National Recreation Trail Application

This application is to be completed by the party proposing NRT designation in coordination with the local District or Forest. This document is intended as both a guide to information needed for NRT consideration as well as the application to be reviewed and approved by the Regional Forester.

*Recommended Format.*

**(Bold print is directly out of FSH 2353.33a – Reports**, [the rest are suggested components or formats].**)**

**1. Name and location of proposed trail, including map indicating trail and vicinity.**

Proposed National Recreation Trail Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Forest System Trail #(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Trail Map \_\_\_\_\_\_Attached

Location Map \_\_\_\_\_\_Attached

**2. History/background.**

Summary of history including construction date, concept, development, partnership(s), cooperating agency(s), historical use(s), local or political issue(s), and events associated with the trail as applicable.

**3. Description of the trail, trail management objective, and associated setting, including cultural features.**

Trail Management Objective- type of use(s), seasons of use, prohibited uses, etc.

List of pertinent features associated with the trail, that would add to or detract from the trail experience, as applicable. (E.g. cliffs, caves, cultural sites, TES, bridges, streams, bodies of water, private property, mud holes…)

Associated recreation facilities: campgrounds, side trail, connector trails, water access, special features, and drinking water.

**4.** **Management direction covering such items as resource protection, safety, maintenance, rules and regulations, signing, and associated recreation facilities.**

Resource Protection: needs and methods.

Safety: special concerns and mitigations.

Maintenance: Include maintenance plan, standards, and identify partnership(s), cooperative agreement(s), and affiliated club(s).

Rules and Regulations: specific to trail or trail management.

Signs: sign plan, pictures, consistency, ROS class, specifics as appropriate.

**5. Assessment of impacts on the trail and associated resources as a result of designation.**

What management actions may be necessary to accommodate increasing use levels?

Describe the resources available to manage and maintain the trail once designated as an NRT

**6. A statement that the trail or trail system will be available for public use and enjoyment for at least 10 consecutive years.**

Include letters of consent from other Federal agencies, the States, their political subdivisions, other administering agencies, or private owners and letters of support from adjacent landowners as applicable.

**7. Approval page.**

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_District Ranger

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Forest Supervisor

Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Recreation Director

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Regional Forester

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### *[Additional information]*

Forest Service Manual 2353.31 – Policy

4. The Regional Forester may establish National Recreation Trails on National Forest System lands or on other ownerships with the written consent of other Federal agencies, the States, their political subdivisions, other appropriate administering agencies, or private owners.

2353.33b - National Recreation Trail Designation Criteria

A trail or a network of trails must meet the following criteria to be designated as a National Recreation Trail.

1. Readiness. Designate a trail only if it is in place and available for public use.

2. Use and Availability. The trail must provide a variety of trail-related recreation opportunities within approximately 2 hours of automobile travel time from the population centers of the Region under consideration.

3. Length. The length of a proposed National Recreation Trail may vary, depending upon its use and purpose, but it must be continuous.

4. Location. The trail incorporates the significant natural and cultural features of the area through which it passes. The trail may utilize a variety of locations if the location is in accordance with planned trail use and reasonably provides for public safety.