

February 11, 2011

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Petri:

The nation's recreational trails community is vitally interested in the efforts of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to craft a new major surface transportation law. We appreciate your active involvement in this effort.

Since 1991, the nation's surface transportation program has returned trail enthusiast-generated federal fuel taxes to fund construction and maintenance of trails serving all types of trail activities, motorized and non-motorized, urban and rural, warm weather and cold weather. The assistance is provided under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), administered by the Federal Highway Administration and state trail programs. While small compared to most other surface transportation programs, RTP has a huge impact across the nation and in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin, like every other state, has a state trail advisory board which works to mitigate friction among trail interests and to put the available RTP funds to best use. Many of the projects are under \$50,000, but are vital to provide access to public lands through a bridge, a parking area or a connecting segment. As our letter to the committee's leadership (attached) indicates, RTP projects provide immediate employment and long-term and sustainable economic benefits.

Since 1993, Wisconsin has received \$19,124,093 in RTP funds. We have worked to assemble reports on the use of the funds and a searchable database on projects is available at <http://www.funoutdoors.info/search.aspx>. In Wisconsin, we have reports on 331 projects, representing use of \$9,780,274 in RTP funds. In addition, the RTP funds have been leveraged with \$9,996,409 in funds, materials and qualifying in-kind support for state, local and private partners.

We are especially pleased to tell you that projects in your state have received national recognition for excellence. Information on this recognition is also attached.

Nearly 500 national and regional organizations signed the letter to committee leadership asking for continuation of the RTP program, including many active in your state. We thank you for your consideration of this request and would welcome the chance to discuss RTP's importance to Wisconsin and your district.

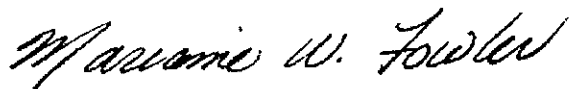


**COALITION  
FOR  
RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS**

1225 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 450  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
202-682-9530  
FAX 202-682-9529

The Honorable Thomas E. Petri  
February 11, 2011  
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Sincerely,



Marianne Fowler  
Co-Chair



Derrick Crandall  
Co-Chair

cc: Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs  
Capitol Off-Road Pedalers  
Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association  
Human Powered Trails, Inc.  
Mississippi River Trail, Inc.  
Stock Horse of Wisconsin  
The Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association  
Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association



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February 11, 2011

The Honorable John L. Mica  
Chair, Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nick Rahall  
Ranking Member, Transportation and  
Infrastructure Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John J. Duncan, Jr.  
Chair, Highways and Transit  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member, Highways and Transit  
Subcommittee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mica, Representative Rahall,  
Representative Duncan and Representative DeFazio:

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act and plays an absolutely essential role in funding state trail programs and projects all across the country. As national, regional and local organizations that support recreational trails, we urge you to support the reauthorization of the RTP as a discrete program in new surface transportation legislation.

Funding for the RTP is derived from federal taxes paid on gasoline used in nonhighway recreation and is administered by the Federal Highway Administration. Funding is distributed to the states based on a formula that honors the user-pay/user-benefit character of the program. RTP funds are utilized by state transportation departments and natural resource agencies in cooperation with citizen advisory committees and a network of organizations and communities. These partners leverage available funding with cash and in-kind support – often doubling available federal funds. Work for these projects is primarily done by youth corps, volunteers, and small businesses, providing employment opportunities for many hardest hit by the recession and the finished projects are catalysts for tourism, providing valuable access to public lands.

The RTP funding-distribution process is proven, having successfully funded in excess of 15,000 projects across the nation over the past 19 years. Despite this success, there is still a backlog of good-quality, eligible projects. New awareness of physical activity as a proven means to control healthcare costs combines with clear economic benefits of the trails aided by the RTP. For these reasons, and because past legislation failed to make available all of the funds attributable to nonhighway recreation use of gasoline, we request continuing and even increased funding for the RTP.

Trails are an investment in the future of our communities and our public lands, while connecting people of all ages and backgrounds to the environment – which is good for them and good for the world that surrounds them.

