



Partnership for the National Trails System

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GARY WERNER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATEMENT TO THE

March 22, 2012

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT & RELATED AGENCIES

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee:

The Partnership for the National Trails System appreciates your support over the past 18 years, through operations funding and dedicated Challenge Cost Share funds, for the national scenic and historic trails administered by the National Park Service. We also appreciate your increased allocation of funds to support the trails administered and managed by the Forest Service and for the trails in the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System. To continue the progress that you have fostered, the Partnership requests that you provide **annual operations funding for each of the 30 national scenic and historic trails** for Fiscal Year 2013 through these appropriations:

- **National Park Service: \$16.21 million for administration of 23 trails** and for coordination of the long-distance trails program by the Washington office. **Construction: \$380,000 for the Ice Age Trail and \$200,000 for the Pacific Crest Trail.**
- **USDA Forest Service: \$9.096 million to administer 6 trails and \$1.2 million to manage parts of 16 trails** administered by the NPS or BLM. **\$1 million for Iditarod Trail construction.**
- **Bureau of Land Management: to coordinate its National Trails System Program: \$250,000; to administer these trails: Iditarod Trail: \$700,000, the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail: \$230,000, the Old Spanish Trail: \$350,000 and to manage portions of 10 trails** administered by the Park Service or the Forest Service: **\$4 million; \$3,140,000 for operating five National Historic Trail interpretive centers; Construction: \$300,000 for the Pacific Crest Trail.**
- We ask that you **appropriate \$4.5 million for the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share Program** and continue to **direct one-third (\$1,500,000) for national scenic and historic trails or create a separate \$1.5 million National Trails System Challenge Cost Share Program.**
- We ask that you add **\$500,000 to the Bureau of Land Management's Challenge Cost Share Program and allocate it for the national scenic and historic trails it administers or manages.**

We ask that you appropriate from the **Land and Water Conservation Fund** for land acquisition:

- to the **Forest Service: \$7.25 million for the Pacific Crest Trail, \$1.5 million for the Florida Trail; \$2.65 million for the Old Spanish Trail; \$3.24 million for the Appalachian Trail, \$1.5 million for the Nez Perce Trail; \$3 million for the Continental Divide Trail; \$45,000 for the Pacific Northwest Trail; and \$15,000 for the Arizona Trail;**
- to the **Bureau of Land Management: \$3.5 million for the Oregon Trail in Oregon, \$732 thousand for the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon, and \$1 million for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails in Wyoming;**
- to the **Park Service: \$6.2 million to continue work with the State of Wisconsin for the Ice Age Trail, \$2 million for the North Country Trail, \$2.5 million for the New England Trail, \$1.125 million for the Appalachian Trail, \$4 million for the Ala Kahakai Trail, and \$450,000 for the Overmountain Victory Trail.**

National Park Service

The **\$16.21 million** we request for **Park Service operations** includes increases for some of the trails to continue the progress and new initiatives made possible by the additional funding Congress provided over the past seven years. We support the Administration's requested funding for the new **Star Spangled Banner** and **Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trails** and we request **\$400,000** for the Park Service to implement planning and administration for the **New England National Scenic Trail**.

We request an **increase of \$626,000** to expand Park Service efforts to protect cultural landscapes at more than 200 sites along the **Santa Fe Trail**, to develop GIS mapping, and to fund public educational outreach programs of the Santa Fe Trail Association. An **increase of \$780,000** for the **Trail of Tears** will enable the Park Service to work with the Trail of Tears Association to develop a GIS to map the Trail's historical and cultural heritage sites to protect them and to develop interpretation of them for visitors. We request an **increase of \$346,000 to \$866,000** for the **Ala Kahakai Trail** to enable the Park Service to work with E Mau Na Ala Hele, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, and other community organizations to care for resources on the land and with the University of Hawaii to conduct archaeological and cultural landscape studies along this trail.

We request an **increase of \$193,000 to \$1,708,000** for the **Appalachian Trail** to expand the highly successful "Trail to Every Classroom" program of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. The **\$1,483,000** we request for the **4,200 mile North Country Trail** will enable the Park Service to provide greater support for the regional GIS mapping, trail building, trail management, and training of volunteers led by the North Country Trail Association. This funding will also enable the Park Service to move the administrative office for the North Country Trail to Michigan for more efficient and effective collaboration with the North Country Trail Association. The **\$1,389,000** we request for the **Ice Age Trail** includes a **\$535,000 increase** to build partner and citizen capacity for protecting the natural, cultural and recreational resources on the Ice Age NST and Ice Age Trail lands as well as to provide NPS with a property manager for NPS-owned lands.

