

**American Hiking Society • American Trails • American Motorcyclist Association • Back Country Horsemen of America • Equine Land Conservation Resource • International Mountain Bicycling Association • National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance • Partnership for the National Trails System • Rails-to-Trails Conservancy + the 198 Organizations Below**

Chair Merkley  
Ranking Member Murkowski  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chair Simpson  
Ranking Member Pingree  
Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee  
Committee on Appropriations  
2007 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Interior Appropriations Subcommittees Leaders,

On behalf of the millions of trail users our 207 collective organizations represent, who spend their time, money and energy to get out on trails for recreation, health and wellness, and to volunteer, we thank the Committees for advancing legislation to fund our nation's trails and public lands to ensure access for all. We write to follow-up on our Public Witness/Outside Witness Testimony submission from earlier this year.

As Congress works together on a final bill, we ask you to adopt the following trail specific funding levels and report language that are included in the respective House and Senate versions of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies funding bills, so the federal government can continue to leverage private contributions and benefit from volunteer labor as well as provide inexpensive, healthy outdoor recreation options for your constituents and all Americans. Appropriations for federal land management agencies requested herein, coupled with the significant resources provided by non-profit partners, serve to accelerate collective stewardship of our nation's public lands and waters and enhance climate adaptability.

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### **Forest Service**

**Program:** Capital Improvement and Maintenance, Trails

**House Report (pg. 82)**

- **Funding Level:** \$25 million
- **Report Language:** National Scenic and Historic Trails.—The Committee directs the Forest Service to continue to provide specific trail operation, maintenance, and construction funding and accomplishment data for the National Scenic and Historic Trails in future budget justifications. The Committee recommends no less than \$15,000,000 for National Scenic and Historic Trails funding.
- **Note:** In order to support adequate funding for all Forest Service trails and to avoid a reduction in the existing budget for all other Forest Service managed trails, increases for all other Forest Service Trails should occur in parity with the rate of increases for National Scenic and Historic Trails

**Program:** Recreation, Heritage & Wilderness

**House Report (pg. 79):**

- **Funding Level:** \$60M

**Program:** Legacy Roads & Trails

**Agency/Account:** Forest Service, Legacy Roads & Trails

**House Report (pg. 82 ):**

- Funding Level: \$10M
  - Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$15M at minimum, *with support* for Washington Watershed Restoration Initiative (WWRI) coalition request of \$100M.
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**Bureau of Land Management**

**Program:** Bureau of Land Management National Trails System Line Item Funding

**Agency/Account:** National Conservation Lands, National Trails

**House Report (pg. 12-13 ):**

- Funding Level: \$14M
- Report Language: Within the amount provided for National Conservation Lands, the Committee recommends \$14,000,000 for National Scenic and Historic Trails for trail operations, construction, and maintenance projects.

**Program:** National Conservation Lands

**Agency/Account:** BLM, National Conservation Lands

**Senate Report (pg.1 ):**

- Funding Level: \$63.599M
  - Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$78.145M.
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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

**Program:** Visitor Services

**Agency/Account:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Visitor Services

**House Report (pg.19):**

- Report Language: Refuge Maintenance.—The Committee directs continued management of the more than 2,500 miles of trails, including significant portions of 15 National Scenic and Historic trails, across 860 miles of public lands in 21 States that the Service oversees. The Committee encourages the Service to consider cooperative agreements with non-profit organizations that support trails. For trails projects, the Committee understands funding from this account is supplemented with funding from the Federal Lands Transportation Program, which comes from the Highway Trust Fund, and from the Great American Outdoors Act. The Service is directed to continue to include a current and projected deferred maintenance backlog in its annual budget request
  - Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$86.114M.
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**National Park Service**

**Program:** Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA)

**Department: Department of Interior Agency/Account:** NPS, National Recreation and Preservation

**House Report (pg. 13):**

- Funding Level: \$13M
- Note: The Trails Community supports funding for RTCA at \$15M.