We have seen firsthand the power of these projects to transform communities and transform people. Indeed RTP-funded projects represent investments in

vital infrastructure that promote healthy communities and more importantly, healthy people. In addition, the economic impact of these projects is magnified because they improve access to public lands and waters and support both local tourism and recreation businesses, as well as healthy lifestyles.

Our thousands of members and allies believe that reauthorizing the Recreational Trails Program will achieve both important economic stimulation and strategic investments that will help transform American communities and lifestyles for long-term success.

We also emphasize our strong support for continuation of the Recreational Trails Program as a discrete program. We understand that efficiencies can be achieved by integrating some programs. However, in the case of the RTP, which has come to serve as the foundation for every state's trail program, we think that the damage to the program would far outweigh any potential administrative benefits. The RTP has an identified funding source directly related to trail-based recreation, an exceptional record of using those funds to leverage additional funding for trails, and a proven, transparent, responsive state-based system for distributing funds for a wide variety of trail-related uses. All of those exceptional benefits would be lost if the RTP lost its discrete identity.

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) has prepared the enclosed paper that provides additional background, as well as some recommended modifications to the RTP. For more information, we invite you to contact one of the Co-Chairs of the Coalition for Recreational Trails: Marianne Fowler ([Marianne@railstotrails.org](mailto:Marianne@railstotrails.org)) or Derrick Crandall ([dcrandall@funoutdoors.com](mailto:dcrandall@funoutdoors.com)).

Please join Americans across the country in supporting the Recreational Trails Program as part of the new federal transportation bill. Thank you for your leadership in addressing our nation's transportation challenges.

Sincerely,

*National/International Membership Organizations*

All-Terrain Vehicle Association  
Alta Planning + Design  
America Bikes  
America Outdoors Association  
American Council of Snowmobile Associations  
American Discovery Trail Society  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Motorcyclist Association  
American Quarter Horse Association  
American Recreation Coalition  
American Society of Landscape Architects  
American Trails  
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access  
Back Country Horsemen of America  
Bikes Belong Coalition  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
The Corps Network  
East Coast Greenway Alliance  
Equine Land Conservation Resource  
Groundwork USA  
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators

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*National/International Membership Organizations continued*

International Mountain Bicycling Association  
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  
Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners  
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds  
National Association of State Park Directors  
National Association of State Trail Administrators  
National Competitive Trail Horse Association  
National Forest Recreation Association  
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council  
National Recreation and Park Association  
North American Trail Ride Conference  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Professional Trail Builders Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Specialty Equipment Market Association  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
Tread Lightly!, Inc.  
United Four Wheel Drive Associations  
Western States Tourism Policy Council

*Other Supporters*

Access4Bikes, California  
Active Transportation Alternatives, Montana  
Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs  
Alabama Hiking Trail Society  
Alabama Horse Council  
The Alabama Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Alabama State Parks Division  
Alaska Trails  
Alaska Transportation Priorities Project  
Albert Lea Convention and Visitors Bureau, Minnesota  
All Terrain Vehicle Association of Minnesota  
Allegheny Ridge Corporation, Pennsylvania  
Amateur Riders Motorcycle Association of Minnesota  
A.O. Smith Corp., Kentucky  
Appalachian Mountain Club, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Maine, Massachusetts,  
New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island  
Arizona OHV Coalition  
Arizona State Parks  
Association of Wisconsin Snowmobile Clubs  
B & O Trail Association, Indiana  
Back Country ATV Association, Idaho  
Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona  
The Back Country Horsemen of Idaho  
Back Country Horsemen of Montana  
Back Country Horsemen of Utah  
Back Country Horsemen of Washington State

