



HIKE THE HILL[®]

2021 Trail Priorities

Trail Funding (FY 22 Top Priorities)

- Dedicated and robust funding in FY22 for all trails, including the National Trails System, across Interior and Related Agencies (Forest Service, NPS, BLM, & FWS)
- Restore agency staffing levels at public land management agencies to ensure maintenance and management of our nation's trail systems.

Transit to Trails Act (Transportation)

- Support and Co-sponsor the Transit to Trails Act
- Include the Transit to Trails Act in any Infrastructure Package

National Scenic Trails within the National Park Service

- Support and Co-sponsor the National Scenic Trails Parity Act

Support Outdoor Equity and Access Legislation

- Support and Co-sponsor the Outdoors for All Act
- Provide \$500M Park Stimulus Funding for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, including Co-Sponsoring the Parks, Jobs and Equity Act (H.R. 1678).

Recreational Trails Program Legislation (Transportation)

- Co-sponsor the Recreational Trails Full Funding Act of 2021 (H.R.1864)
- Reauthorize and fund the Recreational Trails Program at \$250M annually in any Infrastructure Package or Surface Transportation Reauthorization Legislation

Who We Are

American Hiking Society is the only national, recreation-based nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering millions of hikers to enjoy, share, and preserve the hiking experience.

The **Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)** comprised of 34 member and 8 affiliate organizations works to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails within the National Trails System.



For more information on trails and other contact Tyler Ray, Director of Policy and Advocacy, tray@americanhiking.org or Valerie Rupp, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System, valerie@pnts.org





Trails Community Appropriations Recommendations

USDA Forest Service

- Fund Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails budget at \$29.35M, including \$11.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails, and continued support for the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Trail Stewardship Funding
- \$56.8M to fund Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness
- \$100M to fund Legacy Roads & Trails as a separate line item

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- Trails Line Item, including at least \$10.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails, with robust funding for BLM trails
- Fund National Conservation Lands at \$65.131M
- \$10.5M to fund National Conservation Lands- National Scenic Historic Trails, sub-activity Recreation Resources Management, including \$3.15M to operate Historic Trail Interpretive Centers
- Restore BLM FTE staffing levels, including for trail management and maintenance

Fish and Wildlife Service

- Funding for Refuge Visitor Services at least \$79.973M

National Park Service

- Funding for the Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program at \$15M
- Funding for Park Service Operations for the National Trails System maintained at a minimum of \$21M
- Restore funding for Volunteers in Parks programs at a minimum of \$8M, including an acknowledgment of the benefits for trails
- Restore funding for Visitor Services sub-activity, Youth Partnership Programs at a minimum of \$10.95M, including an acknowledgment of the benefits for trails
- Robust funding for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, at a minimum of \$125M

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA)- Commerce, Justice Science

- \$1.5M to fund the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account

US Geological Survey

- \$1.5M to fully fund the National Digital Trail Project (NDTP) of USGS

For more information on trails appropriations contact Tyler Ray, Director of Policy and Advocacy, tray@americanhiking.org; Valerie Rupp, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System, valerie@pnats.org; and Mike Passo, Executive Director, American Trails



Partnership for the National Trails System

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Summary of FY22 Appropriations Request

Land & Water Conservation Fund

Partnership for the National Trails System requests \$23.035 million be allocated to fully fund FY'22 Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) requests submitted for projects on National Scenic and Historic Trails, including \$17.54 million to the U.S. Forest Service, \$3.15 million to the National Park Service, \$1.98 million to Bureau of Land Management. Funding for these projects would protect precious natural resources and crucial sites and segments along five Congressionally authorized trails in 8 states while preserving over 2,300 acres of lands containing high-level biodiversity of plants and animals and significant old growth forests that operate as a carbon bank that help mitigate the impacts of climate change. Further, given the healthy pipeline of forthcoming land preservation projects on National Trails, over the next three years, we ask Congress to increase funding to \$50 million per year to LWCF projects on National Trails to complete the National Trail System.

In addition, we request the following appropriations by agency for National Scenic and Historic Trails.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The BLM has no specific account in its budget for funding national trails or trails in general, including the three National Historic Trails that it is charged by law to administer and the portions of the 13 other national trails that it manages on public lands. We request that a trails line item be included in the BLM budget to provide transparency across sub activity accounts and create consistent funding for trails. Further, we request \$10.5 million in funding for National Scenic and Historic Trails, plus an additional \$3.15 million to operate historic trail interpretive centers.

