### **Trails Training Survey 2011**



#### 1. Category of your agency or affiliation:

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	Response Percent	Response Count
Federal agency	15.4%	160
State agency	11.4%	119
Local government	14.1%	147
Park district or other special district	3.9%	41
National trail organization	6.0%	62
Regional or local trail organization	24.1%	251
Land conservancy	2.6%	27
Private landowner/Developer	1.7%	18
Business/Contractor/Consultant	5.1%	53
Other (please specify)	15.7%	164
	answered question	1,042
	skipped question	9

#### 2. Your current position type: Response Response Percent Count Trail manager 19.7% 186 Other professional 31.3% 295 Trail worker 4.1% 39 Trail contractor/builder 2.3% 22 Volunteer 29.4% 277 Trail advocate 13.1% 124 Other (please specify) 219 answered question 943 108 skipped question

### 3. Category of trails that you administer, oversee, and/or maintain:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Backcountry trails	48.9%	480
Greenway/urban trails	33.5%	329
Individual trail (e.g. rail trail)	23.2%	228
Nature trails/Conservation area	37.7%	370
Off-Highway Vehicle trails	19.2%	189
Snowmobile trails	8.9%	87
Water/Paddling trail	9.9%	97
National Scenic Trail	17.3%	170
National Historic Trail	10.5%	103
Other (please specify)	16.6%	163
	answered question	982
	skipped question	69

### 4. How did you learn the skills you use in your trail-related work?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Webinars	9.4%	93
On the job	80.9%	797
Site visits with contractors/consultants	22.4%	221
College	16.0%	158
Workshops and seminars	52.3%	515
Conferences	36.2%	357
Formal computer-based training	3.1%	31
Informal research and reading	41.9%	413
Other (please specify)	14.4%	142
	answered question	985
	skipped question	66

### 5. Rate your level of satisfaction with the following:

	Strongly Disagree				Strongly Agree	Rating Average	Response Count
Existing trail-related training is adequate for your needs	6.3% (51)	25.3% (204)	37.7% (304)	25.1% (202)	5.6% (45)	2.98	806
Poor or inadequate levels of skill are a serious problem with your trail or project	13.0% (102)	31.0% (243)	29.7% (233)	19.7% (155)	6.6% (52)	2.76	785
					answered	830	
					skipped	221	

## 6. Rate the following topics as to whether you (or your work unit) need more or better training:

	Not Needed				Most Needed	Rating Average	Response Count
Accessible trails: Creative design, surfaces, maintenance, user satisfaction	9.0% (73)	12.1% (98)	25.1% (203)	39.4% (319)	14.4% (117)	3.38	810
Accessible trails: Complying with regulations, legal issues, public notice	10.0% (81)	14.0% (113)	26.7% (215)	33.9% (273)	15.4% (124)	3.31	806
Acquisition: Trail corridor preservation, land purchase, railbanking	17.8% (142)	14.9% (119)	24.5% (195)	25.5% (203)	17.2% (137)	3.09	796
Adjacent Land: Overcoming opposition, corridor management	14.4% (116)	15.0% (121)	25.2% (203)	28.1% (226)	17.2% (138)	3.19	804
Advocacy: Understanding legislation, public policy	8.7% (69)	16.1% (128)	32.5% (258)	29.1% (231)	13.5% (107)	3.23	793
Bridges and Structures: Selection, design, costs, project management	9.7% (78)	13.9% (112)	27.0% (218)	37.5% (303)	11.9% (96)	3.28	807
Certification: Chain saw use	27.3% (221)	19.3% (156)	22.1% (179)	17.9% (145)	13.3% (108)	2.71	809
Certification: Helicopter long line cargo transport	66.2% (524)	15.2% (120)	11.0% (87)	5.3% (42)	2.4% (19)	1.63	792
Certification: Explosives and blasting	65.6% (521)	13.2% (105)	10.3% (82)	7.8% (62)	3.0% (24)	1.69	794
Certification: Hazardous materials training and certification	55.6% (440)	18.8% (149)	15.8% (125)	7.7% (61)	2.1% (17)	1.82	792
Construction: Basic skills, hand tools	25.5% (204)	17.4% (139)	27.2% (217)	20.8% (166)	9.1% (73)	2.71	799
Construction: Advanced hand techniques such as rigging, rockwork	23.1% (184)	15.2% (121)	23.8% (190)	25.5% (203)	12.4% (99)	2.89	797
Construction: Erosion and sediment control techniques	10.8% (86)	9.0% (72)	22.9% (183)	35.6% (284)	21.7% (173)	3.48	798