**Program: National Trails System**

**Agency/Account:** National Park Service, Park Service Operations

**House Report (pg.26):**

- Funding Level: \$18.856 (level funding compared to FY23)
- Note: The Trails Community supports funding for the National Trails System at \$20.964M

**Senate Report (pg. 39 ):**

- Report Language: National Trails System.—The Committee understands the importance of providing adequate funding to develop and maintain the National Trails System for future generations to enjoy. The Committee urges the Service to continue its efforts to support construction and maintenance projects and volunteer coordination efforts, including activities in support of non-unit National Scenic Trails.

**Program: Volunteers in Parks**

**Agency/Account:** NPS, Park Partnership Support Functions

**Senate Report (pg.36 ):**

- Report Language: The recommendation provides the enacted level for funding volunteers in parks programs, interpretation and education programs, and youth partnership programs.

**Program: Youth Partnership Programs**

**Agency/Account:** National Park Service, Visitor Services

**Senate Report (pg.36 ):**

- Report Language: The recommendation provides the enacted level for funding volunteers in parks programs, interpretation and education programs, and youth partnership programs.
- Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$10.95M

**Program:** Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership

**Agency/Account:** National Park Service, State Conservation Grants

**House Report (pg. 113):**

- Funding Level: \$125M
- Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$135M

**Senate Report (pg.162 ):**

- Funding Level: \$125M
- Note: The Trails Community supports funding at \$135M

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**U.S. Geological Survey**

**Program:** National Digital Trail Project

**Agency/Account:** U.S. Geological Survey, Core Science Systems

**Senate Report (pg.51 ):**

- Funding Level: At least \$1.35M
- Report Language: The recommendation includes at least the enacted level for the National Digital Trails project.
- Note: The Trails Community Supports funding at \$1.5M

