



# TRAILTRACKS

**the Trails Information Newsletter**  
**published by AMERICAN TRAILS**

**Volume 34, Number 2**

**Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald**

**SUMMER 2005**

## Find trails training with new NTTP online calendar

American Trails hosts the most comprehensive source of training opportunities for trails and greenways skills. It's the **National Trails Training Partnership Calendar**, and it's now searchable online at [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net). Find workshops, conferences, classes, and other skill-building events by state, by topic, by training provider, or search by keyword.

**For more information see page 8 or visit the website at [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net). Click on "Calendar."**

## 2006 Symposium features great trails and greenways

Trails for America: *Every Where, Every Way, Every Day* is the theme of the **18th National Trails Symposium**. We'll be showcasing a wide variety of interesting projects in the Quad Cities of Iowa and Illinois.

The Symposium provides an opportunity for greenways and trails advocates, managers, builders, planners, and outdoor businesses, as well as conservationists, landowners, and tourism interests to come together for an inspirational and educational conference. The Symposium addresses both motorized and nonmotorized trails issues across the spectrum of outdoor recreation. Join us October 19-22, 2006!

**Read more on the National Trails Symposium on pages 18-21. Look for updates and details at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org).**



## National Recreation Trails Announced for 2005

Great trails from across America were designated as National Recreation Trails (NRT) on National Trails Day. Take a look at the 37 new NRTs! Over 950 trails in all 50 states, available for public use and ranging from less than a mile to 485 miles in length, have been designated as NRTs on federal, state, municipal, and privately owned lands.

**continued on page 10 ➡**



## Coalition for Recreational Trails recognizes top projects

We are pleased to highlight the winners of the Coalition for Recreational Trails 2005 "Annual Achievement Awards." Trails and greenways across America are recognized for their outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds.

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## Trail Tracks

*Trail Tracks* (ISSN 1082-8303) is the newsletter of American Trails, the nonprofit organization dedicated to quality trails and greenways within 15 minutes of every American home or workplace.

Editor: Stuart H. Macdonald

**Subscriptions** are \$35 per year or free with membership—see page 32 for membership form.

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## Editorial

# Summer reading that could save your life

**By Pam Gluck, Executive Director, American Trails**

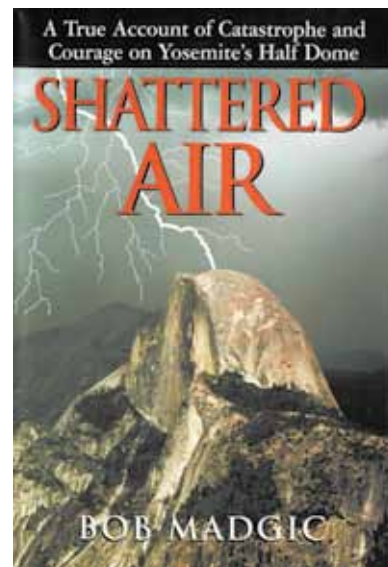
I just finished a new book that should meet anyone's criteria for good summer reading—page-turning excitement, adventures in the back-country, and a cast of interesting and courageous characters. But I also recommend you read it because of the unforgettable way this true story will make you more aware of your surroundings and potential dangers. Every person who spends time in the outdoors should read *Shattered Air: A True Account of Catastrophe and Courage on Yosemite's Half Dome*, by Bob Madgic.

On the evening of July 27, 1985, five hikers made the fateful choice to hike to the summit of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, even as the sky darkened and thunder rolled. By night's end, two would be dead from a lightning strike, three gravely wounded, and desperate EMT's would be overseeing a harrowing post-midnight helicopter rescue. Madgic claims that "in the annals of hiking tragedies caused by lightning," this was "one of the most calamitous... of all time."

*Shattered Air* is a haunting account of recklessness, tragedy, courage and rescue, a book whose depiction of Nature's fearsome power is tempered by unforgettable portraits of human courage and the will to survive. Madgic's book educates us about the intense and, sometimes, unforgiving power of lightning. Readers will have a new respect for lightning after reading this book.

This book was especially vivid for me because I've also climbed Half Dome in the summer. Bob Madgic's *Shattered Air* reminds us more than ever that we must sharpen our awareness and be prepared for all of Nature's dramatic moods.

**Bob Madgic is a Redding, California resident, a writer on the outdoors and a Half Dome climbing veteran. *Shattered Air* is published by Burford Books.**



## Mission Statement of American Trails

American Trails is pursuing a national infrastructure of trails and greenways that serves a full range of activities. Through education, partnerships, and timely information resources, we promote the creation, conservation and broad enjoyment of quality trails and greenways that offer places of solace, health, fitness, recreation and transportation for all Americans.





# News from Washington, DC

## Bills include funding for LWCF state assistance and health

*From the National Recreation and Park Association*

**T**he Senate approved a \$26.3 billion FY 2006 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations bill by a vote of 94-0. The bill is almost \$700 million less than FY 2005 funding, but is about \$600 million above the President's proposed funding level for FY 2006. The bill included \$30 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) state assistance, and \$162 million for federal land acquisition.

The debate over what funds will ultimately remain in the pared-down spending bills now moves to the House-Senate conference committee to work out the differences in the bills. The President's budget proposed to terminate the LWCF state assistance program for FY 2006 and recommended zero funds. The House-passed bill provided zero funds for LWCF state assistance for FY 2006, but did not approve the President's recommendation to terminate. Members of the House-Senate Conference will be announced soon.

### Status of health-related bills

Highlights of spending measures as they are reported out of the House and Senate Full Appropriations Committees:

**Labor HHS Education Appropriations Bill (HR 3010)** was passed by the House with \$41.9 million for CDC's Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity, the same as in FY 2005.

**Physical Education Program (PEP)** received \$73.3 million, the same amount that the program received in FY 2005.

**Dept. of Health and Human Service's Steps to a Healthier US** received \$44.4 million in FY 2005, a \$2.6 million decrease from the President's budget request.

**Visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) for Health and Trails resources, programs, articles, and advocacy. Select "Health and Trails" from the "Select a Topic" pull-down menu.**

## Transportation Reauthorization continues with extensions

House and Senate conferees agreed to fund surface transportation programs at \$286.5 billion through 2009, much below the Senate version of \$295 billion favored by trails advocates. There has been no indication so far as to funding levels for the Recreational Trails Program, which were far apart on the House and Senate versions. The current extension expired July 19, and the final bill is expected by the August recess of Congress. Look for details at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) in "News & Alerts."