*Other Supporters continued*

Back Country Horsemen of West Virginia  
Baldwin County Trailblazers, Inc., Alabama  
Bay Area Barns and Trails, California  
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council, California  
Bay Circuit Alliance, Massachusetts  
Bay State Trail Riders Association, Massachusetts  
Beneficial Designs, Inc., Nevada  
Berkshire Natural Resources Council, Inc., Massachusetts  
Bicycle Coalition of Maine  
Bicycle Trails Council of Marin, California  
Bigfoot Bicycle Club, California  
Big Lake Trails, Inc., Alaska  
Black Hills Mountain Bike Association, South Dakota  
Blackwater Trail Riders, New Hampshire  
Boise ATV Riders Association, Idaho  
Border to Boston Trail Coalition, Massachusetts  
Brown & Danos landdesign, inc., Louisiana  
Buckeye Dual Sporters, Ohio  
Buffalo River Back Country Horsemen, Arkansas  
Burden Center Trees and Trails, Louisiana  
Burlington Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina  
California Bicycle Coalition  
California Conservation Corps  
California Equestrian Trails and Lands Coalition  
California Recreational Trails Committee  
California Trail Users Coalition  
California Trails & Greenways Foundation  
Callander Associates, California  
Capitol Off-Road Pedalers, Wisconsin  
The Carolina Thread Trail, North Carolina  
Carolina Trail Builders, North Carolina  
Carroll County Board, Illinois  
Carson Valley Trails Association, Nevada  
Catamount Trail Association, Vermont  
Catawba Lands Conservancy, North Carolina  
Chattahoochee Trail Horse Association, Georgia  
Central Illinois Mountain Bike Association  
Central Kentucky Back Country Horsemen  
Central New York Dedicated Individuals for Responsible Trail-use  
Central Rhode Island JAYCEES  
Cheaha Trail Riders, Inc., Alabama  
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, Washington  
Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Association, Wisconsin  
Chester Wood State Trail Committee, Minnesota  
Chicago Area Sea Kayakers Association, Illinois  
Chittenango Creek Walk and Neighborhood Trail Committee, New York  
Choose Outdoors, Colorado  
Chowan County Tourism Development Authority, North Carolina  
The City of Bogalusa, Louisiana  
City of Cornelia, Georgia

*Other Supporters continued*

City of Fort Wayne, Indiana  
City of Fresno Parks, After School, Recreation and Community Services  
Department, California  
City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department, California  
City of Monroe, Louisiana  
City of Newark, Delaware  
City of Newburyport Office of Planning and Development, Massachusetts  
City of North Little Rock, Arkansas  
City of Oxford Parks and Recreation, North Carolina  
City of Pasadena, Department of Public Works, California  
The City of Shelby, Montana  
The City of Somerville, Massachusetts  
City of Zachary, Louisiana  
Clayton Parks and Recreation Department, North Carolina  
Coastal Land Trust, California  
Coastal Trails Coalition, Inc., Massachusetts  
Coastwalk California  
The Coconino Rural Environment Corps, Arizona  
Colcom Foundation, Pennsylvania  
Collinsville Area Recreation District, Illinois  
Concerned Long Island Mountain Bikers, New York  
Connecticut Forest & Park Association  
Connecticut Horse Council Inc.  
County Line Riders of Catalina, Inc., Arizona  
Crossroads Cycling Club, North Carolina  
Cumberland Trail Conference, Tennessee  
Cyclists of the Gitchee Gumees Shores, Minnesota  
Dallas Off-Road Bicycle Association, Texas  
Danvers Bi-Peds, Inc., Massachusetts  
Delaware Equine Council  
The Delaware Greenway and Trails Council  
Delaware Recreation and Parks Society  
Delaware State Parks  
Delaware Trail Spinners  
Derry Area Recreational Board, Pennsylvania  
Dothan Leisure Services, Alabama  
Downhill Coalition, Oregon  
Draper City Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee, Utah  
East Bay Area Trails Council, California  
Eastern Trail Alliance, Maine  
El Dorado Equestrian Trail Foundation, California  
Empire State Quarter Horse Association, New York  
Equestrian Partners in Conservation, Maryland  
Equestrian Trails, Inc., California  
Essex County Trail Association, Massachusetts  
Fairbanks North Star Borough Parks and Recreation Department, Alaska  
Fallbrook Land Conservancy Trails Council, California  
Faribo Sno-Go Club, Minnesota  
Five Rivers Metro Parks, Ohio  
Florida Green Guide Association