Construction: We request that you appropriate for trail construction projects **\$380,000** for the **Ice Age Trail** and **\$200,000** for the **Pacific Crest Trail** in the national parks crossed by the trail.

Challenge Cost Share programs are one of the most effective and efficient ways for Federal agencies to accomplish a wide array of projects for public benefit while also sustaining partnerships involving countless private citizens in doing public service work. The Partnership's member organizations applaud the Administration's decision to restore these highly effective programs of the **Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish and Wildlife Service**. We request that you **fund all of them** and appropriate **\$4.5 million in Challenge Cost Share** funding to the **Park Service** for FY13 as a wise investment of public money that will generate public benefits many times greater than its sum. We ask you to **continue to direct one-third of the \$4.5 million** for the **national scenic and historic trails** to continue the steady progress toward making these trails fully available for public enjoyment. We suggest, as an alternative to the annual allocating of funds from the Regular Challenge Cost Share program, that you create a separate **National Trails System Challenge Cost Share** program with **\$1.5 million** funding.

We support the Administration's requested **\$934,000** for the **Connect Trails to Parks** project to enhance the public's understanding of the National Trails System and its relationship to the National Park System.

USDA - Forest Service

As you have done for several years, we ask that you provide additional operations funding to the **Forest Service** for administering five national scenic trails and one national historic trail, and managing parts of 16 other trails. We ask you to appropriate **\$9.096 million** as a separate budgetary item specifically for the Arizona, Continental Divide, Florida, Pacific Crest, and Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trails

and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail within the over-all appropriation for **Capital Improvements and Maintenance for Trails**. Full-time managers have been assigned for each of these trails by the Forest Service. Recognizing the on-the-ground management responsibility the Forest Service has for **838 miles** of the Appalachian Trail, more than **650 miles** of the North Country Trail, and sections of the Ice Age, Anza, Caminos Real de Tierra Adentro and de Tejas, Lewis & Clark, California, Iditarod, Mormon Pioneer, Old Spanish, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, Pony Express, Trail of Tears and Santa Fe Trails, we ask you to appropriate **\$1.2 million** specifically for these trails.

Work continues, supported by funds you provided over the past ten years, to close several major gaps in the **Florida Trail**. In 2011 Florida Trail Association volunteers maintained 1,143 miles and completed 8 major construction and restoration projects along the Trail. The Partnership's request of **\$9.096 million** above includes **\$2.5 million** to enable the Forest Service and FTA to continue this maintenance, to control invasive species, do ecosystem restoration, and otherwise manage **4,625 acres** of new Florida Trail land.

The Partnership's request of **\$9.096 million** above also includes **\$2 million** for the **Pacific Crest Trail**, **\$2.2 million** for the **Continental Divide Trail**, **\$1 million** for the **Pacific Northwest Trail**, **\$826,000** for the **Nez Perce Trail**, and **\$570,000** for the **Arizona Trail**. Some of the additional funds requested will enable the Forest Service to develop Comprehensive Management Plans for the latter three trails. We also request **\$1 million** of **additional funding** for construction of sections of the **Iditarod Trail**.

Bureau of Land Management

While the **Bureau of Land Management** has administrative authority only for the **Iditarod, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, and the Old Spanish National Historic Trails**, it has on-the-ground management responsibility for **641 miles** of five scenic trails and **3,115 miles** of eight historic trails administered by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service. The bureau recognized the significance of these trails by including them in the **National Landscape Conservation System** and since FY02 has provided funding for each of them. The Partnership applauds these decisions of the Bureau and encourages its staff to budget specific funding for each of these trails.

Although considerably more money is needed to fully administer the **National Landscape Conservation System** and protect its resources, we support the Administration's request of **\$69.549 million** in **base funding** for the System for FY 2013 and ask that you appropriate as **new permanent base funding** **\$250,000 for National Trails System Program Coordination**, **\$700,000 for the Iditarod Trail**, **\$230,000 for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail**, **\$350,000 for the Old Spanish Trail**, and **\$4,000,000** for management of the portions of the ten other trails under the care of the Bureau of Land Management. For trail maintenance we request **\$300,000 for the Pacific Crest Trail** and **\$50,000 for the Nez Perce Trail**; and request **\$3,140,000** to operate **five historic trails interpretive centers**.

We ask you **to fund** the Bureau's **Challenge Cost Share** program and to add **\$500,000** directed for projects for the National Trails System as you have done for many years with the Park Service's Challenge Cost Share program.