## Great Outdoors Month brings trails to Congress

**R**ecognition of the value of recreation prompted Presidential designation of June as Great Outdoors Month. Dozens of organizations, led by the American Recreation Coalition, joined to coordinate celebrations of the diverse and valued recreation opportunities across the nation, especially those linked to America's public lands and waters.

June 2005 was the second Great Outdoors Month celebration and included a special focus on the role of recreation as a catalyst for physical activity needed to combat obesity and on the 100th anniversary of the USDA Forest Service, which manages some of the nation's best-loved recreation places.

Great Outdoors Month also celebrates a tradition of volunteerism in the outdoors, highlighting events like National Trails Day and the Take Pride in America program. Several big events were held in Washington, DC, to recognize the efforts of public lands leaders, and to bring the message to Congress as to the importance of recreation.

**As part of Great Outdoors Month in Washington, DC, the Coalition for Recreational Trails presented its Annual Achievement Awards; see page 30 ➡**

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# Homebuilders Include Trails

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***The private sector and market forces have helped preserve the resource and offer outstanding recreational trail facilities.***

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## The (almost) perfect trails community

**By Robert Searns, Vice Chair, American Trails**

**M**y daughter called up and said: “Dad, we want to go camping in the mountains and I can’t find any available reservations. You never made reservations when we were kids— what should I do?” Sadly, I did not have an answer. Make a reservation? She has to “get permission” to head for the national forests for a couple days of solace away from the city? That struck a chord and it did not have a pleasant ring.

True, it meant that many more people were going out and enjoying our public lands, but it also meant that even Colorado's vast wilds were beyond capacity. It also represents a trend of diminishing public resources in a society where the people need and crave unspoiled outdoor places but where leaders and policy makers have set other priorities.

Contrast this with how my wife and I spent our Independence Day weekend. We had the opportunity to visit one of the nation’s finest examples of a planned community— Black Butte Ranch in Central Oregon.

Planned over thirty years ago, this place is amazing! Nestled in thousands of acres of privately-owned ponderosa forests and meadows abutting national forest, the homes and other buildings are almost invisible. The community has 18 miles of paved multi-use trails plus many hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian routes nearby. Cattle and horses still roam the preserved meadowlands, and trails cut through the golf courses in a carefully integrated way that says each is equally important. Nearly every home in this community abuts the trail system, and the bicycle is the predominate mode of travel.

Black Butte Ranch supports two bicycle rental outlets as well as available equestrian trail rides. We biked, hiked, rode horses, river rafted, and mountain climbed to our heart’s content.

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***As we move into the 21st Century, the time is right for a new conservation movement, for local action.***

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# Trails Promoting Conservation



## **Golf courses and trails are carefully integrated**

Black Butte was near perfect, but I wondered what will happen when, inevitably, fire — a part of the natural cycle of forests — will strike those high-end homes and who will pay for the damage. I also wondered what will be left for those less able to afford living in, or visiting such communities.

Indeed, there must be a place communities like this, places where the private sector and market forces have helped to preserve a resource and offer outstanding recreational trail facilities. When planned, Black Butte was way ahead of its time. It is a model for harnessing the forces of prosperity to conserve a resource. Across the nation, many other similar projects are underway or in the planning phase — not just mountain getaways but in our urban areas as well.

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**We need not only Roosevelt's remote wild places, we need places closer to home— places that are part of our daily lives.**

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Smart developers are clustering the buildings, preserving the forests and wetlands, and creating trails and greenways. They have found that being “green” means making “green” and lots of it. I won’t bore you with the statistics but you can visit American Trails’ website [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) for links to dozens of studies that demonstrate the economic and commercial value of conservation and trails.

Back home, our daughter, could not get the time off to visit Black Butte. Like many recent collage graduates, she considers herself lucky to have a near minimum wage job and must make do with few vacation days. Many others in our nation are far worse off. People in this circumstance will find it very difficult just to pay for food and shelter, let alone fork out the room rent for a five-day visit to Black Butte Ranch.

Indeed it is something to strive for but though they may work just as hard or harder, a broad cross-section of Americans must rely on public lands and public facilities for their equally needed time in the outdoors. They too need access to the forests and mountains as well as places closer in and nearby.

In some places, like Detroit, MI, hit hard by a failing automobile industry or Buffalo, NY, a metro area in dire fiscal straits, it is especially hard to find funds to create trails and greenways. Yet, leaders like Tom Woiwode and the Southeastern Michigan Community Foundation are meeting the challenge. Nationally, the public sector financial situation is increasingly dismal as programs are cut and, worse still, revenue sources such as offshore drilling royalties are quashed.

Just when intuition might suggest the need to invest in changing some of these trends we see a national economy challenged by rising energy costs, war, deficits, and outsourcing. This seems to be engendering a kind of “triage” decision making where programs like The Land and Water Conservation Fund begin to appear trivial and thus can more easily be terminated.

Crisis mode notwithstanding, these trends go against American values. Opinion polls — locally and nationally — repeatedly show that Americans support the stewardship of our open spaces, our public lands, our air and our water and greenways and trails. I believe that not only is the desire there, but the resources are there too. What we need is the leadership!

A century ago, the American landscape faced similar challenges as forests and streams were devastated in the path of an industrializing nation. Teddy Roosevelt and his Chief U.S. Forester, Gifford Pinchot, responded with a new American ethic for public lands. They greatly expanded the national park system and set aside over 150 million acres of public lands. A passionate outdoorsman and hunter, Roosevelt knew both the human value and the spiritual value of conservation. He stepped forward as a bold reformer able to reconcile the competing interests of resource exploitation and conservation.

As we move into the 21st Century, the time is right for a new conservation movement, for local action. We need not only Roosevelt’s remote wild places, we need places closer to home — places that are part of our daily lives, not just an abstract notion but something in our daily landscape. We need to care for not only the mountain tops, but for the stream in our back yard.

Where appropriate, these lands must be freely accessible with foot paths, bike trails, and paddleways. Indeed the greenways and trails movement can be a rallying cry for this next wave — carrying on and expanding upon the public lands legacy started over a century ago.



# Land Development and Trails

We can help build that leadership at the local level, create projects, build partnerships and set examples that will enable others to do the same. We can build partnerships with the private sector as well as decision makers in the public sector but we must make our voices heard, speaking not only with words but with examples that demonstrate what can be done. A special characteristic of the United States is that every citizen is a landowner. We are all owners of the legacy of public lands left by Roosevelt and others, as well as the environmental infrastructure that sustains us. These open spaces and resources provide more than places of recreation and renewal, they contain the floods and fires, they provide vital resources, and they provide for our material and economic survival.

This is our property and no one or no group has the right to exploit it to our detriment. This is where we need to stand our ground. How we treat these places is ultimately about how we treat each other.