*Other Supporters continued*

The Florida Mudcutters, Inc.  
Florida Trail Association  
Foothill Trail Hounds, California  
Fort Harrod Back Country Horsemen, Kentucky  
Friends of Acadia, Maine  
Friends of Gillette Castle State Park, Connecticut  
Friends of Harkness Park, Connecticut  
Friends of Lakes Folsom and Natoma, California  
Friends of Lafitte Corridor, Louisiana  
Friends of Southampton Greenway, Massachusetts  
Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, Michigan  
Friends of the Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina and Virginia  
Friends of the Edgewood-Oak Brush Plains Preserve, New York  
Friends of the Lewistown, Montana Trails, LLC  
Friends of the Manhan Rail Trail, Massachusetts  
Friends of the Mill Towns State Trail, Minnesota  
Friends of the Moshassuck, Rhode Island  
Friends of the Mountains-to-Sea Trail, North Carolina  
Friends of the Northern Rail Trail in Merrimack County, New Hampshire  
Friends of the Ouachita Trail, Arkansas  
Friends of the Riverfront, Pennsylvania  
Friends of the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Connecticut  
Friends of the Trails, Illinois  
Gallatin County Parks and Trails Committee, Montana  
Gallatin Equestrian Partnership, Montana  
Gallatin Valley Land Trust, Montana  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation, North Carolina  
Get Outdoors USA!, Washington, D.C.  
The Glacial Drumlin Horse Trail Association, Wisconsin  
The Goethe Trail, Inc., Florida  
Granite State Carriage Association, New Hampshire  
Great Barrington Housatonic River Walk, Massachusetts  
Great Barrington Land Conservancy, Massachusetts  
Great Barrington Trails & Greenways, Massachusetts  
Great Falls Trail Bike Riders Association, Montana  
Greater Houston Off-Road Biking Association, Texas  
Greater Memphis Greenline, Tennessee  
Groundwork Lawrence, Massachusetts  
Gwinnett County Parks, Georgia  
Hanover Idling Awareness, New Hampshire  
Hartigan Management, North Carolina  
Hayward Hiking Club, California  
Haywood Greenways Advisory Council, North Carolina  
Headwaters Montana of Whitefish, Montana  
Hickory Hideaway, Illinois  
Highlands Plateau Greenway, North Carolina  
High Rides Mountain Bike Club, Florida  
Hoosier Back Country Horsemen, Indiana  
Houston County EDA Trails, Minnesota  
Human Powered Trails, Inc., Wisconsin



*Other Supporters continued*

Hunterdon Horse & Pony Association, New Jersey  
Idaho Recreation and Park Association  
Idaho Recreation Council  
Idaho State ATV Association  
Idaho State Snowmobile Association  
Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs  
Illinois Paddling Council  
Illinois Trail Riders  
Illinois Trails Conservancy  
Indiana Trail Riders Association  
Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Alaska  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa Motorcycle Dealers Association  
Iowa Motorsports Coalition  
Iowa OHV Association  
Ipswich Bay Circuit Trail Committee, Massachusetts  
Jackson County Recreation and Parks Department, North Carolina  
JAYCEE Education & Library Foundation of Rhode Island  
The Jena Times, Louisiana  
Jersey Action Riders Mountain Bike Club  
Jersey Off Road Bicycle Association  
Kansas Horse Council  
Kelly Landscape Architects, LLC, Alabama  
The Kent County Junior Chamber, Rhode Island  
Kentucky Back Country Horsemen  
Kentucky Horse Council  
Kings Mountain Gateway Trails, Inc., North Carolina  
Kingston Conservation Commission, Massachusetts  
Klamath Mountain Bike Association, Oregon  
Knox County Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Partnership, Tennessee  
Kuna Trail Riders, Idaho  
Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission, California  
Lake County Public Services Department, California  
Lake Mansfield Alliance, Massachusetts  
Lancaster Recreation Commission, Pennsylvania  
Lassen Land and Trails Trust, California  
Laurel Foundation, Pennsylvania  
League of Illinois Bicyclists  
Lewiston Trails Group, California  
Lewistown Park and Recreation Department, Montana  
Linn County Conservation Board, Iowa  
Long Island Greenways and Healthy Trails, New York  
Louisiana Chapter, American Society of Landscape Architects  
Louisiana Equine Council  
Louisiana Tech University, Recreation Department  
Lowell Parks and Conservation Trust, Massachusetts  
Maine Bureau of Parks & Lands  
Maine Island Trail Association  
Maine Snowmobile Association  
Mass Audubon, Massachusetts