National Park Service (NPS)

The NPS has administrative responsibility for 23 National Scenic and Historic Trails established by Congress. Adequate funding at \$21 million within the NPS Operations account for the National Trails System is essential for keeping these popular trails accessible. In addition, continued support for the Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program will provide NPS expertise in trail and other recreation access projects to communities across the country. Funding for the RCTA program at \$15 million will ensure these trail planning services are made available to communities in all regions of the nation.

U.S. Forest Service (FS)

We request \$28.8 million to be allocated for National Trails, with \$11.5 million going to the National Scenic and Historic Trails including funds for operations, construction and maintenance.

Budget modernization led FS to remove the salaries for trail administrator positions from the CMTL line item, making it difficult for nonprofit partners to track staff time dedicated to national trails. We request that FS continue to indicate staff expenses for each trail, either by reinstating the practice of including staff expenses in trail line items budgets or by some alternate means, to ensure transparency.

Contact: Valerie Rupp, Executive Director of Partnership for the National Trails System, valerie@pnts.org or 202.963.2910

Partner Organizations

National Scenic Trail Members:

Appalachian Mountain Club
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Arizona Trail Association
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Continental Divide Trail Coalition
Continental Divide Trail Society
Florida Trail Association
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Natchez Trace Parkway Association
North Country Trail Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Pacific Northwest Trail Association
Potomac Heritage Trail Association

National Historic Trail Members:

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
Arza Trail Foundation
Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association
Chesapeake Conservancy
E Mau Nā Ala Hele
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.
Mormon Trails Association
Nez Perce Trail Foundation
Old Spanish Trail Association
Oregon-California Trails Association
Overmountain Victory Trail Association
Santa Fe Trail Association
Trail of Tears Association
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT Association, Inc.

Affiliate Members:

American Discovery Trail Association
American Hiking Society
Back Country Horsemen of America
Carson Valley Trails Association
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association
National Frontier Trails Museum
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Smoky Hill Trail Association
Tahoe Rim Trail Association

Trails Community Appropriations Recommendations

Detailed Justifications

Overview:

Trails are the gateway to fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, climbing, and more. A thriving trails system can provide access for all communities, support economic growth, and expand opportunities for healthy outdoor recreation.

Access to open spaces for recreation has been shown by many studies to improve physical and mental health and to increase quality of life.¹ Trails bring those health benefits to all by providing individuals of diverse backgrounds access to our public lands for all types of outdoor recreation.

According to the Outdoor Industry Association, trail-centered activities directly generate over \$594 billion² and nearly 3.5 million jobs³ annually. On federally-managed land, outdoor recreation contributes more than \$64.6 billion to the national economy and supports more than 623,000 jobs annually.⁴

Forest Service Recommendation:

National Forest trails benefit everyone and receive increasing public use each year. Collectively, the National Forests provide 157,000 miles of trails for activities ranging from hiking, biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle usage, groomed winter trails for cross-country skiing and snowmobiling, and access points for “river trails.” Even with enactment of the Great American Outdoors Act, this trail system is increasingly stressed and annual maintenance cannot keep pace with the growing demand due to inadequate funding. Roughly 120,000 of the 159,000 miles of trails are in need of some form of maintenance or repair.⁵

Fund Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails budget at \$29.35M, including \$11.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails

As trails use continues to increase along with annual maintenance needs, funding at \$29.35M will restore funding above 2011 levels, which reflects the highest funding levels going back to at least 2005.

Within CMTL, Trails Increase Support for the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance Trail Stewardship Funding

Much of the agency's trail work is accomplished today by volunteer groups and non-profit partners. The Forest Service has a successful Trail Stewardship Partner Funding challenge cost share program that leverages federal funding by 3 to 5:1. We encourage expanded support of this program within the CMTL,

¹ American Hiking Society, Health Benefits of Hiking, <https://americanhiking.org/resources/health-benefits-of-hiking/> (last visited 1/27/2020). See also Harvard Medical School, *Exercising to Relax*, Updated July 13, 2018, <https://www.health.harvard.edu/staying-healthy/exercising-to-relax>.

² OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY 18 (2017), available at https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf. Trail centered activities generated \$594,311,835,880 from retail spending, salaries, and federal and state taxes.

³ Id. Trail centered activities create 3,476,845 jobs.