## Michigan GreenWays Initiative creates momentum

***By Tom Woiwode, Director, GreenWays Initiative***



## Community trails in Black Butte Ranch, Oregon

In 2001 the **Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan** seized an extraordinary opportunity to use greenways—“green ribbons”—to tie together the 250 municipalities that make up the Detroit region. The Foundation launched the **GreenWays Initiative**, a 5-year, \$25 million program to fund the design and construction of greenways, provide training and technical support to agencies and municipalities, and raise public awareness about the benefits greenways can bring to local communities.

The GreenWays Initiative represented new ground for the Community Foundation. In fact, there was no program anywhere in the country that could serve as a model. The \$25 million the Foundation set out to raise from the private sector, its most ambitious effort to date, was to leverage at least \$50 million in public dollars over the five years of the program.

Since the GreenWays Initiative was launched, this extraordinary investment of \$25 million in private funds has allowed the Community Foundation to award 87 GreenWays Initiative grants. Those grants will result in:

- the leveraging of \$65 million in public money, almost 10 times the amount of public money that had come to south-east Michigan for these purposes in the previous 10 years
- approximately 80 miles of greenways, essentially doubling the miles of pedestrian pathways that existed previously
- the linking of over 75 different municipalities—approximately one third of the entire region
- the creation of a dozen multi-jurisdictional coalitions of communities that now share plans and resources.

**For more information on the GreenWays Initiative visit <http://greenways.cfsem.org/about/index.html>**





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# National Trails Training Partnership

## Find trails training with new searchable online calendar

The National Trails Training Partnership Calendar is a searchable database of trail training opportunities nationwide. It's now online at [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net).

Search by event date by entering values into the event month and date fields. This is an easy way to return a list of all national events for a given month.

If you are looking for training from a specific provider, select their name in the provider field. To retrieve a complete list of events from that provider you'll want to be sure that all the other fields are left blank. You can click the "Reset this form" button to quickly clear all fields.

The concept is the same with the training topic and event state fields. To find all the volunteer training events nationwide, clear the form and select "volunteer training" in the training topic pull-down menu, and click the search button.

Finally, for searches of specific words or phrases, enter the word or words into the keywords field.

The National Trails Training Partnership will still maintain the

chronological calendar of events if you prefer it, but we think you will agree that the event database is a powerful resource.

The National Trails Training Partnership work is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (Cooperative Agreement No. DTFH61-01-X-00091), the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and American Trails.


**Try out the National Trails Training Partnership online calendar at [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net). Click on "Calendar."**

## Need training? Have classes you want to publicize?


The goal of the National Trails Training Partnership is to make training for trails and greenways more available, and to help both staff and volunteers plan, design, enhance, build, interpret, protect, and maintain trails and greenways for all Americans. We hope you'll join us!

**Lend your support to the National Trails Training Partnership! Send us information about your organization and training or resources you provide. See [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net) for details.**

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# National Trails Training Partnership



Calendar of events

### Search the NTTP Event Database

Enter your search criteria in one or more fields below. For best results, start with a broad search and then narrow your results to get exactly what you are looking for. For example, try starting with a general search of year and state and then selecting more criteria to narrow your search from there, such as a training topic.

Month & Year:   Event State:

Training Topic:

Provider:

Keyword:



# New resources from NTTP partners

## New “Rails with Trails” study

A new report, *Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned*, has been produced by the Federal Railroad Administration, FHWA’s Recreational Trails Program, FHWA’s Highway Safety Research and Development Program, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration.

This report describes safety, design, and operational issues relating to rails-with-trails, shared use paths, or other trails located along or near active railroad and transit corridors. It is intended to provide information so that RWT decisions are made with safety and security as top priorities, both for railroad and transit operations, and for trail users. The USDOT does not endorse, support, or recommend rails-with-trails.

**The report is available from the National Trails Training Partnership online Resource Center at [www.NTTP.net](http://www.NTTP.net). Click on the “Resources & Library” icon at the top of the home page, or go to the “Select a Topic” pull-down menu and pick “Rails to Trails.”**

## Trails-related publications available from FHWA

FHWA’s Recreational Trails Program, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Technology and Development Program, has many Forest Service publications available to the public. Many are available on the web, and some are available in hard copy.

The new FHWA publication *Guiding Principles and Questions* is an essential resource to clarify eligibility issues for Transportation Enhancements projects. An accompanying list of “guiding questions” helps users determine how a proposed project meets eligibility criteria, and raises other important considerations in determining the viability of TE projects.

**Copies of the FHWA and Forest Service publications are available through the FHWA Report Center online at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails).**

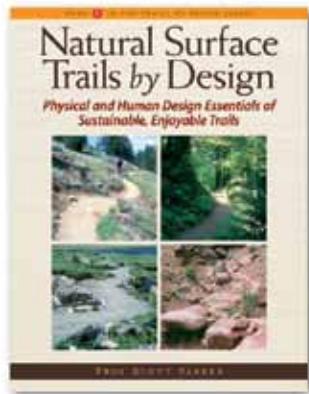


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### The Core Concepts

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- Anchors
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- Efficiency
- Playfulness
- Harmony
- Compaction
- Displacement
- Erosion
- Tread Texture
- Tread Watersheds



# Trails in 23 States Honored as NRTs



*Tunnel Hill State Trail in Illinois*

## National Recreation Trails named for 2005

**O**n National Trails Day, June 4, 2005, Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton announced the designation of 37 new trails in 23 states, as part of the National Recreation Trails System.

Each trail will receive signs and a certificate of designation as National Recreation Trails (NRTs). More than 950 trails, total-

ing more than 10,000 miles, have received NRT designation throughout the United States. By state, the new NRTs are:

### **Alaska • Perseverance Trail**

Located in Juneau, this 3-mile backcountry trail started out as the first road in Alaska. Trail users enjoy relics of the gold mining era, waterfalls, snowslide gulches, and majestic views.

### **Arizona**

#### **• Arivaca Cienega Trail**

This wheelchair-accessible, backcountry trail in the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge skirts spring-fed marshes that attract a variety of wildlife and unusual subtropical birds.

#### **• Arivaca Creek Trail**

Located in Buenos Aires NWR, this trail meanders one mile through giant cottonwoods and allows visitors the opportunity to observe over 320 species of birds in their natural habitat.

#### **• Painted Desert Trail**

This Imperial National Wildlife Refuge trail traverses pink, orange, and brown mounds of ash flow, home to beavertail cactus, desert bighorn sheep, and lizards.



### **Colorado**

#### **• Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Interior Trails**

This trail system covers over 4 miles through an urban refuge of more than 16,000 acres of open space, providing a window for fascinating wildlife observation as well as recreation.