*Other Supporters continued*

Massachusetts Recreational Trails Advisory Board  
Maui Na Ala Hele, Hawaii  
Miami Valley Mountain Bike Association, Ohio  
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance  
Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia  
Millstone Trailblazers, New Jersey  
Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists  
Minnesota Trail Riders Association  
Minnesota United Snowmobilers Association  
Minooka Park, Alabama  
Mississippi River Corridor, Tennessee  
Mississippi River Trail, Inc., Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota,  
Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee and Wisconsin  
Missoula Parks & Recreation, Montana  
Missoula Snowgoers, Montana  
Moab Friends-For-Wheelin', Utah  
Moab Trails Alliance, Utah  
Mohave Desert ATV Riders Association, Arizona  
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks  
Montana Recreation and Parks Association  
Montana Snowmobile Association  
The Montana Trail Vehicle Riders Association  
Moore Planning Group, LLC, Louisiana  
Mountain Home ATV Club, Idaho  
Muttontown Horsemen's Association, New York  
National Coast Trail Association, Oregon  
National Forest Association – Los Padres, California  
The Natural Gait, LLC, Iowa  
Nebraska State Snowmobile Association  
Nebraska Trails Council  
Nevada All-State Trail Riders  
New England Mountain Bike Association, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New  
Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont  
New Hampshire BikeSmart  
New Hampshire Bureau of Trails  
New Hampshire Horse Council  
New Hampshire Mushers Association  
New Hampshire Quarter Horse Association  
New Hampshire Rail Trails Coalition  
New Hampshire Snowmobile Association  
New Jersey Horse Council  
New Jersey Off Highway Vehicle Association  
New York City Mountain Bike Association  
New York – New Jersey Trail Conference  
New York State Horse Council, Inc.  
Newtown Bridle Lands Association, Connecticut  
The NorCal High School Cycling League, California  
North Ada County Foothills Association, Idaho  
North Carolina Horse Council  
North Carolina Paddle Trails Association

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*Other Supporters continued*

North Carolina Rail-Trails, Inc.  
North Carolina Recreation & Park Association  
North Country Trail Association, Michigan  
The North Shore Nordic Club of Bigfork, Montana  
Northern Area Alaska Parks Citizen Advisory Board  
Northern Forest Canoe Trail, Vermont  
Northern Kentucky Horse Network  
Northwest Georgia SORBA  
Oahu Na Ala Hele, Hawaii  
Ocala Mountain Bike Association, Florida  
Ohio Motorized Trails Association  
Ohio State Snowmobile Association  
Okanogan Valley Chapter, Back Country Horseman of Washington  
Oregon Motorcycle Riders Association  
Oregon State Snowmobile Association  
Ouachita Mountain Hikers, Arkansas  
Ozark Greenways, Inc., Missouri  
Paiute ATV Trail Committee, Utah  
Palmetto Conservation Foundation, South Carolina  
The Parish of St. Charles, Louisiana  
Parks & Trails New York  
Pasadena Mountain Bike Club, California  
Pawtuxent River Authority and Watershed Council, Rhode Island  
Pennsylvania Equine Council  
Pennsylvania Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society  
Pennsylvania State Snowmobile Association  
Peoria Park District, Illinois  
PHM Design Corporation, Colorado  
Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Minnesota  
Pilgrim Sands Trail Riders, Inc., Massachusetts  
Pima Trails Association, Arizona  
Pinedale Snow Explorers, Wyoming  
Piscataqua Hounds, New Hampshire  
Piscataquog Area Trailways, Inc., New Hampshire  
Plaquemines Parish Off Road Committee, Louisiana  
Pointe Coupe Parish Police Jury, Louisiana  
Portland Trails, Maine  
Rails to Trails of NW Montana, Inc.  
Rapids Riders Club, Minnesota  
R. B. Lohr & Company, New Hampshire  
Recreational Trails, Inc., Montana  
Red Mountain Park, Alabama  
Redding Mountain Biking Club, California  
Reno Wheelmen, Nevada  
Resource Technology, Inc., New Mexico  
Rhode Island Blueways Alliance  
Ride with Respect, Utah  
River of Grass Greenway, Florida  
River Road African American Museum, Louisiana

