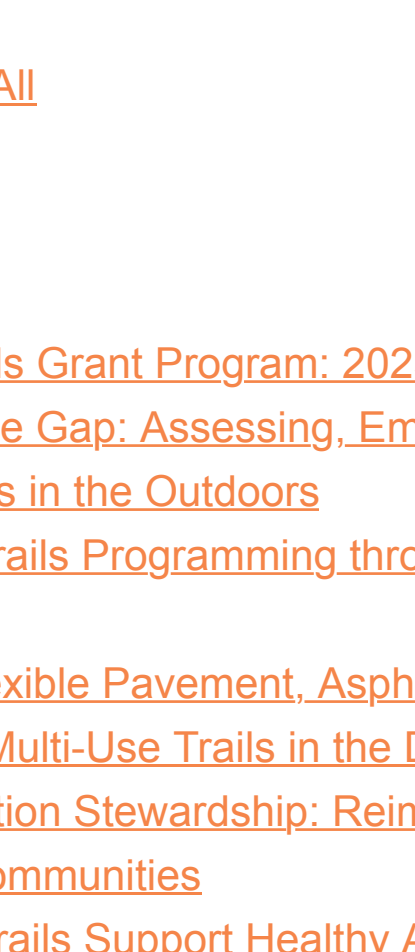


PEC Water Trail "Urgent Issue" Mini-Grant Funds Available

Grants are available for projects that can quickly and efficiently address an urgent issue on a designated [Pennsylvania Water Trail](#). [Find out more >>](#)

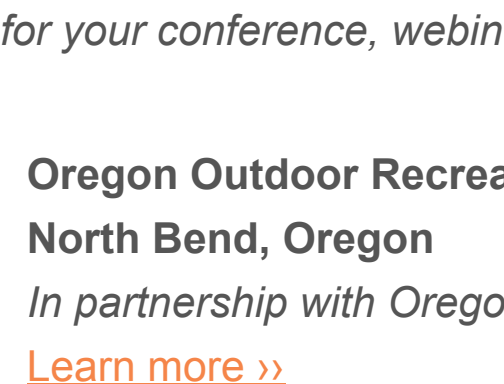


The National Recreation Trails (NRT) and National Water Trails (NWT) System



NRTs are existing land-based and water-based trails that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities on Federal, State, and local lands in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Over 1,300 of these trails have been designated throughout the nation.

NWTs are a subset of the NRT Program. The NWT System is a network of water trails open to the public to explore and enjoy. The system also serves as a community of water resource managers that benefit from information sharing and collaboration. Currently, 90 NWTs are listed in the NRT database hosted by American Trails.



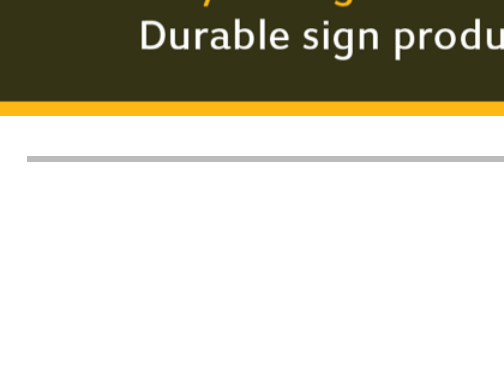
Featured NWT: Fabulous Fox! Water Trail (FF!WT), Illinois and Wisconsin

The recently designated FF!WT trail spans across the border of southeast Wisconsin and northeast Illinois. This stunning path presents an opportunity to paddle through 158 miles of picturesque Midwest towns and landscapes, encompassing prairies, forests, farms, and bluffs. [Find out more >>](#)



Another Great NWT: Willamette River Water Trail, Oregon

Discover the Willamette River Water Trail for an exciting adventure through forests, meadows, parks, farms, and cities in Oregon's famous Willamette Valley. [Find out more >>](#)



Find a Water Trail

Search the NRT Database for water trails

Find a Water Trail

The NWT System comprises a vast network of water trails that are accessible to the public for exploration and enjoyment. Currently, 90 NWTs are listed in the NRT database hosted by American Trails. [Find your water trail >>](#)

Training and Resources

Media Release: NOCTI Trail Skills Assessment Workshop with Bicycle Trail Industry Leaders at NWACC July 10-12

NOCTI conducted an assessment development workshop at NorthWest Arkansas Community College (NWACC), where NWACC, NOCTI, and bicycle trail industry leaders worked together to develop a nationally standardized accreditation exam for trailbuilding and maintenance competencies. [Find out more >>](#)