Sincerely,

Access4Bikes Foundation	Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail	Montachusett Regional Trails Coalition
Alaska Trails	Equine Land Conservation Resource	Montana Nightriders Snowmobile Club
American Discovery Trail Society	Evansville-Area Trails Coalition	MORE The (Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiast) Inc
American Hiking Society	Farms and Barns Real Estate LLC	Mormon Trails Association
American Motorcyclist Association	Fitchburg Greenway Committee	Mount Rogers Trail Coalition
American Rivers	Floyd County Parks and Recreation Department	Muskegon County Trail Riders
American Trails	Folsom Auburn Trail Riders Action Coalition (FATRAC)	National Association for Interpretation
American Society of Landscape Architects	Foothills Rails-to-Trails Coalition	National Coast Trail Association
Anza Area Trail Town	ForeverGreen Trails	National Washington Rochambeau
Appalachian Mountain Club	Fort Wayne Trails, Inc.	Revolutionary Route Association
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Friends of Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge	National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance
Arizona Trail Association	Friends Of Blackwater, Inc.	Natural Sporthouse
Back Country Horsemen of America	Friends of Constitution Park Ossipee	Nature Legacies
Back Country Horsemen of Minnesota	Friends Of Cross Bar SRMA	Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program
Back Country Horsemen of Colorado	Friends of New River Trail	Nevada Outdoor School
Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico	Friends of North Idaho Trails	New England Mountain Bike Association
Back Country Horsemen of Oregon	Friends of Pocahontas State Park	New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition
Back Country Horsemen of Texas	Friends of the Cheat	New Mexico Sportsmen
Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead	Friends of the Dahlgren Railroad Heritage Trail	New York Bicycling Coalition
Back Country Horsemen of UT - Southwest Chapter	Friends of the Kanawha Trace	New York-New Jersey Trail Conference
Gila Chapter Back Country Horsemen	Friends of Weiser River Trail Inc	Newtown Parks and Recreation
Northern Colorado Back Country Horsemen	G5 Trail Collective	North County Land Trust
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council	Granite Mountain Riders	Northwest Pennsylvania Trail Association
Bay State Trail Riders Association, Inc.	Grant Creek Trails Association	Northwestern Ohio Rails-to-Trails Assn., Inc.
Bike To The Sea .Org	Great Springs Project	NorthWoods Stewardship Center
Black Hills Sustainable Living	Hayward Area Recreation and Park District	Oregon Equestrian Trails
Bonneville Shoreline Trail Committee	Health by Design	Oregon Horse Council
California Mountain Biking Coalition	Higher Ground	Oregon Timber Trail Alliance
California Trails Foundation	Hispanic Access Foundation	Oregon Trails Coalition
CalWild	Hoosier Environmental Council	Ozark Trail Association
Capital Trails Coalition	Housing Rehab	Pacific Crest Trail Association
Carolina Mountain Club	Hubbardston Open Space Committee - chair	Palmetto Trail
Charlottesville Area Mountain Bike Club	Idaho Horse Council	Partnership for the National Trails System
The Chemeketas	Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs	Patten Area Outdoors
Chinook Associates	Indiana Trails Community	The PC Help Desk, Inc
Chinook Trail Association	Infrastructure Resources, LLC	Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society
Choose Outdoors	International Mountain Bicycling Association	PeopleForBikes
Cincinnati Off-Road Alliance	Iron TrailCraft Inc.	Phoenix Mountains Preservation Council
Citizens for a Better Eastern Shore	Jordan Lake Trails Conservation Association	Pikes Peak Outdoor Recreation Alliance
City of Asheville, NC Greenway Committee	Lake Champlain Committee	Pima Trails Association
City of Clarksville, TN Parks and Recreation	League of Michigan Bicyclists	Potomac Heritage Trail Association
Colorado Mountain Bike Association	Legacy Land Conservancy	Rails to Trails Conservancy
Concerned Off-Road Bicyclists Association	Legacy Trails LLC	The REC Co-op
Connecticut Forest & Park Association	Leominster Trail Stewards	Red Line Parkway Initiative
Conservation Minnesota	Loudoun County Department of Parks Recreation and Community Services	Rio Grande Indivisible, NM
Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Love in Motion	River Region Trails, Inc.
The Conservation Fund	Lowelifes Respectable Citizens' Club	Rocky Mountain Backcountry Horsemen
County Line Riders of Catalina, Inc	Maine Trails Coalition	Rocky Mountain Field Institute
Cross New Hampshire Adventure Trail	Marin County Bicycle Coalition	San Diego Mountain Biking Association
Dickinson County Trails Board	Marquette Area Chapter of the North Country Trail Association	San Luis Valley Great Outdoors
Dirt Dojo LLC	ME4E	Sandy Creek Nature Center Inc.
Disabled Equestrians Organization	Milestepper, LLC	Santa Cruz Mountains Trail Stewardship
Dishman Hills Conservancy	Milwaukee Riverkeeper	Shawnee Trail Conservancy
East Coast Greenway Alliance	Mineral County MT Rails-to-Trails	Shenandoah Valley Bicycle Coalition
Eastern Shore Rail Trail Foundation		Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship
EcoServants		The Sierra Club
Elizabeth River Trail Foundation		Singletrack Trails, LLC
Enchanted Circle Trails Association		Siskiyou Upland Trails Association
		Sitka Trail Works, Inc

Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists  
South Mountain Trolley Greenway  
South Penn Enduro Riders  
Southborough Trails Committee  
Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance  
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association  
Sports Backers  
St. Skutla Icelandic Horse Club  
super genius inc.  
Tahoe Rim Trail Association  
Terra Active, LLC  
Tidewater Trails Alliance  
Trails and Open Space Coalition  
Trails Inspire  
Trails Unlimited  
Trails Utah  
Truckee Meadows Trails Regional Trail  
Program, Truckee Meadows Parks  
Foundation  
Trust for Public Land  
The Trustees of Reservations  
Twin State Rails-to-Trails Working Group  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance  
Urbana Park District  
Vail Valley Mountain Trails Alliance  
The Vermont Mountain Bike Association  
Vinton County Park District  
Virginia Association for Parks  
Virginia Bicycling Federation  
Virginia Horse Council  
Virginia Trails Alliance  
Washington County, Ohio, Board of  
Commissioners  
Washington Trails Association  
Western New York Mountain Bicycling  
Association  
Western Riding Club  
Western States Trail Foundation  
The Wilderness Society  
Willamette Valley Visitors Association