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*Other Supporters continued*

Roanoke Parks and Recreation, Virginia  
St. Mary Parish Government Department of Economic Development, Louisiana  
St. Tammany Parish Tammany Trace, Louisiana  
Sam Houston Forest Equestrian Association, Texas  
Sam Houston Trails Coalition, Texas  
San Diego Mountain Biking Association, California  
San Luis Obispo Parks Open Space and Trails Foundation, California  
Santa Clara County Parks, California  
Save Mercer And Ride the Trails, New Jersey  
Savoy Canary Kats Snowmobile Club, Inc., Massachusetts  
Schuyler Snowstars, Nebraska  
Seeley Nordic Ski Club, Montana  
Serpentine Art and Nature Commons, Inc., New York  
Shady Grove Recreation District, Louisiana  
Shawnee Trail Conservancy, Illinois  
Shore Riders Pony Club, New Jersey  
The Sierra Front Recreation Coalition, Nevada  
Somerset Horse and Pony Association, New Jersey  
Sonoma County Trails Council, California  
Sorella Cycling, Georgia  
South Carolina Horsemen's Council  
South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation  
South Dakota Parks and Recreation Association  
South Dakota Recreational Trails Program Advisory Council  
South Dakota Snowmobile Association  
The Southeast Alabama Regional Planning and Development Commission  
South Eastern Distance Riders Association, Florida  
Southeastern Minnesota Association of Recreational Trails  
Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association, Georgia  
Southwest Conservation Corps, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas and Utah  
Southwest Regional Recreation Authority of Virginia  
Spring Township Parks and Recreation, Pennsylvania  
Stark County Park District, Ohio  
Stock Horse of Wisconsin  
Susquehanna River Trail Association, Pennsylvania  
Swan Ecosystem Center, Montana  
Syracuse Snoflakes Snowmobile Club, Nebraska  
Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, Nevada  
Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Nevada  
Takahik River Valley Hikers, Arkansas  
Tammany Trace Foundation, Louisiana  
Tehachapi Mountain Trails Association, California  
Tennessee Commission on Greenways and Trails  
Tennessee Rovers  
Texas Motorized Trails Coalition  
Texas Parks & Wildlife  
The Town of Apex, North Carolina  
The Town of Bethania, North Carolina  
Town of Georgetown Rec Path Committee, Massachusetts  
Town of Kentwood, Louisiana

*Other Supporters continued*

Town of Mansura, Louisiana  
Town of Millinocket, Maine  
Town of Olla, Louisiana  
Town of Port Barre, Louisiana  
Town of Sturbridge, Massachusetts  
Town of Vernon Parks and Recreation Department, Connecticut  
TRACKS, Arizona  
Trail Management Services LLC, Ohio  
Trail Mix, Inc., Alaska  
Trails4All, California  
Trails Trust of Humboldt Bay, California  
Triangle Greenways Council, North Carolina  
Truckee Meadows Trails Association, Nevada  
Twin Cities Trail Riders, Minnesota  
Upper Valley Trails Alliance, Vermont  
Utah Snowmobile Association  
Utah State Parks and Recreation  
Valley Mountain Bikers and Hikers, Alaska  
Vermont Horse Council  
Vermont Mountain Bike Association  
Vermont Trail Trotters  
Virginia Horse Council  
Wachusett Greenways, Inc., Massachusetts  
Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Association, New York  
Walpole Trails Committee, Massachusetts  
Warrenton Trails Association, Oregon  
Washington Coalition for Promoting Physical Activity  
Weber Pathways, Utah  
West Ouachita Youth Sports Association, Louisiana  
West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation, Montana  
White Mountain Open Trails Association, Arizona  
Whitefish Legacy Partners, Montana  
Wisconsin Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
The Wood-Pawcatuck Watershed Association, Rhode Island  
Woodlands Trail and Park, Louisiana  
WOW Trail of Laconia, New Hampshire  
Wyoming Back Country Horsemen  
Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails  
Wyoming State Snowmobile Association  
XCSkiResorts.com, New Hampshire  
Yadkin River Greenway Council, North Carolina  
YMCA of Northeast Louisiana  
York County Rail Trail Authority, Pennsylvania

cc: Members, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, U.S. House of Representatives

## RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) was created by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), reauthorized in 1998 as part of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21) and reauthorized again in 2005 through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU).
- The legislation applies the “user-pay/user-benefit” philosophy of the Highway Trust Fund, returning federal tax on fuel used for nonhighway recreation to the states for trail projects.
- Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; construction of new recreational trails (with specific requirements when federal land is involved); acquisition of easements and fee simple title for recreational trail corridors; and assessment of trail conditions. State administrative and educational program costs are capped at 7% and 5% respectively. States are encouraged to work with qualified youth conservation or service corps.
- After a slow start under ISTEA, when \$37.5 million was made available for the program, funding has grown substantially, representing a more equitable portion of the total fuel taxes paid by nonhighway recreationists, and, by September 30, 2010, nearly \$780 million had been made available to states for recreational trails over the last 18 years. Half of all funding is apportioned to the states equally. The remaining 50% is apportioned among eligible states based upon nonhighway recreational fuel use in each of those states during the preceding year.
- Thirty percent of funds are to be spent for uses relating to motorized recreation; 30% are to be spent for uses relating to nonmotorized recreation. In addition, 40% shall be used for projects that facilitate diverse recreational trail use within a recreational trail corridor, trailside or trailhead.
- The Recreational Trails Program has had a dramatic and positive impact on the quality of life in America through more than 13,000 projects documented nationwide -- attracting and supporting significant trail-based economic activity in thousands of communities -- and through new cooperation among diverse trail enthusiasts, government officials at the federal, state and local levels, and national organizations in the conservation, recreation, and transportation fields. We also now understand better the role of RTP-aided trails in the nation's campaign to attack inactivity and obesity.
- ***As Congress develops the next national surface transportation program, the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) urges the following actions be taken regarding the Recreational Trails Program:***
  - 1) ***continue RTP funding, returning gas taxes paid by recreationists to recreational trails;***
  - 2) ***provide funding for a USDOT study of nonhighway recreational fuel use;***
  - 3) ***adjust allowed FHWA administrative expenses to 1% of actual available annual funding, and permit up to 100% federal share for approved administrative expenses and projects;***
  - 4) ***simplify funding provisions for projects on federal lands, incorporating provisions applicable to federal lands highway projects that allow up to 100% federal share;***
  - 5) ***recommit to and codify provisions encouraging use of youth conservation corps and volunteers*** (see [www.corpsnetwork.org/images/stories/transportation/TCN\\_GuideBook\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.corpsnetwork.org/images/stories/transportation/TCN_GuideBook_FINAL.pdf) for examples);
  - 6) ***exempt RTP projects from review by Statewide and Metropolitan Transportation Planning processes*** where the projects are (1) recreational in character, (2) less than \$100,000 in total cost and (3) include major volunteer effort; and
  - 7) ***allow credit for donated easements and rights-of-way*** as part of a project's non-federal cost if done within 18 months of project authorization.

COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS 1225 New York Avenue, N.W., Suite 450, Washington, D.C. 20005  
(202) 682-9530 Fax (202) 682-9529

## **COALITION FOR RECREATIONAL TRAILS**

The Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) is a federation of national and regional trail-related organizations. Its members work together to build awareness and understanding of the Recreational Trails Program, which returns federal gasoline taxes paid by off-highway recreationists to the states for trail development and maintenance. CRT was formed in 1992 following the passage of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) to ensure that the National Recreational Trails Fund (now known as the Recreational Trails Program or RTP) established by that legislation received adequate funding. During the six years of ISTEA, CRT worked to ensure that program was continued and strengthened as part of the ISTEA reauthorization process. Following the 1998 passage of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) and the 2005 approval of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), both of which significantly increased RTP program funding, CRT's efforts have been focused on supporting its continued, effective implementation and its extension and enhancement through the next round of transportation legislation.