Construction: Urban trails, shared-	20.3%	14.5%	24.8%	26.2%	14.3%	3.00	795
use paths, bikeways	(161)	(115)	(197)	(208)	(114)		
Contracts: Preparation,	18.7%	14.2%	30.6%	27.3%	9.3% (73)	2.94	788
administration	(147)	(112)	(241)	(215)			
Cost Estimating: Selecting and	13.6%	15.6%	30.6%	29.6%	10.6%		
specifying materials, surfacing,	(108)	(124)	(243)	(235)	(84)	3.08	794
facility types			. ,				
Crew leadership: Managing groups,	13.3%	16.3%	28.2%	29.2%	13.0%		
safety, teaching basic skills,	(105)	(129)	(223)	(231)	(103)	3.12	791
supervision	,			(=,	,		
Developers: Trail dedication							
requirements, planning trails in new	19.1%	14.9%	29.3%	23.5%	13.1%		
communities, public/private trail	(151)	(118)	(232)	(186)	(104)	2.97	791
systems, policies for cities/counties							
	11.2%	11.6%	24.8%	20 50/	19.8%		
Design: Trail routing, layout, grades	(90)	(93)	(199)	32.5% (261)	(159)	3.38	802
	,			(== : /	,		
Design: Specifications and	9.1% (72)	12.7%	27.3%	34.0%	16.9%	3.37	794
standards		(101)	(217)	(270)	(134)		
Environment: Planning trails with							
wildlife in mind, minimizing resource	8.9% (71)	13.4%	23.4%	34.2%	20.1%	3.43	796
impacts, compatible uses, site restoration		(107)	(186)	(272)	(160)		
Environment: NEPA training,	13.9%	17.3%	30.9%	26.8%	11.1%	0.04	70.1
complying with regulations	(109)	(136)	(242)	(210)	(87)	3.04	784
First Aid: Basic and advanced skills	23.4%	20.8%	25.2%	20.5%	10.0%		
for wilderness	(185)	(164)	(199)	(162)	(79)	2.73	789
Funding: Raising funds, events, corporate sponsorships,		11.5%	21.0%	29.6%	28.2%		
foundations, community	9.7% (77)	(91)	(167)	(235)	(224)	3.55	794
involvement		,	,	(===)	,		
Grants: Applications, budgets,		12.4%	22.4%	29.9%	25.6%		
reporting, documentation	9.7% (77)	(98)	(177)	(236)	(202)	3.49	790
10 ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )	40.007	40.627		00.007			
Historic trails: Visitation and	19.6%	18.8%	31.9%	22.0%	7.7% (60)	2.79	781
resource management	(153)	(147)	(249)	(172)			
						3.23	
Interpretation: Displays, signs,	9.8% (77)	14.4%	31.8%	31.4%	12.5%		789