2023 Montana Outdoor Recreation Summit October 11-13, Butte, MT

Come and be a part of the Montana Outdoor Recreation Summit! Discover the importance of preserving outdoor resources, promoting diversity, and the economic benefits they bring. Experience live panel discussions, engaging workshops, exciting field tours, a film festival, and more. [Find out more >>](#)

Public Lands Alliance (PLA) 2024: Themes & Speaker Suggestions

PLA is excited to dive deeper into the following themes at the [2024 Convention and Trade Show](#):

- Health and Healing on Public Lands
- Inclusive Story Telling
- Community-Led Stewardship
- Adapting and Thriving in Uncertain Climates

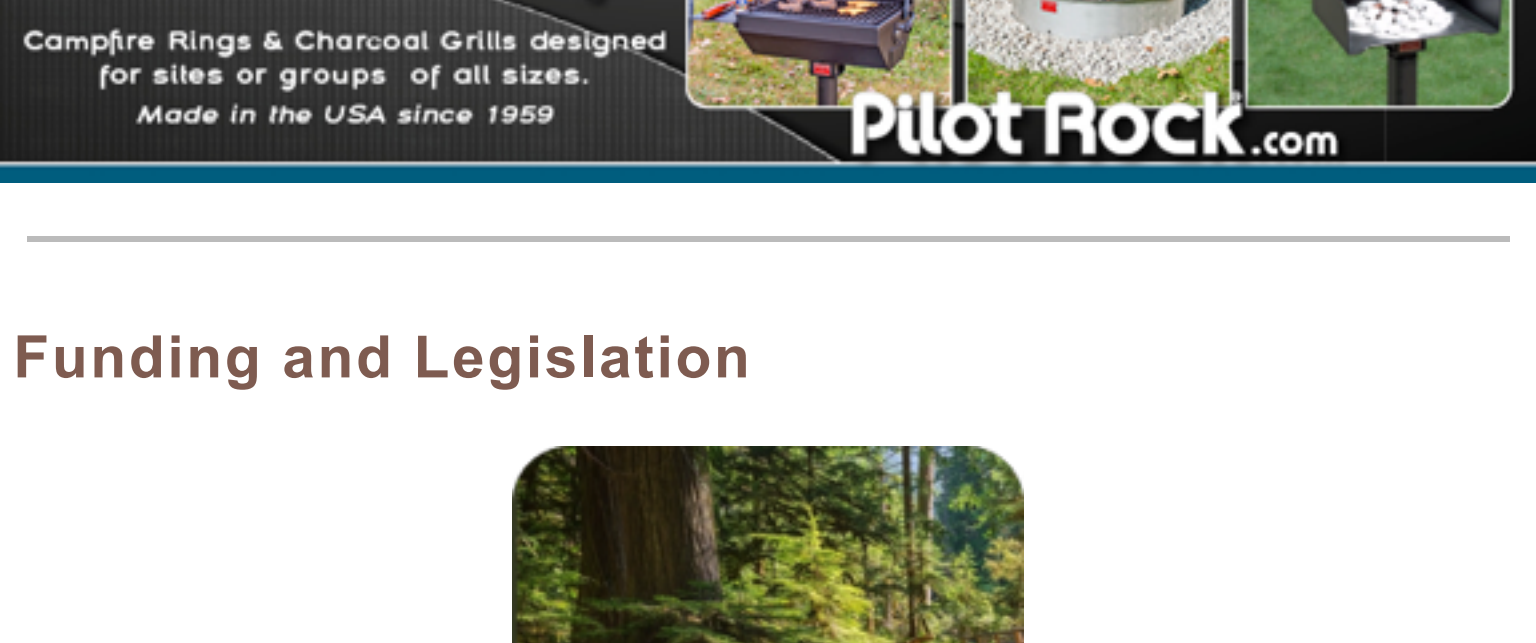
PLA is looking for your input by July 24! Follow the link if you know about innovative and inspiring speakers who would connect with one of these themes and add significant value to the event for participants. [Find out more >>](#)