⁴ OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY 15 (2017), available at https://outdoorindustry.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/OIA_RecEconomy_FINAL_Single.pdf; “Forest Service Makes it Easier for Visitors to Enjoy National Forests and Grasslands.” U.S. Forest Service, <https://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/forest-service-makes-it-easier-visitors-enjoy-national-forests-and-grasslands>.

⁵ <https://www.fs.usda.gov/news/releases/usda-forest-service-announces-challenge-increase-focus-problems-facing-nations>

Trails line item for dedicated funding to challenge cost share efforts focused on non-profit partnerships. This funding can also significantly increase conservation corps work on trail systems with additional funding.

\$56.8M to fund Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness

The National Forests and Grasslands provide a great diversity of outdoor recreational opportunities, connecting the American public with nature in an unmatched variety of settings and activities. Funding at \$56.8M will restore funding to 2013 levels (minus estimated cost-share amounts), which reflect the highest funding level going back to at least 2005.

\$100M to fund Legacy Roads & Trails as a separate line item

For FY2022, Legacy Roads & Trails should be reinstated as a separate line item in the USFS budget with \$100,000,00 distinctly designated for urgently needed road and trail repair, maintenance and storm-proofing, fish passage barrier removal, and road decommissioning, especially in areas where Forest Service roads may be contributing to water quality problems in streams and water bodies which support threatened, endangered or sensitive species or community water sources.

Bureau of Land Management Recommendation:

The BLM manages 13,468 miles of trails over 245 million acres —more land than any other federal land management agency. Most of the country's BLM-managed public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska, and contains a diversity of landscapes that often provide the public less structured but nonetheless diverse recreational opportunities. BLM recreation resources and visitor services support strong local economies. More than 120 urban centers and thousands of rural towns (comprising 64 million people) are located within 25 miles of BLM lands.

Trails Line Item, including at least \$10.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails, with robust funding for all BLM trails

A trails line item in the BLM budget will address the fragmented funding allocations across sub activity accounts and create consistent funding for trails. The BLM has no specific account in its budget for funding national trails or trails in general, including the three National Historic Trails that it is charged by law to administer and the portions of the 13 other national trails that it manages on public lands. A trails line item in the BLM budget (including at least \$10.5M for National Scenic and Historic Trails plus an additional \$3.15 million to operate historic trail interpretive centers, as described in greater detail below, will address the fragmented funding allocations across sub activity accounts and create consistent funding for trails.

Fund National Conservation Lands at \$65.131M

National Conservation Lands funds enhance recreational access, conserve the Nation's heritage and manage these nationally recognized resources. We urge you to consider the additional demands BLM is responsible for – and the increasing popularity of these lands – and provide a sharp increase in base funding for the National Conservation Lands. Remarkably, this increase would restore program funding to its FY2006 funding level. Such an increase is needed to properly administer the system's expansion by 18 million acres since 2000, and will permit increased inventory, monitoring and protection of cultural resources, enhance proper management of all resources and provide a quality visitor experience. This should also include robust funding for National Scenic and Historic Trails, as recommended below.

\$10.5M to fund National Conservation Lands- National Scenic Historic Trails, sub-activity Recreation Resources Management, including \$3.15M to operate Historic Trail Interpretive Centers

At a minimum, include language that directs the Bureau to include unit-level allocations within major sub-activities for each of the scenic and historic trails — as the Bureau has done for the national monuments, wilderness, and conservation areas. The Bureau’s lack of a unified budget account for National Trails or trails line item prevents the agency from efficiently planning, implementing, reporting, and taking advantage of cost-saving and leveraging partnerships and volunteer contributions for every activity related to these national resources.

Restore BLM FTE staffing levels, including for trail management and maintenance

Across the board staffing shortages have impacted BLM’s ability to complete its mission, including management and maintenance.

Fish and Wildlife Service Recommendation:

Refuge Visitor Services provides funding for trail maintenance across FWS-managed land. Located in every U.S. state and territory, and within an hour’s drive of nearly every major U.S. city, National Wildlife Refuges provide incredible opportunities for outdoor recreation, including hiking, hunting, fishing, birding, boating and nature photography across 2,500 miles of trails. More than 37,000 jobs are reliant on refuges. Funding at a level of \$74.227M will provide for trail maintenance across the land and water trails, refuges, wetlands, and hatcheries, including eleven National Scenic and Historic Trails and forty-four National Recreation Trails.