Liability: Risk management, insurance, recreational use statutes	12.9%	15.8%	32.6%	27.6%	11.1%	3.08	785
insurance, recreational use statutes	(101)	(124)	(256)	(217)	(87)		
Management: Visitors, trail users,	11.0%	14.6%	34.6%	29.8%	10.1%	3.13	783
corridor activities	(86)	(114)	(271)	(233)	(79)	00	705
Management: Cultural, historic, and	13.8%	16.7%	35.8%	25.2%	0 50/ (66)	2.00	774
natural resources	(107)	(129)	(277)	(195)	8.5% (66)	2.98	774
Maintenance: Trail tread, surfaces,	()	12.6%	27.7%	32.4%	17.9%		
and facilities	9.4% (74)	(99)	(217)	(254)	(140)	3.37	784
Mechanized: Trail building							
equipment operation and	15.9%	16.2%	25.5%	27.0%	15.4%	3.10	788
construction techniques	(125)	(128)	(201)	(213)	(121)		
Monitoring: Developing and	14.0%	18.8%	32.7%	24.9%			
implementing resource programs	(107)	(143)	(249)	(190)	9.6% (73)	2.97	762
Organizational Development:							
fundraising, administration,	12.2%	12.6%	27.7%	27.4%	20.0%		
leadership, memberships, capacity	(96)	(99)	(217)	(215)	(157)	3.30	784
building							
Partnerships: Coordinating with		40.40/	20.40/	00.00/	40.70/		
multiple agencies and jurisdictions	9.2% (72)	12.1% (95)	28.1% (220)	30.8%	19.7% (154)	3.40	782
and gaining support		(93)	(220)	(241)	(134)		
Partnerships: Developing and							
sustaining shared management	9.7% (76)	13.2%	24.9%	32.8%	19.4%	3.39	787
among organizations, communities,	0.1 70 (10)	(104)	(196)	(258)	(153)	0.00	707
user groups							
Planning: Conceptual, regional,	15.4%	17.6%	28.6%	26.3%	12.2%	3.02	788
statewide	(121)	(139)	(225)	(207)	(96)	0.02	700
Planning: Feasibility studies,	15.1%	15.1%	20.00/	26.7%	11.2%		
project analysis,	(118)	(118)	32.0%	(209)	(88)	3.04	784
problems/opportunities	(110)	(110)	(251)	(209)	(00)		
Planning: Transportation-oriented	22.00/	46.20/	00.00/	40.00/	40.00/		
programs and bicycle/pedestrian	23.8% (186)	16.3% (127)	30.2% (236)	18.8% (147)	10.9% (85)	2.77	781
facilities	(100)	(121)	(230)	(177)	(00)		
Planning: Assessing user needs,	12.2%	13.4%	20 60/	28.4%	15.5%		
existing routes, trail system	(95)	(104)	30.6% (238)	(221)	(121)	3.22	779
opportunities	(00)	(107)	(230)	(221)	(14.1)		
Private Facilities: Trail system	24 60/	15.8%	20.8%	17.1%	11.7%		
development at OHV parks, horse	34.6% (269)	(123)	(162)	(133)	(91)	2.56	778
parks, ski areas, timber lands, etc.	(209)	(120)	(102)	(100)	(01)		

		skipped que	estion	22
		answered que	estion	82
		Other or Comments		6
6 22.4% (173)	13.3% (103)	13.1% (101)	2.94	77
6 18.6% ) (144)	13.6% (105)	10.3% (80)	2.53	7
6 35.1% (275)	8.8% (69)	20.8% (163)	3.49	78
6 25.3% (197)	13.1% (102)	15.4% (120)	3.13	7
<b>6</b> 25.2% <b>)</b> (195)	14.2% (110)	18.3% (142)	3.16	7
6 10.5% ) (81)	16.3% (126)	4.3% (33)	2.05	7
<b>6</b> 24.9% <b>)</b> (195)	18.9% (148)	10.7% (84)	2.97	78
6 20.3% ) (159)	21.2% (166)	8.9% (70)	2.75	7
<b>6</b> 26.3% <b>)</b> (204)	18.3% (142)	11.7% (91)	3.06	7
6 20.4% ) (159)	20.5% (160)	8.5% (66)	2.78	78
00.50/		20.5% <b>31.4%</b> 20.4%	00.5%	00.5%