#### **• Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Wetlands Loop Trail**

This interpretive trail spans almost two miles amidst prairie wetlands, offering the opportunity to observe a variety of wildlife such as prairie dogs and eagles.

#### **• Two Ponds National Wildlife Refuge Trail**


This urban wildlife refuge features beavers, herons, and over 113 bird species. The trail is used for environmental education programs by schools throughout the Denver area.

### **Florida • Big Bend Saltwater Paddling Trail**

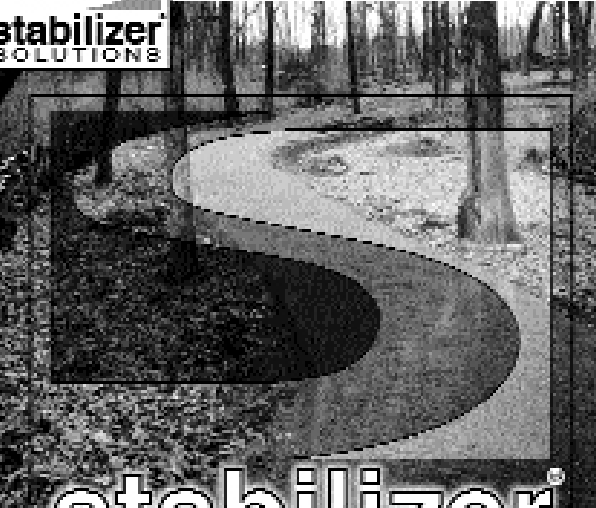
Located along the Gulf Coast of Florida, this 105-mile water trail embraces one of the longest and wildest publicly owned coastal wetlands in the United States.

### **Idaho • Cress Creek Nature Trail**

Located along the scenic South Fork of the Snake River in eastern Idaho, the trail includes interpretive signs amid cottonwood forests, stream and desert habitats, geological features, and wildlife habitat.



## the Paths More Taken



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# National Recreation Trails



**Row River Trail in Oregon**

## **Illinois • Tunnel Hill State Trail**

Extending from Harrisburg to Karnak, this 45-mile rail trail connects communities and provides a link to a larger trail network and recreation opportunities in southern Illinois.

## **Maryland • Green Ridge State Forest Trails**

Located in the largest contiguous block of forest in Maryland, this 28-mile backcountry trail system offers a variety of recreation as well as scenic and historic features.

## **Minnesota • Rydell Refuge Trails**

This trail system through Rydell National Wildlife Refuge, showcases a sundew bog, and wildlife habitats that developed from the "fire shadow" effects of Maple Lake.

## **Mississippi**

### **• Kitty Dill Memorial Parkway**

This urban rail trail and parkway forms a four-mile loop, providing access from neighborhoods

to businesses, schools, churches, and park amenities through all seasons.

### **• Magnolia Trail**

Located just south of Natchez in St. Catherine Creek National Wildlife Refuge, this scenic trail offers views of the Mississippi and Homochitto Rivers, a variety of wildlife, and environmental education opportunities.

## **Missouri**

### **• Memory Lane Trail**

This 1-mile trail takes visitors down "memory lane" as they walk through the old town of Greenville, one of the sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

### **• Table Rock Lakeshore Trail**

Extending two miles along the beautiful shores of Table Rock Lake in Branson, this accessible trail allows everyone to enjoy wildlife habitat, rock outcroppings, and local attractions.

## **Montana**

### **• Lee Metcalf NWR Wildlife Viewing Trail**

This trail through the National Wildlife Refuge hosts wildlife observation, snowshoeing, and fishing. This scenic trail will eventually serve as a trailhead for the Bitterroot Birding and Nature Trail, the first trail of its kind in Montana.

### **• Pacific Northwest Trail, Glacier National Park Segment**

This 65-mile trail traverses alpine meadows, glaciers, and forests as part of a continuous 1,200-mile multi-use route linking the Continental Divide and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails with the Pacific Ocean.

### **• Prairie-Marsh Boardwalk**

From shortgrass prairie to nationally-significant wetlands, the trail provides an excellent opportunity to observe the wealth of plant communities, shorebirds, and mammals.

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# National Recreation Trails



### Historic bridge on the Oil Creek Trail

## Nebraska • Meadowlark Trail

Located in Boyer Chute National Wildlife Refuge, this six-mile trail system accesses a variety of natural settings, including woodland, restored native prairie, and riparian habitats in the Omaha/Council Bluffs Metropolitan area.

## North Carolina • Dark Mountain Trail

Created with the help of the International Mountain Bicycling

Association and dedicated volunteers, this seven-mile trail is popular with hikers, mountain bikers, and naturalists.

- **Mountains-to-Sea Trail, Blue Ridge Parkway Segment**

The scenic foot trail ascends and descends with the contours of the Parkway, crossing expansive forests, wildflower gardens, major rivers, and historic sites. When completed, this trail will connect 37 counties.

- **Scuppernong River Boardwalk**

Located in Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, this trail meanders along the Scuppernong River through a cypress swamp and leads into downtown Columbia.

## North Dakota • Cross Ranch Trails

This backcountry, interpretive trail system runs 15 miles along the Missouri River and its cottonwood river bottoms, looking much as Lewis and Clark saw them.

- **Munch's Coulee Hiking Trail**

Located along the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge State Scenic Byway, this 1-mile loop trail provides spectacular vistas of the Refuge's wildflowers, Lower Des Lacs Lake, and nearby wetlands with ample opportunities for bird watching.

## Oregon • Row River Trail

This scenic rail trail runs 16 miles through Cottage Grove and other communities, along the Row River, historic covered bridges, and a variety of landscapes including farmland, forests, and the Dorena Lake shoreline.

- **Woodpecker Loop Trail**

Running through the William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, the trail provides views of the Willamette Valley and Cascade Range, and continues into forests of Douglas fir and mature maples including habitat of five species of woodpeckers.