Featured Business Directory Advertiser: Trail Sensors

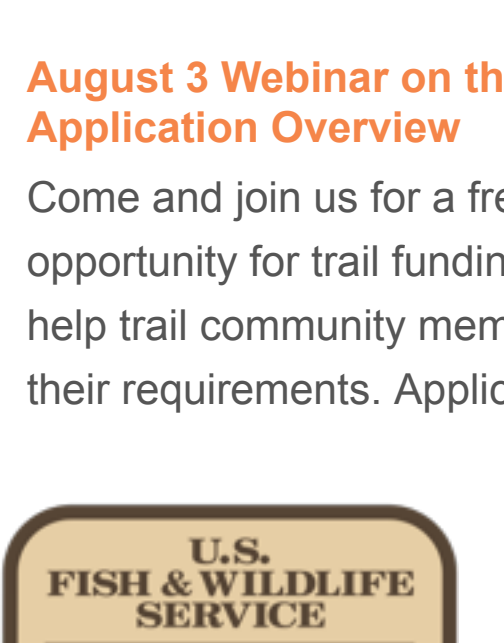
Automatically monitor, report, and react to trail conditions with our long range battery powered sensors. TrailSensors.com provides affordable solutions for long range communications projects. [Find out more >>](#)

Mythbusting the Great Outdoors: What's True and What's Not?

Do you believe that lightning never strikes the same place twice or playing dead when you meet a black bear works? Read Jim Schmid's review of Jamie Siebrasse's latest book that delves into various outdoor myths. [Find out more >>](#)



Advancing Trails Webinar Series



American Trails brings agencies, trail builders, planners, architects, advocates, and volunteers the latest in state-of-the-art information on all aspects of trails and greenways.

All webinars are recorded and can be accessed for free via our [online store](#) at any time. Recordings of past webinars are also being added to our [YouTube channel](#) on a weekly basis.

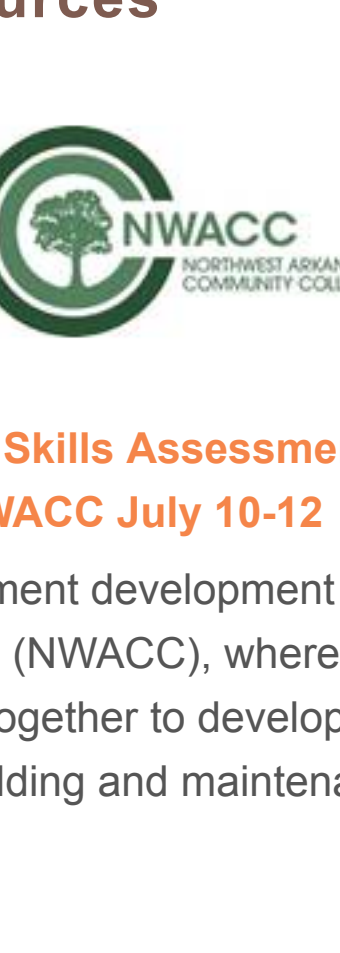
Free July Webinars

- July 6: [National Water Trails: Designating Your Trail for NWT Status](#)
- July 13: [Trail-Specific Insurance Town Hall](#)
- July 20: [Risk Management: Lessons Learned from Near-Misses on the Trail and in Trail Work](#)
- July 27: [Outdoors for All](#)

Free Future Webinars

- August 3: [Legacy Trails Grant Program: 2023 Pre-Application Overview](#)
- August 10: [Bridging the Gap: Assessing, Empowering, and Engaging People with Disabilities in the Outdoors](#)
- August 17: [Creative Trails Programming through Public-Private Partnerships](#)
- August 24: [Porous Flexible Pavement, Asphalt, or Porous Asphalt: Lessons Learned for Multi-Use Trails in the District of Columbia](#)
- September 7: [Destination Stewardship: Reimagining the Purpose of Tourism in Outdoor Communities](#)
- September 21: [How Trails Support Healthy Aging for All](#)
- September 28: [Engaging, Enabling, and Motivating Families and Diverse Trail Users](#)
- October 26: [Measuring Our Success in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- November 30: [Digital Transformation of Trail Management and Monitoring](#)
- December 14: [Encouraging Indigenous Participation in Trail Management and Interpretation](#)
- December 21: [Outdoor Electric Assist Devices: Opportunity or Opposition](#)