### 7. Do you or your work unit need more/better training for specific types of trails:

	Not Needed				Most Needed	Rating Average	Response Count
Backcountry/wilderness hiking trails	32.5% (249)	11.5% (88)	19.0% (145)	20.4% (156)	16.6% (127)	2.77	765
Equestrian/horse trails	27.5% (212)	11.7% (90)	18.1% (139)	22.7% (175)	20.0% (154)	2.96	770
Mountain biking trails	29.1% (221)	11.7% (89)	20.3% (154)	24.2% (184)	14.7% (112)	2.84	760
Motorcycle/ATV trails	55.3% (412)	11.3% (84)	11.9% (89)	11.9% (89)	9.5% (71)	2.09	745
Four-Wheel Drive routes and roads	62.2% (466)	10.5% (79)	13.2% (99)	8.1% (61)	5.9% (44)	1.85	749
Rails to Trails projects	37.0% (279)	12.7% (96)	21.7% (164)	17.0% (128)	11.7% (88)	2.54	755
Snowmobile trails	67.2% (500)	10.2% (76)	12.1% (90)	7.0% (52)	3.5% (26)	1.69	744
Snowshoe/Cross-country ski trails	55.9% (418)	10.7% (80)	17.2% (129)	11.2% (84)	4.9% (37)	1.99	748
Water/paddling routes	52.0% (386)	11.3% (84)	15.2% (113)	14.3% (106)	7.3% (54)	2.14	743
Multiple-use nonmotorized trails	19.8% (152)	6.6% (51)	19.7% (151)	25.9% (199)	27.9% (214)	3.35	767
Multiple-use motorized routes	54.4% (405)	10.3% (77)	14.5% (108)	11.5% (86)	9.3% (69)	2.11	745
Multiple-use combined motorized/nonmotorized routes	47.7% (354)	9.3% (69)	18.2% (135)	13.7% (102)	11.1% (82)	2.31	742

Other or Comments

34

answered question	788
skipped question	263

### 8. Select the types of training and delivery methods you feel are most effective in the current economic climate. Please provide comments as appropriate.

	Least Effective			Most Effective	Rating Average	Response Count
On-the-job training with a qualified instructor	2.2% (17)	7.5% (58)	26.4% (203)	63.9% (492)	3.52	770
Field workshops and seminars	2.0% (15)	6.1% (47)	42.0% (322)	49.9% (382)	3.40	766
National symposiums and conferences	24.2% (182)	36.0% (270)	31.8% (239)	8.0% (60)	2.24	751
State/Regional symposiums and conferences	9.9% (75)	27.9% (212)	45.2% (343)	17.0% (129)	2.69	759
Traveling trainers	5.6% (42)	16.5% (125)	50.3% (380)	27.6% (209)	3.00	756
Webinar or satellite broadcast	20.8% (157)	37.0% (279)	30.2% (228)	11.9% (90)	2.33	754
Internship with agency or organization	16.6% (123)	26.7% (197)	34.9% (258)	21.8% (161)	2.62	739
Community college classes	23.9% (179)	35.7% (268)	32.1% (241)	8.3% (62)	2.25	750
College and university classes	26.0% (195)	35.9% (269)	29.9% (224)	8.3% (62)	2.20	750
Private vendor workshops and training	19.3% (144)	34.7% (259)	36.5% (273)	9.5% (71)	2.36	747
Computer training by CD or DVD and workbook	20.9% (157)	38.5% (289)	31.6% (237)	9.1% (68)	2.29	751
Computer training through a web site	21.6% (163)	39.5% (298)	27.9% (211)	11.0% (83)	2.28	755
Reading job aids, manuals, and other written resources	12.4% (93)	36.8% (276)	40.3% (302)	10.4% (78)	2.49	749
				(	Comments	48

answered question	783
skipped question	268

### 9. Combining training with actual trail work (e.g. assessment, field design, construction) is another way to improve skills. Check all that apply:

	Response Percent	Response Count
We have hosted training combined with trail work	53.5%	386
We plan to pursue this type of training	28.0%	202
This is an area that needs more research	28.7%	207
I would like to know more about it	32.0%	231
	Suggestions	45
	answered question	721
	skipped question	330

### 10. Which of these would be effective in making training more available in your area:

	Response Percent	Response Count
Webinars	31.8%	248
Provide funding/scholarships for training	49.1%	383
Internet access to training websites	36.8%	287
Regionally or locally organized workshops and training sessions	81.9%	639
State-sponsored training programs	51.9%	405
Webinars	19.9%	155
Traveling trainers	53.7%	419
	Suggestions	34
	answered question	780
	skipped question	271

11. How far are you willing to travel to get training?
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	Response Percent	Response Count
Over 500 miles	10.5%	81
Up to 500 miles	16.5%	128
Up to 100 miles	57.9%	449
Up to 10 miles	8.6%	67
Only on my worksite/trail	3.9%	30
Unable/unwilling to travel	2.6%	20

Other or	Comments
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65

75

answered question	775
skinned question	276

### 12. What time of the year is the best for you to get training?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Winter	36.1%	267
Spring	27.6%	204
Summer	15.7%	116
Fall	20.7%	153

Other or Comments

answered question 740
skipped question 311

13. What would be your preferred duration of training sessions?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
1 to 1.5 hours		2.2%	17
Half day		19.2%	146
Full day		37.4%	285
Two days		30.7%	234
One week		8.5%	65
Series (e.g. weekly classes over a	П	2.0%	15

Other	(please specify)	60
	(1 1 7 )	62

2.0%

15

answered question	762
skipped question	289

### 14. Has your group/agency hosted or sponsored training on your own?

semester)

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	54.6%	425
No	45.4%	353
	answered question	778
	skipped question	273

### 15. Does your group or agency plan to host or sponsor training in the next two years?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	49.0%	375
No	51.0%	391
	answered question	766
	skipped question	285

### 16. With other partners?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	51.6%	384
No	48.4%	360
	answered question	744
	skipped question	307

### 17. On which of these areas should the National Trails Training Partnership focus additional attention (check all the apply):

	Response Percent	Response Count
Publicizing and promoting training opportunities	65.6%	493
Expanding website resources on planning, building, and managing trails	49.5%	372
Hosting webinars on current issues	35.4%	266
Coordinating workshops and instructors for local host sponsorship	64.4%	484
Helping States sponsor more training locally	55.3%	415
Helping groups/agencies develop local training programs	59.8%	449
Researching and developing college-level curricula on trails	20.5%	154
Identifying sources of funding/scholarships for training	46.1%	346
Other (please specify)	3.3%	25
	answered question	751
	skipped question	300

### 18. Which areas of the NTTP website (www.TrailsTraining.net) are most helpful to you?

	Least Helpful				Most Helpful	Rating Average	Response Count
Project descriptions and examples	3.8% (23)	5.3% (32)	34.4% (208)	34.4% (208)	22.0% (133)	3.66	604
Photos and galleries on trail development/management topics	3.3% (20)	6.5% (39)	32.4% (194)	37.5% (224)	20.2% (121)	3.65	598
Articles on technical topics	3.0% (18)	5.9% (36)	26.1% (158)	39.9% (242)	25.1% (152)	3.78	606
Accessibility issues and projects	6.2% (37)	12.9% (77)	35.7% (213)	32.9% (196)	12.2% (73)	3.32	596
Legislation and funding issues	7.0% (42)	18.6% (111)	33.8% (202)	23.9% (143)	16.7% (100)	3.25	598
New publications and resources	4.0% (24)	9.4% (56)	41.5% (247)	28.7% (171)	16.3% (97)	3.44	595
Economic benefits studies	8.0% (48)	13.0% (78)	33.2% (200)	24.9% (150)	20.9% (126)	3.38	602
Examples of regulations and policies from trail managers	4.3% (26)	11.4% (68)	33.6% (201)	33.6% (201)	17.1% (102)	3.48	598
PDFs of plans, feasibility studies, and other documents	4.7% (28)	8.5% (51)	28.8% (172)	36.9% (220)	21.1% (126)	3.61	597
Online Training Calendar	5.4% (31)	12.4% (71)	37.6% (215)	26.7% (153)	17.8% (102)	3.39	572