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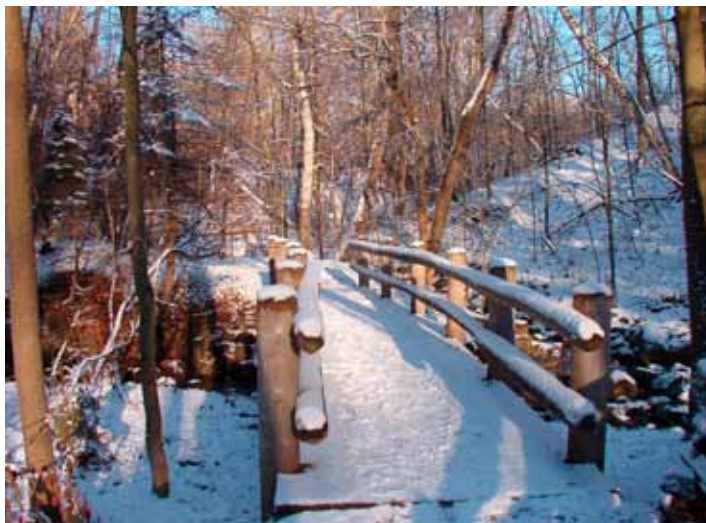
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# New National Recreation Trails



## **Pennsylvania • Oil Creek State Park Trail**

This multi-use trail extends nine miles through the Oil Heritage Region and links to the oldest producing oil well in the world. The goal is to eventually connect to the Samuel Justus NRT and provide a 40-mile accessible trail network.

## **Rhode Island • Blackstone River Bikeway**

This nine-mile bikeway will eventually run 48 miles from Providence, RI, to Worcester, MA. The Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor includes a diverse partnership working to revitalize the riverfront and link communities.



*Enjoying Alaska's Perseverance Trail*

## **South Carolina • Mullet Hall Equestrian Trail System**

Located in Charleston, this 19-mile system of loops takes users through meadows, swamps, and historic fields of the former Mullet Hall Plantation. The area hosts a variety of wildlife, including bald eagles, wild turkeys, and alligators.

### **• North Augusta Greenway**

Named after former Mayor Thomas W. Greene, this rail trail runs six miles through North Augusta neighborhoods.

## **South Dakota • Prairie Winds Trail**

Interpretive signs guide visitors to observe white-tailed deer, waterfowl, and songbirds of Sand Lake National Wildlife Refuge.

## **Texas • Doeskin Ranch Trail System**

Located near Austin in Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge, this trail system offers a wealth of scenic vistas and opportunities to observe wildlife, such as the endangered golden-cheek warbler and black-capped vireo.

## **Virginia • DeHart Mountain Trail**

This backcountry hiking trail extends over 5 miles, connecting ancient foot paths, waterfalls, caves, and an isolated pioneer homesite. Hosting more than 400 plant species, this pristine setting is ideal for hiking and wildlife observation.

## **Washington**

### **• Icicle Creek Nature Trail**

Winding along a historic channel at Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery, this accessible trail meanders through a scenic meadow and leads to quiet areas with wildlife viewing blinds and views of salmon habitat.

### **• Oaks to Wetlands Trail**

This scenic prairie trail provides a glimpse of the Lewis and Clark expedition and includes Spirit Mound, one of the few remaining sites where visitors can stand where these famous explorers once stood to enjoy a panoramic view of the state.

## **Wisconsin • Seven Bridges Trail**

This nature trail traverses bridges and walkways along ravines in Grant Park, one of the oldest parks in Milwaukee County, and draws thousands of visitors including school groups who visit the trail to study nature.

**To see photos and details of these and many other featured trails, visit the NRT Program website at [www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails](http://www.AmericanTrails.org/NationalRecreationTrails).**



*Moose are residents along the Cress Creek Nature Trail in Idaho*



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- ◆ City of Redding
- ◆ Christopher Douwes
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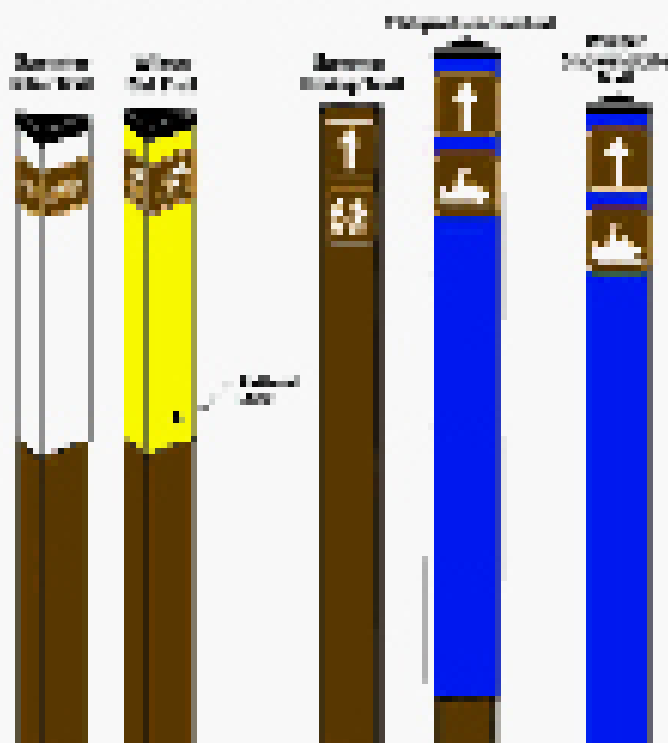


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# National Trails Symposium

Watch for information at [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org)

## Skybridge rises above Quad Cities riverfront

Another great feature of the Quad Cities is the new sky-bridge in Davenport, Iowa. Like the the arch in St. Louis and the Sundial Bridge in Redding, California, the River Music Skybridge draws visitors and attention to the riverfront.

As one of the world's most visited tourist attractions, the mighty Mississippi is a remarkable sight. To take advantage of all the history and magic associated with the river, the project includes a unique cable-stayed pedestrian skybridge soaring 50 feet in the air over River Drive, safely connecting people visiting the riverfront to the downtown.

The Skybridge will provide a clear, uninterrupted view of the river for more than 500 feet and eliminate the need for pedestrian traffic across the heavily-used highway that separates the downtown and riverfront. Glass elevators, as well as a stairway, take visitors up to the bridge level.

The Skybridge cost about \$7 million dollars, with \$3.5 million coming from a Vision Iowa grant, \$2 million from Rhythm City Casino, \$1.3 million from the Riverboat Development Authority, and \$500,000 from the City of Davenport.



### Facts About the Skybridge

- The bridge deck is 50 feet, or five stories, above River Drive.
- The bridge is 575 feet long.
- Each mast supporting the skybridge is 99 feet high and weighs 33 tons.
- The skybridge is the only cable-stayed bridge structure in the region.
- The skybridge spans LeClaire Park on the riverfront to the River Music Experience courtyard.
- The Chicago architectural firm of Holabird & Root was responsible for designing the Skybridge.





# Visiting the Quad Cities? Spend Time With John Deere



Moline, Illinois, had everything a budding industrialist like John Deere could ask for when he built his plow factory here in 1848 — steamboats to bring in steel and other raw materials, roads tracing old Indian trails, and water-wheel-driven power thanks to the Mississippi River. Plus, as a community of hard-working pioneer families, it offered a ready source of labor.