Funding for Refuge Visitor Services at least \$79.973M

Funding at \$79.973M will restore funding to 2010 levels, which reflect the highest funding level going back to at least 2006.

National Park Service Recommendation:

National Parks, and the world-class experiences their 18,844 miles of trails provide, are one of the most unifying forces in America. Well-maintained trails improve the quality of visitor experiences and enhance visitor safety.

Funding for the Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program at \$15M

The RTCA program brings the expertise of over a century of land management to the greater recreation community. When a community asks for assistance with a project, National Park Service staff provide free critical tools for success, on-location facilitation, and planning expertise, which draw from project experiences across the country and adapt best practices to a community’s specific needs. Funding at \$15M will ensure these trail planning services are made available to communities in all regions of the nation, including recreation programs for youth.

Funding for Park Service Operations for the National Trails System maintained at a minimum of \$21M

The NPS has administrative responsibility for 23 National Scenic and Historic Trails established by Congress. Funding at \$21M within the Park Service Operations account for the National Trails System is essential for keeping these popular trails accessible. The request will help the work of trail organization partners of the Park Service to build, maintain, and interpret these trails.

Restore funding for Volunteers in Parks programs at a minimum of \$8M, including an acknowledgment of the benefits for trails

Volunteers in Parks leverages private donations with public funding to maximize trail maintenance resources.

Restore funding for Visitor Services sub-activity, Youth Partnership Programs at a minimum of \$10.95M, including an acknowledgment of the benefits for trails

The Youth Partnership Program in part funds the Public Land Corps program, which provides education and work opportunities for men and women aged 16-30. The NPS utilizes non-profit youth serving organizations to perform critical natural and cultural resource conservation projects at NPS sites. Without funding, projects completed by youth crews through these programs would not be accomplished. These projects range from masonry apprenticeships on historic structures to Tribal land improvements; to engaging other youth through coordination of culturally-based workshops and outdoor recreation clubs.

Robust funding for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) Program, at a minimum of \$125M provided in FY 2021

Robust funding for LWCF programs reflect the nation's outdoor recreation priorities. Maintain robust funding for ORLP, at a minimum maintaining the FY21 \$125M appropriation.

Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account (ORSA)- Commerce, Justice Science

\$1.5M to fund the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account

Funding at \$1.5M will allow the Bureau of Economic Analysis to continue to provide data and analysis for the Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account and demonstrate the value of outdoor recreation to the economy.

US Geological Survey

\$1.5M to fully fund the National Digital Trail Project (NDTP) of USGS

The USGS National Digital Trails project supports the Department of Interior's vision to "Increase access to outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans..." Full funding at \$1.5M will allow the USGS to provide critical information and research for our nation's trails, including a web-based interactive decision support tool (TRAILS) that identifies potential routes to improve connectivity between existing trails and trail systems, a nationwide digital trails database in the public domain, and a mobile applications to provide trail maintenance information to land management agencies.



Partnership for the National Trails System

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Contributions Sustaining the National Scenic and Historic Trails Made by Partner Trail Organizations

Year	Volunteer Hours	Estimated Value of Volunteer Labor	Financial Contributions	Total \$ Value
1995	369,941	\$4,262,093	\$2,754,934	\$7,017,027
1996	473,066	\$4,467,794	\$4,071,409	\$8,539,203
1997	439,299	\$5,686,028	\$4,243,943	\$9,929,971
1998	498,702	\$6,909,157	\$4,403,802	\$11,312,959
1999	553,905	\$7,422,326	\$5,780,340	\$13,202,666
2000	593,392	\$8,799,993	\$6,638,313	\$15,438,306
2001	621,615	\$9,566,652	\$6,652,079	\$16,218,731
2002	662,429	\$10,631,985	\$6,850,214	\$17,482,199
2003	648,548	\$10,726,994	\$6,997,803	\$17,724,797
2004	668,996	\$11,801,091	\$6,449,719	\$18,250,810
2005	723,191	\$13,046,366	\$7,275,556	\$20,321,922
2006	687,904	\$12,409,472	\$7,934,074	\$20,343,546
2007	720,935	\$13,540,396	\$8,064,293	\$21,604,689
2008	771,993	\$15,631,643	\$9,108,338	\$24,739,981
2009	907,380	\$18,601,296	\$8,823,248	\$27,424,544
2010	1,115,559	\$24,366,484	\$12,486,240	\$36,852,724
2011	1,141,866	\$24,390,258	\$8,714,610	\$33,104,868
2012	1,185,375	\$26,244,202	\$7,509,777	\$33,753,979
2013	1,144,407	\$25,337,171	\$10,685,751	\$36,022,922
2014	1,053,896	\$23,765,355	\$10,836,694	\$34,602,049
2015	1,073,026	\$24,754,710	\$12,396,728	\$37,151,438
2016	1,029,569	\$24,256,645	\$13,184,886	\$37,441,531
2017	1,046,194	\$25,796,531	\$14,485,936	\$40,282,467
2018	978,034	\$24,871,405	\$14,489,472	\$39,360,877
2019	997,162	\$27,122,806	\$15,934,798	\$43,057,604
2020	942,886	\$25,646,499	\$23,146,874	\$48,793,373
Total	21,049,270	\$430,055,352	239,919,831	\$669,975,183