Other (please specify)

59

answered question	624
skipped question	427

### 19. In which areas of the NTTP website (<u>www.TrailsTraining.net</u>) would you like to see more resources?

	Least Improvement Needed				Most Improvement Needed	Rating Average	Response Count
Project descriptions and examples	3.8% (20)	8.0% (42)	39.0% (205)	34.1% (179)	15.0% (79)	3.49	525
Photos and galleries on trail development and management topics	4.2% (22)	11.7% (61)	39.2% (204)	31.3% (163)	13.5% (70)	3.38	520
Articles on technical topics	3.5% (18)	8.8% (46)	39.7% (207)	30.3% (158)	17.7% (92)	3.50	521
Accessibility issues and projects	6.7% (34)	15.2% (77)	44.1% (223)	21.3% (108)	12.6% (64)	3.18	506
Legislation and funding issues	7.1% (37)	16.5% (86)	41.3% (215)	21.0% (109)	14.0% (73)	3.18	520
New publications and resources	5.0% (26)	11.6% (60)	46.9% (242)	24.4% (126)	12.0% (62)	3.27	516
Economic benefits studies	6.3% (33)	15.0% (79)	38.1% (201)	22.3% (118)	18.4% (97)	3.32	528
Examples of regulations and policies from trail managers	4.1% (21)	11.9% (61)	42.7% (219)	26.1% (134)	15.2% (78)	3.36	513
PDFs of plans, feasibility studies, and other documents	3.1% (16)	9.2% (48)	39.3% (205)	28.6% (149)	19.8% (103)	3.53	521
Online Training Calendar	6.3% (31)	13.1% (65)	46.3% (229)	22.4% (111)	11.9% (59)	3.21	495
Other (please specify)					60		
					answered	question	560
					skipped	question	491

#### 20. How have you found out about training in the past?

	Response Percent	Response Count
Recommendation or other personal contact	52.2%	382
Email list or newsletter	51.5%	377
NTTP website	18.0%	132
Agency/Organization's websites	43.4%	318
Publication through the mail	16.9%	124
Advertisement	7.4%	54
Other (please specify)	8.5%	62
	answered question	732
	skipped question	319

### 21. How would you like to be notified of future training, publications, job aids, and other trail resources?

	Response Percent	Response Count
National email list	67.4%	492
Comprehensive national website	34.1%	249
Agency/Organization's websites	38.9%	284
Newsletter through the mail	23.0%	168
Other (please specify)	3.4%	25
	answered question	730
	skipped question	321

# 22. Is there a training program, course, or instructor you would recommend as a good example or high quality?

Response Count

184

answered question	184
skipped question	867

### 23. Additional comments and suggestions:

Response Count

65

65	answered question	
986	skipped question	

24. It is helpful to know your specific affiliation and job title, but you may leave these fields blank if you wish to maintain anonymity. If you are willing, we would appreciate your email address for possible follow-up or clarification to your responses.

		Response Percent	Response Count
Your Name		91.9%	441
Your Organization/Agency		95.4%	458
Your Title/Job Category		92.7%	445
Your State (two-letter abbreviation only, please)		96.7%	464
Your Zip Code		94.0%	451
Your Phone		74.2%	356
Your E-mail		92.3%	443
	ans	wered question	480
	sl	kipped question	571