John Deere's original factory is long gone, replaced by a modern hotel, world-class civic center and restaurants. Yet his legacy lives on at many locations open to the public in and around the Quad Cities.

A good place to start is the John Deere Pavilion, in downtown Moline. It's a striking copper and glass-clad structure housing vintage and modern-day equipment and interactive agricultural exhibits. Next door, the John Deere Store carries a wide range of clothing, toys, and other merchandise with the famous leaping-deer logo.



## JOHN DEERE STORE Hours:

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## JOHN DEERE PAVILION Hours:

Mon. - Sat. 10a.m. to 5p.m. (year round)  
Sun. Noon to 4p.m.

Pavilion: 309/765-1000 Store: 765-1007

A half-mile from the pavilion is the Deere-Wiman House, built by Charles Deere, who succeeded his famous father as company president. Originally, and aptly, named Overlook, it sits on a hill above Moline and the original plow-factory site. Across the street is the Butterworth Center, home to Deere & Company's third president, William Butterworth. Inside you'll absorb family history and get an eyeful



of Italian-renaissance elegance. Both homes are open to the public by appointment (309/765-7971). Follow the Mississippi

River a few miles east to Riverside Cemetery, perched on a bluff overlooking the river valley. Turn left after you enter and wind your way to its crest. There you'll find the final resting places of John Deere and many of his descendants, including all the men who headed the company in its first 118 years of existence (1837-1955). Open to public during daylight hours.

A few miles to the southeast stands the company's present home — the renowned



Deere & Company World Headquarters. It's an architectural gem overlooking the Rock River Valley. Inside is a world-famous mural as well as an assortment of John Deere machines and products on display. Open to public 7 days a week; 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; no reservations required.

The John Deere Collectors Center, a replica of a 1950s-era dealership, is also located in downtown Moline. Here you can watch a vintage tractor being restored and tour a show-room filled with antique tractors and equipment. Open same hours as John Deere Pavilion (309/748-7944)



Deere enthusiasts can venture farther upstream — both literally and historically — in a visit to John Deere's original blacksmith shop, near Dixon, Illinois. Officially known as the John Deere Historic Site, it's about an hour's drive northeast of the Quad Cities, following



I-88 along the Rock River. Now an official archeological site, Grand Detour is the exact location of the blacksmith shop where John Deere forged his steel-bottom plow, opening the West to settlement and commercial development. You can also see exhibits and the Deere family homestead. Open April through November, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special group tours are available in winter months (815/652-4551).



**JOHN DEERE**



# Water Trails in the News

## Lessons learned for future water trails

### Water trails in Ohio created by cooperation

By Paul Labovitz, Program Leader, NPS Rivers & Trails – Midwest Region

Imagination is the key to developing a system of water trails that offers paddlers and fishermen access to rivers and streams. Ohio has a well-developed network of designated scenic rivers, and with a large population and large number of watercraft owners, a statewide water trail system seemed like a vision ready to become reality.

The spark for the project came out of road and bridge projects reviewed by the state Division of Wildlife. Comments frequently suggested that better public stream access could be incorporated into Department of Transportation projects. But without much success in this area the Ohio Department of Natural Resources decided to develop a plan that would be a reference point for future road and bridge work.

So ODNR Division of Wildlife started talking about the idea of a state water trail program to other state agencies including



**Paddling on the Schuylkill River Water Trail**

Watercraft, State Parks, Scenic Rivers Program, and Real Estate and Land Management. Outside partners invited to the table were Ohio Greenways, the National Park Service Rivers & Trails Program, the League of Ohio Sportsmen, and the Ohio Smallmouth Bass Alliance. With Wildlife at the lead, sportsmen support was considered essential. The water trail program would improve access for all recreation, and would include fishing, hunting, and trapping where possible. This team met for almost two years, developed an inventory strategy and tried to educate folks about the benefits of such a statewide system. The thought process evolved. The group begged, borrowed, and stole ideas from existing water trail programs in surrounding states. We especially liked the approach used in Pennsylvania. Discussions about criteria and guidelines evolved.

The team wanted the first officially designated water trail to be a winner. It was decided that along with designation, ODNR would assist in producing a water trail map and guide to promote the project and raise awareness of the statewide water trails idea. On National Trails Day, June 4, 2005, the Kokosing River became the first state water trail. Since 28 miles parallel the Kokosing Gap rail trail, the water trail offers a chance to both paddle and ride. Proximity to Kenyon College and the quaint towns of Gambier and Mt. Vernon make Knox County a popular destination.

The ultimate goal is still to convince the ODOT to integrate water trail and stream access into their transportation infrastructure plans, much the same as with bicycle and pedestrian facilities. Funds will be sought from existing watercraft programs that focus on education and promotion.

We want to involve the state travel and tourism department and industry. The future map development will be partially underwritten with public funds and require some local match. We do not think funding will be a limited factor as the program grows. Several rivers are working to become designated after seeing the success enjoyed by the Kokosing.

The first lesson is to involve a broad base of support early on.

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# Imagining a New Trails



The addition of the sportsmen was a terrific asset to the program. There were concerns about private property rights and the hunting and fishing insight into this issue was invaluable.

The other lesson is to keep pushing: new ideas do not have an easy path to implementation. Some among the state agencies were reluctant to develop and institute a new program during tough fiscal times. The team persevered and made it happen without requiring new money initially. Public support for the program will help ODNr continue to dedicate staff and funding to the program as it delivers what the public wants.

## How the water trails program started

We now have a program that encourages stream access while it articulates safe boating practices and educates river users about respecting private lands. Ultimately we will have a statewide system of well-signed and promoted water trails so we can facilitate safe use of these great recreational resources. And, we have taken a step towards uniting sportsmen and other outdoor recreationists to coalesce and be a stronger voice for conservation.

**For more information on the Kokosing River see**  
[www.ohiodnr.com/news/jun05/0606kokosingtrail.htm](http://www.ohiodnr.com/news/jun05/0606kokosingtrail.htm)

**The ultimate goal is still to integrate trail and stream access into transportation infrastructure plans.**

## Art project funded on PA Water Trail

**By Cory Kegerise, Schuylkill River Heritage Area**

The Schuylkill River Water Trail, a National Recreation Trail in Pennsylvania, has been selected for funding in the 2005 round of the Art and

Community Landscapes Program. This exciting project will focus on the water trail as it flows through the urban heart of Berks County.

Ultimately the project will help communicate the nationally significant story of the Schuylkill River and its watershed within a local context, celebrating the area's rich natural, cultural, and industrial heritage. Possible projects could include such things as a mural, sculpture, exhibition, or other works informed by the site.