To promote greater management transparency and accountability for the National Trails and the whole **National Landscape Conservation System**, we urge you to request expenditure and accomplishment reports for each of the NLCS Units for FY12 and to direct the Bureau to include unit-level allocations by **major sub-activities** for each of the scenic and historic trails, and wild and scenic rivers -- as the Bureau has done for the monuments and conservation areas -- within a **new activity account** for the National Landscape Conservation System in FY13. Existing accounts for Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas should also be included in this new National Landscape Conservation System activity account. The Bureau's lack of a unified budget account for National Trails prevents the agency from efficiently planning, implementing, reporting, and taking advantage of cost-saving and leveraging partnerships and

volunteer contributions for every activity related to these national resources.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

The Partnership applauds and supports the Administration's intention to provide **\$449.934 million for the Land & Water Conservation Fund**. We request that you provide at least this amount to keep on a trajectory to achieve annual full funding for the **LWCF** and that you make the specific appropriations for **national scenic and historic trails** detailed at the beginning of this statement and below.

FOREST SERVICE: The **\$7.25 million** we request for the **Pacific Crest Trail** will continue to support the acquisition underway by the **Forest Service** Lands Team and the **Park Service** National Trail Land Resources Program Center, protecting 3 miles of PCT in Washington, .5 mile in Oregon, and 8 miles (including taking 3.4 miles off of roads) in California. The **\$1.5 million** requested for the **Florida Trail** will continue another successful collaboration between these two agencies to protect 30 tracts and 3.4 miles of the Trail along the Suwanee River. We request **\$2.65 million** to protect a section of the **Old Spanish Trail** in the Carson National Forest, **\$3.240 million** to protect sections of the **Appalachian Trail in the Cherokee, Pisgah and George Washington/Jefferson National Forests**, and **\$1.5 million** to acquire land in Hell's Canyon of the Snake River in Oregon to protect sites along the **Nez Perce Trail**.

BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT: We request **\$732,000** for the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument that will preserve a section of the **Pacific Crest Trail** in Oregon, **\$3.5 million** to purchase land along the Big Sandy River in Oregon for the **Oregon Trail**, and **\$1 million** to protect sections of the **Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails** along the Platte River in Wyoming.

PARK SERVICE: The National Trails System Act encourages states to assist in the conservation of the resources and development of the national scenic and historic trails. Since FY2000 **Wisconsin** has matched \$13.6 million Federal LWCF funding with \$27.7 million to help protect 67 miles of the **Ice Age National Scenic Trail** by purchasing 51 parcels totaling 7727 acres. Another 40 parcels are under negotiation, appraisal or option to purchase. The requested **\$6.2 Million** will continue this successful Federal/State/local partnership for protecting land for the **Ice Age Trail**. We request **\$2 million** to close gaps in the **North Country Trail**, **\$4 million** to acquire one parcel for the **Ala Kahakai Trail**, **\$2.5 million** to acquire three parcels for the **New England Trail**, and **\$1.125 million** to acquire parcels in Pennsylvania and Vermont for the **Appalachian Trail**.

The Partnership strongly supports the new **"National Rivers and Trails Initiative"** funding line for FY 2013 as a first step to providing consistent annual funding to acquire the land needed to complete Congressionally authorized trails. We urge you to provide considerably more than the \$4 million requested by the Administration since the LWCF funding requests above total more than \$15 million.

Private Sector Support for the National Trails System

Public-spirited partnerships between private citizens and public agencies have been a hallmark of the National Trails System since its inception. These partnerships create the enduring strength of the Trails System and the trail communities that sustain it by combining the local, grass-roots energy and responsiveness of volunteers with the responsible continuity of public agencies. **They also provide private financial support for public projects, often resulting in a greater than equal match of funds.**

The private trail organizations' commitment to the success of these trail-sustaining partnerships grows even as Congress' support for the trails has grown. In **2011 the trail organizations fostered 1,157,493 hours** – an **increase of 4%** over 2010 - of documented volunteer labor valued at **\$24,724,054** to help sustain the national scenic and historic trails. The organizations also raised **private sector contributions of \$8,740,790** to benefit the trails.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

Witness Disclosure Form

Clause 2(g) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires non-governmental witnesses to disclose to the Committee the following information. A non-governmental witness is any witness appearing on behalf of himself/herself or on behalf of an organization other than a federal agency, or a state, local or tribal government.

Your Name, Business Address, and Telephone Number:

Gary Werner
Partnership for the National Trails System
222 South Hamilton Street, Suite 13
Madison, WI 53703
608-249-7870

1. Are you appearing on behalf of yourself or a non-governmental organization? Please list organization(s) you are representing.

Non-governmental organizations – see attached list

2. Have you or any organization you are representing received any Federal grants or contracts (including any subgrants or subcontracts) since October 1, 2008?

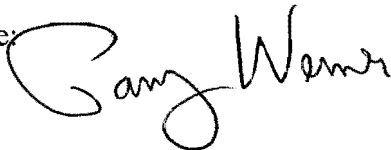
☒ Yes

☐ No

3. If your response to question #2 is "Yes", please list the amount and source (by agency and program) of each grant or contract, and indicate whether the recipient of such grant or contract was you or the organization(s) you are representing.

