



2022

THE TRAIL FUND

- Prepared By Mike Passo -

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To Protect, Restore, and Sustain Trails for All

THE TRAIL FUND



OUR VISION

The Trail Fund's vision is to engage the trail, outdoor recreation, and conservation giving community to partner with critical stewardship organizations to sustain our trails.

Our Goals

We connect. Providing a link between foundations, businesses, and the trails community, we enable and inspire our colleagues to work together to protect the trails that are vital to their business.

We are collaborative. We recognize that our greatest strength is our collective nature. Our partners are trail industry leaders who come together around a common need of saving our trails from neglect.

We get results. We strive to put 90-95% of all funds collected in our inaugural year directly into trail maintenance, research, and stewardship training projects. We strive to find the best trail partners from across the trails spectrum, and we measure that success in terms of measurable, on-the-ground maintenance of trails and increased capacity of trail stewards to do the job effectively.

We are responsible. As a group of trails industry representatives, we have a responsibility to invest in protecting the trails that are a critical part of the American experience.



Need for the Trail Fund

It is estimated that 50-60% of America's trails do not meet sustainability standards. Increased use due to the pandemic is stressing our trails further. The Trail Fund will help to reverse this trend by focusing on our mission to maintain and enhance America's trails through maintenance, research, and stewardship training projects.



Research

The Trail Fund will establish a robust and collaborative trail industry research capacity with a focus on the development and understanding of how trails create value and impact at the community, state, and federal level



Maintenance

The Trail Fund is dedicated to sustaining our vast trail networks and beginning to solve the trail maintenance backlog. our trails are necessary infrastructure, and they need your help.



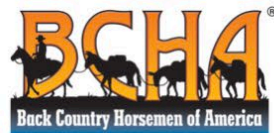
Stewardship Training

By focusing on engaging younger, diverse populations as active trail stewards, we can build a force of passionate individuals to tackle our nation's trail maintenance needs.

Partnering with leaders from across the trails community



American Trails
more trails. better trails.



tread
lightly!®



Award Decision-making Process

We prioritize our giving based on criteria that includes but may not be limited to:

1. Perceived potential for the proposal's success;
2. Breadth of impact on the trail community;
3. Number of volunteers engaged, or stewards trained;
4. Cost effectiveness (i.e. cost per mile of trail maintenance);
5. Amount of matching funds (direct or indirect);
6. Balancing our giving by priority and region;
7. Impact on low- to moderate-income, disadvantaged and/or marginalized persons or families;
8. Extent to which the proposal advances the Fund's mission of protecting and restoring America's trails through maintenance projects, stewardship training programs, or research projects.





Frequently Asked Questions

Available Funding Amounts?



\$55,000 total available in 2022. Grant amounts range from \$2,000 minimum to a maximum of \$15,000.

Grant Timing?



In 2022, applications are due by April 15; awards announced by May 15; funding sent by the May 31; projects completed by Dec 31; reports due by Feb 1, 2023.

Eligible Trail Types?



ALL types of trail users, motorized and nonmotorized (including water trails).

Staff Payroll Eligibility?



Hiring or supplementing staff or contractor payroll is eligible if the funded portion of the staff's duties directly involves maintenance of trails, training of stewards, or research programs.

Frequently Asked Questions



Priority to State and Local?

focus our funding on state and local lands, and Federal lands will be accepted.



Who can apply?

Nonprofits (501(c)3, 4, & 7), Federal, State, regional, and local government units, school districts, and tribes.



Matching requirements?

We require a cash or in-kind match of at least 20%.



Fiscal sponsors allowed?

Yes, provided the fiscal sponsor meets our eligibility criteria.