"Trails and public art are perfect complements, providing connections to the environment and community that inform, inspire, strengthen identity and provide opportunities to enjoy healthful, scenic places," said Pam Gluck, Executive Director of American Trails. "The Schuylkill River Water Trail proposal exemplifies this convergence of the elements and sets a new standard for future projects throughout the nation."

The Art and Community Landscapes program seeks qualified artists to apply for funding of site-specific public art project that may include temporary or permanent art installations, exhibitions, interpretive media or festivals. The program is a partnership of National Endowment for the Arts, the National Park Service and New England Foundation for the Arts.

## Trails promoting tourism

**The deadline for artist applications is August 15, 2005. Artist Guidelines and Application are available at [www.nefa.org](http://www.nefa.org) or (617) 951-0010. More information on the site can be obtained from Schuylkill River Heritage Area at [www.schuylkillriver.org](http://www.schuylkillriver.org) or (484) 945-0200.**

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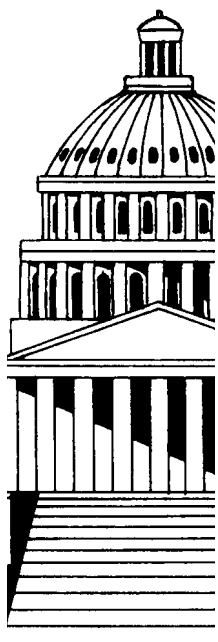
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# Update on Accessible Trails



## USFS continues work on accessibility guidelines

By Janet Zeller, USDA Forest Service

**Proposed guidelines would require new trails on national forests to conform to accessibility standards. The recent public comment period brought changes to the proposed guidelines.**

The *Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines* (FSTAG) were published this year in the *Federal Register* for public comment. A number of the recommendations received were incorporated into the guidelines. If approved, the guidelines would become interim directives for national forest trails.

### Designed use vs. managed use

The FSTAG would only apply to new construction or alteration of National Forest System trails with a “designed use” designation of hiker/pedestrian. Public comment confirmed that “designed-use” rather than “managed-use” should be the designator of the trail as hiker-pedestrian. While a trail may have multiple *managed* uses including mountain bike and equestrian, there is only one *designed* use that controls the geometric design of the trail, and subsequent maintenance parameters.

### Criteria where FSTAG would apply

The FSTAG would apply only to trails that meet all three of the following criteria:

1. The trail is new or altered. An alteration to a trail is a change in the original purpose, intent, or function for which the trail was designed.
2. The trail has a designed use in accordance with USFS terminology for hiker/pedestrian use.
3. The trail connects either directly to a trailhead or to a currently accessible trail.

### Trail access where FSTAG would apply

A trailhead is a site designed by the agency, trail association or other cooperators to provide staging for trail use. For purposes of the FSTAG the following do *not* constitute a trailhead:

- Junctions between trails where there is no other access;
- Intersections where a trail crosses a road;
- Where users have developed an access point, but no improvements are provided by the Forest Service, trail associations, or other cooperators beyond minimal markers for health and safety.

### What's next for accessible trails?

We will bring you all the details of the the *Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines* when it is finalized. Meanwhile, we are still waiting for action on the 1999 draft outdoor developed area accessibility guidelines, developed for the Access Board by the Regulatory Negotiation Committee. Opinion is mixed on when that proposal might move toward public comment. But whenever that might be, the Forest Service and the other Federal land management agencies will then work with the Access Board as it develops final accessibility guidelines for trails, campgrounds, picnic areas, and beach access that will apply to Federal projects.

**For more information contact Janet Zeller, Forest Service National Accessibility Program Manager, at [jzeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jzeller@fs.fed.us) or (202) 205-9597. The Forest Service guidelines and many other resources are online in the Accessible Trails area of [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org).**

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# National Trails Awards

## Honor a special person with National Trails Awards

American Trails' National Trails Awards Program recognizes the contributions of volunteers and professionals who are working to create a national system of trails and greenways for all Americans. The nominations deadline is May 31, 2006.

Nominations should be made for actions that took place between June 15, 2004 to May 31, 2006. National Trails Awards for 2006 will be given in the following categories:

- Partnership Award
- Corporate Award
- Lifetime Service Award
- Trails for Health Award
- Trails and the Arts Award
- Planning/Design Award
- Trails Public Service Award
- Media Award
- Trail Worker Award
- Trail Advocacy Award
- Outstanding Trail Sharing Award
- State-of-the-Art Technology Award

*For details about the American Trails Awards visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org). Click on "National Trails Symposium," then on "National Trails Awards."*

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# Research and Resources for Trails

## Trails expenditures shown to reduce health-care costs

A 2004 study quantifies the benefits of money spent on trail development from a health standpoint. The conclusion is that for every dollar spent on trails nearly three dollars of public health benefits are produced.

The study is *Cost-Benefit Analysis of Physical Activity Using Bike/Pedestrian Trails* by Guijing Wang, PhD, Caroline A. Macera, PhD, Barbara Scudder-Soucie, Med, Tom Schmid, PhD, Michael Pratt, MD, MPH, David Buchner, MD, MPH. It appeared in *Journal: Health Promotion Practice*; April 2005 Vol. 6, No. 2, 174-179

Abstract: From a public health perspective, a cost-benefit analysis of using bike/pedestrian trails in Lincoln, Nebraska, to reduce health care costs associated with inactivity, was conducted. Data was obtained from the city's 1998 *Recreational Trails Census Report* and the literature. Per capita annual cost of using the trails was \$209.28 (\$59.28 construction and maintenance, \$150.00 of equipment and travel). Per capita annual direct medical benefit of using the trails was \$564.41.

The cost-benefit ratio was 2.94, which means that every \$1 investment in trails for physical activity led to \$2.94 in direct medical benefit. The sensitivity analyses indicated the ratios ranged from 1.65 to 13.40.

Therefore, building trails is cost beneficial from a public health perspective. The most sensitive parameter affecting the cost-benefit ratios were equipment and travel costs; however, even for the highest cost, every \$1 investment in trails resulted in a greater return in direct medical benefit.

Visit [www.AmericanTrails.org](http://www.AmericanTrails.org) for more studies and resources on Health and Trails. Select "Health and Trails" from the "Select a Topic" pull-down menu.

## American Trails Patron

## Trails Unlimited

Trails Unlimited is an internal team within the USDA Forest Service called an Enterprise Unit. The objective of these units is to focus on more businesslike approaches to operating agencies within the Federal Government.