The 1995 and 1996 totals represent contributions from 20 organizations for 20 national scenic and historic trails while the 1997 - 2001 totals represent the contributions of 22 organizations for those trails and the 2002 - 2005 totals represent the contributions of 24 organizations for 21 national scenic and historic trails. 2006 and 2007 totals are the contributions of 23 organizations for 20 national scenic and historic trails. The 2009 and 2010 totals include the contributions for four new national scenic and historic trails authorized by Congress in 2009.

*Dollar values not adjusted for inflation.





CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IN 2020

TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM BY
NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL ORGANIZATIONS



Trail Organization(s)	Active Volunteers	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Private Contributions
Ala Kahakai Trail Association and E Mau Nā Ala Hele	-	194	\$5,276.80	\$1,505
Anza Trail Foundation and partners	109	12,337	\$335,566.40	\$11,175
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	3,562	135,746	\$3,692,291.20	\$15,741,399
Arizona Trail Association	655	14,909	\$405,524.80	\$679,198
Chesapeake Conservancy and partners	-	-	-	\$173,271
Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Appalachian Mountain Club	636	6,733	\$183,137.60	\$22,100
Continental Divide Trail Coalition and partners	?	30,228	\$ 822,201.60	\$ 751,879
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	66	10,079	\$274,148.80	\$78,750
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association	10	300	\$8,160	\$500
Florida Trail Association	524	16,119	\$438,436.80	\$222,034
Ice Age Trail Alliance	1499	53297	\$1,449,678.40	\$1,396,863
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance	220	2800	\$76,160	\$8,470
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc., and partners	848	63,292	\$1,721,542.40	\$95,000
Mormon Trails Association and partners	-	-	-	\$25
Natchez Trace Parkway Association	25	3,440	\$93,568	\$21,000
National Pony Express Association	589	15,132	\$411,590.40	\$5,695
National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT Association, Inc. (W3R-US)	87	8,331	\$226,603.20	\$69,832
Nez Perce Trail Foundation	6	450	\$12,240	\$600
North Country Trail Association	988	91,086	\$2,477,539.20	\$800,217
Old Spanish Trail Association	1,255	27,610	\$750,992.00	\$8,000
Oregon-California Trails Association	200	337,509	\$9,180,244.80	\$228,850
Overmountain Victory Trail Association	400	21,064	\$572,940.80	\$14,504
Pacific Crest Trail Association	832	29,469	\$801,556.80	\$2,675,574
Pacific Northwest Trail Association	190	3,614	\$98,300.80	\$54,310
Potomac Heritage Trail Association	10	600	\$16,320	\$3,300
Santa Fe Trail Association	978	44,107	\$1,199,710.40	\$68,358
Trail of Tears Association	127	14,440	\$392,768	\$14,465
Totals	13,816	942,886	\$25,646,499.20	\$23,146,874

Notes: Value of volunteer time calculated using the national 2019 value of volunteer time (\$27.20/hour) by the Independent Sector. Some, but not all, trail organizations include Federal reimbursement rates for miles driven for volunteer work as part of their private contributions. Volunteer Stewardship activities include, but are not limited to: trail building and maintenance, outreach event development, youth engagement, public education, development of interpretive materials and sites, removal of invasive species, habitat restoration, land protection, historic research, reenactments, archaeological studies, and community partnership development.