See attachment

Signature:



Date: MARCH 12, 2012



Partnership for the National Trails System

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Sustaining Our Trail Resources

2011 Partner Organizations

National Scenic Trail Organizations

American Hiking Society
Appalachian Trail Conservancy
Appalachian Mountain Club
Arizona Trail Association
Connecticut Forest & Park Association
Continental Divide Trail Alliance
Continental Divide Trail Society
Florida Trail Association
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Natchez Trace Parkway Association
North Country Trail Association
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Pacific Northwest Trail Association
Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Affiliate Members

American Discovery Trail Association
Carson Valley Trails Association
National Frontier Trails Museum
Back Country Horsemen Association
Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association
Tahoe Rim Trail Association
Smoky Hill Trail Association

National Historic Trail Organizations

Ala Kahakai Trail Association
E Mau Na Ala Hele
Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona
Anza Trail Foundation
Heritage Trails
Camino Real Trail Association
El Camino Real De Los Tejas
Chesapeake Conservancy
Iditarod National Historic Trail, Inc.
Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation
Mormon Trails Association
Nez Perce Trail Foundation
National Pony Express Association
Old Spanish Trail Association
Oregon California Trails Association
Overmountain Victory Trail Association
Santa Fe Trail Association
Trail of Tears Association

The following information is provided to comply with Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, clause 2(g)(4):

**FEDERAL FUNDING PROVIDED TO ORGANIZATIONS
IN THE
PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM
IN FISCAL YEAR 2011**

By the authority of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 et. seq.) the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the USDA Forest Service (FS) Have provided funding assistance and staff involvement through cooperative and challenge cost share agreements to promote and develop components of the National Trails System. Partners for these agreements include the following organizations:

ORGANIZATION	NPS FUNDING	BLM FUNDING	FS FUNDING
Partnership for the National Trails*	\$45,000	\$140,000	\$15,000
Ala Kahakai Trail Association	\$98,000		
Anza Trail Foundation	\$50,000		
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	\$1,719,583		
Arizona Trail Association			\$92,527
Continental Divide Trail Alliance			\$450,000
El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT Association	\$75,630		
Florida Trail Association			\$636,554
Ice Age Trail Alliance	\$494,000		
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance		\$150,000**	
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	\$97,000		
CT Forest & Park Assn. & Appalachian Mtn. Club	\$199,890		
Nez Perce Trail Foundation			\$79,360
North Country Trail Association	\$469,642		
Oregon-California Trails Association	\$208,820	\$31,971	
Old Spanish Trail Association	\$91,500	\$25,129	
Overmountain Victory Trail Association	\$15,000		
Santa Fe Trail Association	\$176,700		
Pacific Crest Trail Association			\$1,254,588
Pacific Northwest Trail Association			\$215,988***
Pony Express Trail Association	\$56,600		
Trail of Tears Association	\$176,205		
TOTAL	\$3,973,570	\$347,100	\$2,744,017

* = Funding to produce and distribute *Pathways Across America*, quarterly newsletter about issues of the National Trails System, coordinate planning for the 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails, manage a website providing information about activities along the trails, guide citizen-based efforts to preserve critical resources along national historic trails, and engage youth in trail and outdoor activities. To support these activities the Partnership also received \$10,000 from the Federal Highway Administration.

**The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance also received \$6,500 from the US Fish and Wildlife Service in 2011.

***This amount was entirely provided through supplementary agreements.

In FY2011, I received \$27,500 of the money the Partnership received from Federal agencies to guide and coordinate the various activities and projects listed above.

This report is derived from information provided to me by National Park Service staff and our organizational partners.

Gary Werner

Gary Werner
2302 Lakeland Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-249-2421

PROFESSIONAL HISTORY

Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System	1999 – present
Member, Board of Directors of Americans for our Heritage & Recreation	1997 - 2003
Chairman, Partnership for the National Trails System	1991 - 1999
Government Relations Consultant, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Pewaukee, WI	1994 - 1995
State Trail Planner, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Pewaukee, WI	1992 - 1994
Dane County Project Coordinator, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Sheboygan, WI	1990 - 1992
State Trail Coordinator, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, Sheboygan, WI	1983 - 1989
Self-employed contractor, Residential Restoration and Repair, Madison, WI	1974 - 1983
Seasonal Fire Guard, U.S. Forest Service, Burns, OR	1973
Legislative Representative, John Muir Chapter, Sierra Club, Madison, WI	1971 - 1972

EDUCATION:

University of Wisconsin - Madison; major areas of study: natural sciences, history, anthropology, and philosophy.