Trails Unlimited, begun in 1999, integrates training, consultation and construction into a field level trail project that combines information transfer, education, and training, while completing a project in one package. Work has included:

- Conducted 127 Trail Management training modules in Planning, Design, Layout, Construction, Trail Equipment Certification, Monitoring, Advanced Trail Management Techniques, Maintenance & Contracting.
- Constructed over 100 miles of new or reconstructed trail.
- Installed 15 trail bridges using new materials and designs.
- Developed new pieces of trail construction equipment.

**Trails Unlimited: A USDA Forest Service Enterprise, 105A Grand Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016 (626) 233-4309 - [clockwood01@fs.fed.us](mailto:clockwood01@fs.fed.us) - [www.trailsunlimited.com](http://www.trailsunlimited.com)**



Trails Unlimited trail building equipment training

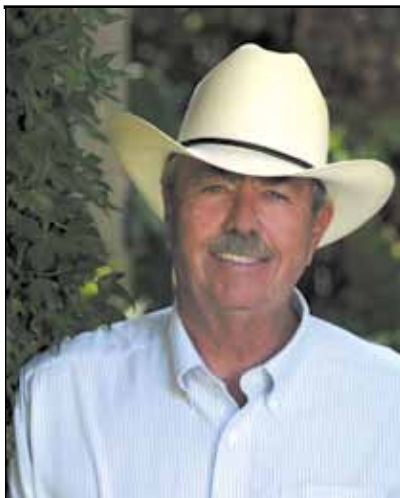


# New at American

## Dr. Mylon Filkins joins American Trails Board

**M**ylon Filkins is a new member of the American Trails Board of Directors. Dr. Filkins is an equine practitioner, as well as a long-time user of saddle and pack stock on federal lands, wilderness areas, forests, parks and backcountry trail systems. He is also past chair of Backcountry Horsemen of California and Back Country Horsemen of America.

Dr. Filkins was named chair of the recently-formed Recreation Trails Committee of the American Horse Council. The goal is to advise the Council on federal issues affecting this important and growing segment of the horse industry. Dr. Filkins has long been a supporter of American Trails, serving on the American Trails Advisory Board since 1998.



## American Trails Patron

## Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

**M**ontana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana and works cooperatively with the USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to achieve this mission. Montana provides more than 14,000 miles of recreational trails for residents and visitors to enjoy.



## Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

FWP's Parks Division provides diverse recreational opportunities in its 43 state parks and 320 fishing access sites and through outreach programs including

Recreational Trails, Snowmobile, Off-Highway Vehicle and Land & Water Conservation Fund programs. The State Trails Programs Office of the Parks Division administers three grant programs and provides technical assistance on trail management, maintenance, and design to agencies, communities, and trail clubs. It attempts to meet the trail needs and demands of the public by active involvement of three citizen advisory committees and reliance on the *Montana State Trails Plan*.

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# Rebuilding Flooded Trails

as well as other community leaders have mentioned the fact that they have seen a noticeable reduction in the amount of traffic through the town of Nelsonville, Ohio, which is located adjacent to the ATV trail system.

Mrs. Dunker also added that this reduction translates to a significant loss in revenue to the local economy. For the two and a half months that the trails remained closed, the CVB estimated revenue loss to be approximately one million dollars.

To date, over 1.67 million of USDA Forest Service and Federal Highway Administration dollars have been received to help with cleanup and restoration of the Forest's developed recreation sites, trails, wetlands, and streambanks.

Thanks to cooperation by the public in respecting the closure, volunteer assistance, supplemental funding, and good weather, the Forest reopened most of the trails by July 1, 2005. Local



### **Flood damage to the Kinderhook equestrian trail**

businesses and visitor's bureaus have expressed their relief that the trails would be back in operation and were planning "welcome back" events.

**For more information: Chad Wilberger, Wayne  
National Forest, 13700 U.S. Hwy 33, Nelsonville, OH  
45764 - (740) 753-0884 or [cwilberger@fs.fed.us](mailto:cwilberger@fs.fed.us)**



## Arizona partnership maps and inventories OHV trails

**T**he Arizona OHV Inventory Partnership is a successful collaborative effort between the BLM, Forest Service, USFS-Recreation Solutions Enterprise Team, Arizona State Parks and the Arizona State Land Department. In January 2000 a statewide effort began to designate motorized routes to better manage OHV recreation. The goal is to create a complete inventory of all routes on Arizona public lands. Recreation Solutions crews collect data on motorcycles, ATVs, or vehicles using Trimble Pro XRS receivers and TSCE data loggers.

The next step will be to take the route inventory data and apply it to route designation work. Team member Tom Bickauskas, transportation planner for the BLM Phoenix Field Office, leads these efforts. To date, Recreation Solutions has completed nearly 20,000 miles of route inventory.

**For more information about this partnership or Recreation Solutions contact Jeni Bradley at [jenibradley@fs.fed.us](mailto:jenibradley@fs.fed.us) or call (406) 295-7491.**

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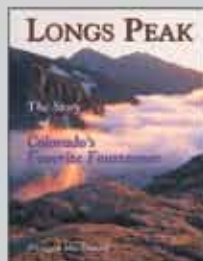


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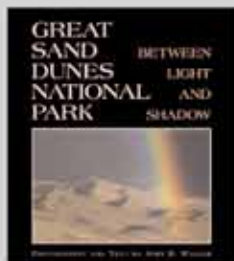
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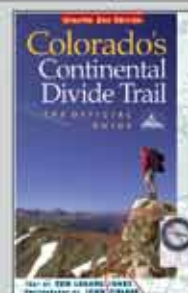
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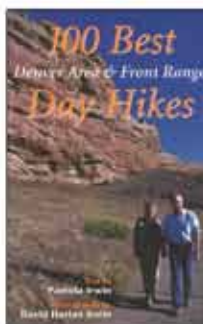
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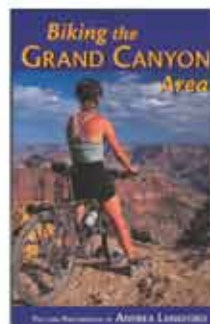
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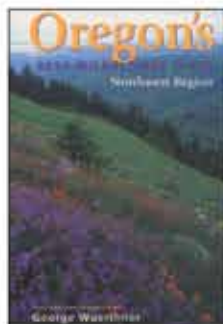
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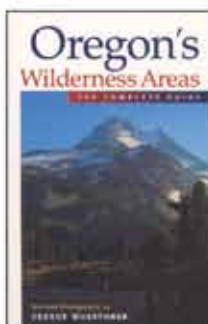
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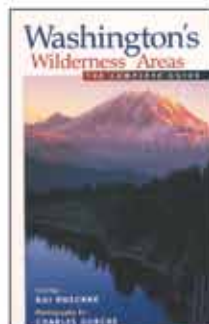
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