STATE OF THE TRAILS



Seeds of Stewardship middle school participants during a trail maintenance project in October 2020. Photo credit: Daniel Snyder

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Each year, Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) works in collaboration with the nonprofit trail organizations and Federal agency partners that represent the 30 national scenic and historic trails to compile the State of the Trails Report, a snapshot of the range and variety of resources, values, connections, and benefits the National Trails System provides to the nation. This is a work in progress. Some of the information, including the number of miles and historic sites permanently protected, is tracked irregularly or with varying degrees of certainty. PNTS will continue to collect and provide information trusting that the data will become more complete over time.

2020 was a year of great challenges and progress for the National Trails System. During the COVID-19 pandemic, more visitors sought outdoor activities for socially distanced recreation, leading to a great increase in trail use. Meanwhile, many trail organizations and federal workers pivoted some or all of their operations to remote work,

limited or prohibited access to visitors' centers and opted to change, reduce or temporarily cease volunteer activities to ensure the safety of visitors, staff and volunteers. Also, several trails were affected by devastating wildfires that left a significant mark on invaluable public lands and habitats.

There was much to celebrate as well. For example, the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) was passed by Congress with bipartisan support. GAOA, arguably, is the most significant trails and conservation legislation in decades. It secures permanent funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund and provides funding for deferred maintenance for facilities—including trails—within the National Parks, National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts. These resources have potential to greatly advance goals to complete and maintain the National Trails System. tional Forests and Bureau of Land Management Districts.

69% of the U.S. population lives within **60** miles of a national scenic or historic trail

Source: Based on 2020 U.S. Census Data

NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL CONNECTIONS

- 50** States and D.C.
- 100+** BLM land management areas
- 230+** Major urban areas and Trail Towns
- 390+** National parks, forests, wildlife refuges, nationally designated wilderness areas

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Transforming** the national scenic and historic trails from a collection of premier trails into a national public lands system like the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System or the National Wilderness System.
- **Completing** the trails on the ground—closing the gaps in the scenic trails and preserving and interpreting all the “high potential sites and segments” along the historic trails.
- **Growing** all of the national trail organizations to greatly enhance their capacity and resources and that of the Federal trail agencies to be able to fully develop and sustain the National Trails System.

Trail Organizations and Federal Partners saw a

274% increase in engagement

thanks to newly developed virtual programs, events, and activities put in place due to Covid-19 restrictions.

2020 EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES, EVENTS, AND PROGRAMS

809,816 people were engaged through programs, including:

131,951	106,257	123
school-age children (K-12)	young adults (ages 18-25)	youth service or conservation corps participants

2,621 programs were conducted, including:

215 involving traditionally under-represented children/adults



22 benefiting veterans

Source: Estimates collected through PNTS survey based on programming operated by Federal and nonprofit trail partners in 2020.

PNTS PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

50 intern grants totaling over \$459,000 have been awarded to national trails since 2018, matched by in-kind and Federal and nonprofit funds for an approximate

3:1 return on investment

2020 ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS, VOLUNTEER HOURS, AND VALUE

\$ 25,646,499

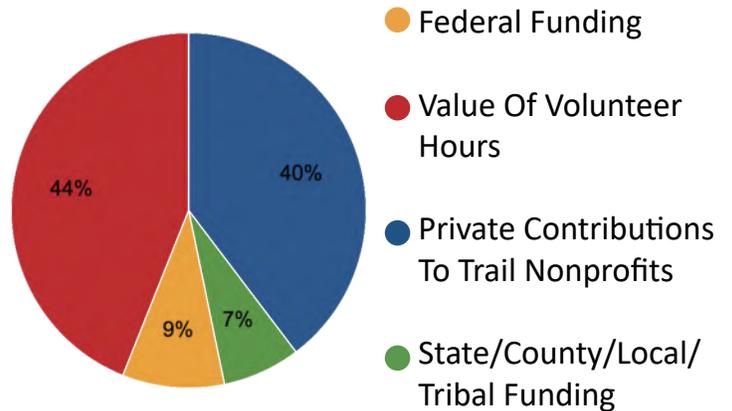
13,816 active volunteers worked

942,886 hours

Note: Value of volunteer time calculated using the national 2019 value of volunteer time (\$27.20/hour) by the Independent Sector.

2020 NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM PUBLIC/PRIVATE TOTAL VALUE

\$ 58,352,411



Source: Estimates collected through PNTS annual Gold Sheet report.