### ***National Members***

Adventure Cycling Association  
America Bikes  
American Council of Snowmobile Associations  
American Hiking Society  
American Horse Council  
American Motorcyclist Association  
American Recreation Coalition  
American Trails  
Americans for Responsible Recreational Access  
Back Country Horsemen of America  
Bikes Belong  
BlueRibbon Coalition  
The Corps Network  
Equine Land Conservation Resource  
International Association of Snowmobile Administrators  
International Mountain Bicycling Association  
International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association  
The League of American Bicyclists

Motorcycle Industry Council  
National Association of Recreation Resource Planners  
National Association of State Trail Administrators  
National Bicycle Greenway  
National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council  
National Recreation and Park Association  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
Professional Trail Builders Association  
Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
Recreation Vehicle Dealers Association  
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association  
SnowSports Industries America  
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America  
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association  
Student Conservation Association  
Tread Lightly!  
United Four Wheel Drive Associations



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# RTP Achievement Awards

## Wild Rivers State Trail, Washburn County, WI

*Decks were replaced on 12 railtrail bridges to keep over 100 miles of trail open.*



**Project sponsor:** Washburn County Forestry Department

**Award Category:** Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing

**Congressional District:** David Obey (D-7-WI)

**Senators:** Herbert Kohl (D) and Russ Feingold (D)

2007 Annual Achievement Award winner: for trail projects funded through the Recreational Trails Program of the Federal Highway Administration. Awarded by the [Coalition for Recreation Trails](#).



trail.

### For more information:

Mike Peterson

[Washburn County Forestry Department](#)

850 West Beaverbrook Avenue, Suite 4

Spooner, WI 54801

715-635-4490



In 2004 Washburn County, Wisconsin received \$12,500 from the RTP program to re-deck 12 bridges located along the segment of the Wild Rivers State Trail that runs through Washburn County. The Wild Rivers Trail is a 104-mile trail that traverses three counties in northwestern Wisconsin and provides connections to hundreds of miles of snowmobile and ATV trails.

The trail is used by snowmobilers and some cross-country skiers in winter with ATV and some equestrian use in the summer. Maintaining the bridges has allowed 104 miles of continuous trail to remain open, not only accommodating year-round use for different forms of recreation but also providing a transportation corridor for the towns along the



▶ See previous Recreational Trails Program Award Winners:

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- 2002
- 2001
- 2000

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▶ Do you need training? Do you have training



**For more great trails, see:**

The Wisconsin Trails page and nationwide index of state-by-state trail links

Featured National Recreation Trails in Wisconsin

See a one-page [pdf version of this page](#).

opportunities you'd like to publicize? Are you a trails expert who can teach trail skills to others? The [National Trails Training Partnership](#) wants to work with you to make training more available.

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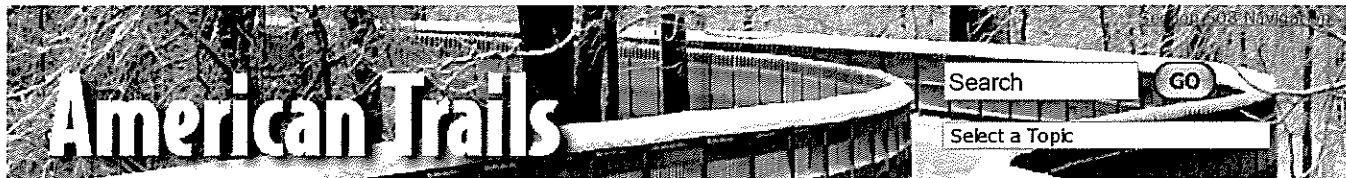


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## RTP Achievement Awards

### Yellowstone Wildlife Area Equestrian Trail Project

Project sponsor: **Yellowstone Wildlife Area - Darlington, Lafayette County, Wisconsin**

Award Category: **Wildlife Compatibility**

2004 Annual Achievement Award winner: for trail projects funded through the Recreational Trails Program of the Federal Highway Administration

A bridge was constructed across Steiner Brook to allow equestrians to cross the creek without damaging trout habitat and causing erosion.

The trail, 30 miles, is used by approximately 1000 users annually. The kind of use necessitates the use of bridges to eliminate aquatic habitat destruction.



**A new equestrian bridge on the Yellowstone Wildlife Area**



#### *For more great trails, see:*

National Recreation Trails photos and trail descriptions

The Wisconsin Trails page and nationwide index of state-by-state trail links

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