Additional Free Learning Credit Opportunities



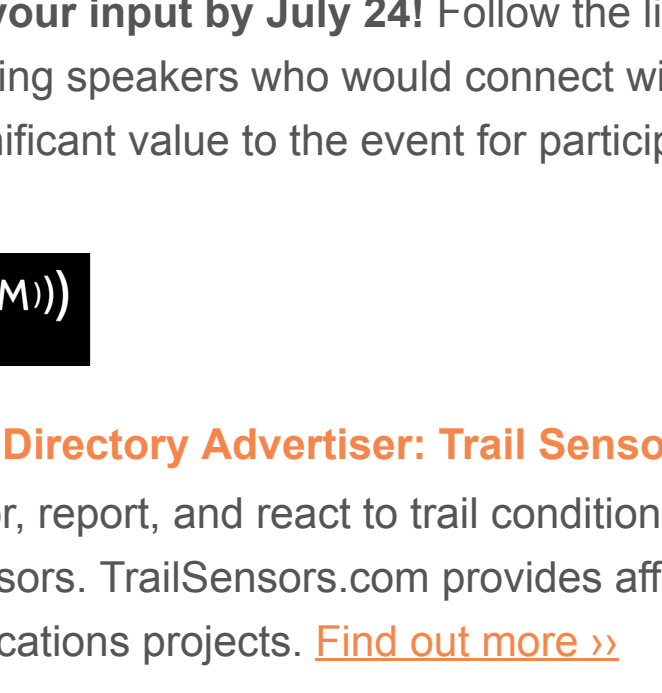
American Trails is partnering with the following organization(s) to offer [free learning credits](#) to attendees.

Send us an [email](#) if you wish to offer learning credits for FREE to your attendees for your conference, webinar, workshop, etc. (virtual or in-person).

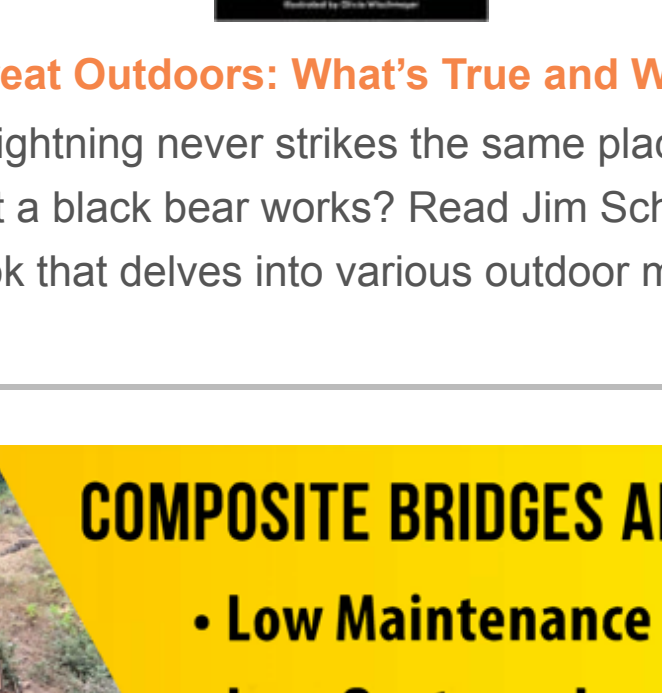
Oregon Outdoor Recreation Summit – November 2-4, 2023 – Coos Bay-North Bend, Oregon

In partnership with Oregon Trails Coalition

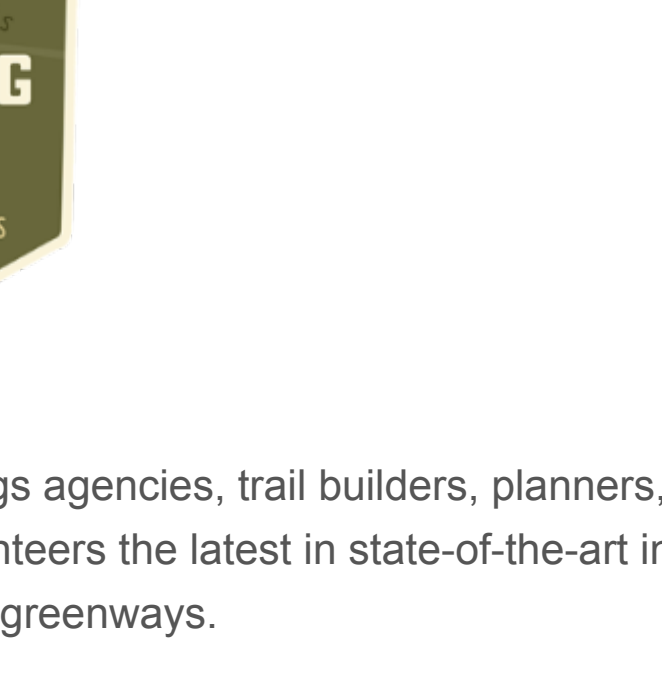
[Learn more >>](#)



Enter the Trails Workforce Job Board



Build Your Skills Training Calendar



Trail Workers of America Group

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