2020 NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL ADVANCES

11,988

miles of trail maintained, including:

61 miles of new trail built to close gaps

60 miles of trail reconstructed



- 15% on public land within management areas dedicated*
- 85% on land and/or easements acquired*

* to preserve the trail and associated resources



8,591 people engaged in **1,324** trail maintenance and new construction activities

MARCH 2021

Land & Water Conservation Fund FY22 Request

NATIONAL SCENIC AND
HISTORIC TRAILS



NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

NATIONAL SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAILS LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF)

FY22 LWCF REQUEST: \$23,035,000

WHO WE ARE

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is the only national nonprofit focused on conserving and promoting National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails. Our 32 nonprofit trail organization members are the primary partners of the Federal land-managing agencies that work together to complete, construct, maintain, and promote the National Trails System (NTS). In 2020, PNTS members raised and invested \$23,146,874 in the National Trails System, as well as 942,886 volunteer hours valued at \$25,646,499.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Authorized by the 1968 National Trails System Act, the 30 Congressionally-designated Nation Scenic and National Historic Trails include 55,000 miles of public trails that traverse 50 states and DC and connect 84 national parks, 89 national forests, 70 national wildlife refuges, over 100 public land areas and 179 national wilderness areas. The NTS continues to grow with several new trails in the pipeline to be considered by Congress in 2021 and beyond. These trails provide public access to a spectrum of iconic landscapes and America's natural and cultural heritage.

LWCF REQUEST OVERVIEW

National Trails are uniquely positioned to significantly enhance the climate resiliency, 30x30 and equitable outdoor access goals, while attracting millions of visitors to urban centers and rural 'trail towns' that stimulate local economies. Approximately 1/3 of Congressionally-designated trail miles are not protected and the addition of side trails could expand beyond primary trails to protect vast landscapes as viewsheds, i.e. adjacent vistas visible on trails that are home to high-level biodiversity and significant old growth forests that operate as a carbon banks.

PNTS respectfully requests full funding for FY22 LWCF requests totaling \$23,035,000 submitted by its members that would protect over 23,000 acres of precious natural resources and critical sites and segments along National Trails. Trail organizations that submitted FY22 LWCF requests include: Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Oregon-California Trails Association, Overmountain Victory Trail Association and Pacific Crest Trail Association.

In addition, there is a healthy pipeline of potential and forthcoming projects that would significantly enhance the NTS. Over the next three years, we will encourage agencies to prioritize trails in their LWCF requests and advocate for an annual allocation for of up to \$50 million through LWCF for National Scenic and National Historic Trails to advance the goal of completing the National Trail System.

CONTACT US

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NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM: NATIONAL SCENIC & HISTORIC TRAILS FY22 LWCF REQUESTS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT: \$1,980,000

California National Historic Trail (NV and CA): \$1,980,000 to preserve an 11 mile biking/hiking trail that would connect Elko, NV to the California Trail Center.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: \$3,515,000

Ice Age National Scenic Trail (WI): \$3,465,000 to preserve two properties - a 180-acre property near the Cross Plains Complex that would add ~1.5 miles of National Scenic Trail and loop or side trails and a 108-acre property at the iconic Table Bluff that would add 1 mile of National Scenic Trail.

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (NC and TN): \$50,000 to preserve 3 acres of trail and historic sites within the Trail corridor.

US FOREST SERVICE: \$17,540,000

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (ME): \$8,040,000 toward the conservation of 13,577 acres that would protect wildlife habitat and connectivity and critical forested lands including northern high-elevation forests, viewsheds while providing public access for outdoor recreation.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (VT): \$2,100,000 to conserve 2,135 acres of land that will enhance the Trail and its viewshed, improve public access to outdoor recreation opportunities, and protect of natural communities and wildlife habitat at Roaring Branch in the Green Mountain National Forest.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (TN): \$300,000 to conserve 54 acres of land that will increase viewshed protection and connectivity at Tiger Creek, an area surrounded by the Cherokee National Forest.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (TN): \$100,000 to protect 98 acres of land that will enhance wilderness values of the Trail and its surrounding landscape within the US Forest Service designated Big Laurel Branch Wilderness Area of the Cherokee National Forest.

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (CA): \$7,000,000 to preserve trail resources, create public access to two alpine lakes, and conserve 7,600 acres of biologically rich habitat adjacent to the Trinity Alps and Castle Crags Wilderness Areas.