

BCHNM Public Lands Report

I. **BCHA PLC Meeting Results from 5/18/22 E-Bike Breakout Session # 4 from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife**

They asked attendees to respond to three questions as followed:

1) Under what circumstances, if any should e-bikes be allowed on non-motorized trails and closed roads on lands managed by DNR and WDFW?

Shared trail concerns, ADA requirements, clearly marked trail heads, trail etiquette, motors should not be allowed on non-motorized trails

2) What of the 3 classes maybe allowed if only at all?

Class 1-3 however, class 2-3 is not realistic on single track trails.

3) What opportunities, challenges, or concerns should be considered e-bike use on non-motorized trails and closed roads on land managed by DNR & WDFW?

Quantity of users, danger of spooking horses, education, directional use, co-existence, speed

II **Results from the 6/30/22 Online meeting on Fundamentals of National Recreation Trails**

1) National Recreation Trail Designation Requirements

2) Benefits of NRT Designation

- a. NRT Database (1300 trails)
- b. Free Signage
- c. Annual Photo Contest
- d. Ambassador Program
- e. Better chances for Grants

3) How to Become a NRT?

4) Two Processes

- a. Dept of Agriculture for the National Forest System
- b. Dept of Interior covering other Federal lands, State, and Tribal Lands
- c. Deadline November 1, 2022

5) There are Nine NRT designated in New Mexico for Equestrian Use

- a. Berg/Animas Trail (Farmington)
- b. Climax Canyon Nature Trail (Raton, Climax Canyon Park)
- c. Columbine-Twining (Taos Ski Valley, Questa)
- d. Guadalupe Ridge Trail (Guadalupe NP)
- e. Jicarita Peak Trail (Taos, Santa Fe)
- f. Sawmill Road Trail (Gila)
- g. Sierra Vista Trail (BLM Organ Mtns.)
- h. South Boundary Trail #164 (Mountain Biking trail outside of Taos)
- i. Winsor Trail (Santa Fe)

II. From BCHA Regional Meeting

BCHA members should reach out to their Forest Service regional trail program manager to get an idea of timelines and how to become involved. Contact emails are listed in Sidebar 1. The agency recently debuted an online “dashboard” depicting current Great American Outdoors Act Legacy Restoration Fund projects throughout the nation. Check the [dashboard](#) to view what projects have been approved and are ongoing in your forest and region. Regional points of contacts for broad questions about the timing and scheduling of GAOA LRF projects are provided in Sidebar 2.

1) US Forest Service Regional Trail Program Managers

Rocky Mountain Region (R2): Chad Schneckenburger, chad.schneckenburger@usda.gov

Southwestern Region (R3): Marcy DeMillion, marcella.demillion@usda.gov

2) TAKE ACTION

The agencies will soon begin to develop their list of projects for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. **This represents an important opportunity for BCH chapters to compare notes with local federal land management leaders on what projects might be funded.** BCHA encourages your chapter to put forth its own "priority deferred maintenance projects" for the remaining years of GAOA funding and share it with your local agency contacts.

With three funding years remaining, there should be ample time to encourage the agencies to conduct and complete any necessary environmental analysis for more complex trail relocation projects.

BCHA recommends that you **start the necessary dialogue with local agency officials now**. Let them know that your chapter has specific ideas for GAOA LRF funding. They already know that your chapter will be there to help with the heavy lifting. So take advantage of the GAOA funding that continues to flow. This could represent a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for BCHA volunteers to help the agencies make significant strides toward reducing its deferred maintenance backlog.

Here are some pointers for how to approach agency personnel.

1. Contact your local federal agency trails or recreation manager and ask them to share their current list of GAOA “priority deferred maintenance projects.” At the same time, ask them if what it might take to include in the list deferred maintenance projects that are a priority for your BCH chapter.
2. Review the agency’s list with BCH chapter members to see if trails and trail-related facilities that are important to your chapter appear on the list.
3. If deferred maintenance projects important to your chapter are included among the agency’s list, ask your agency trails/recreation manager what you might do to elevate the priority of these projects. This could include:

- a. Teaming up with other trail user groups to promote the project's benefits to multiple user groups and its benefits to rural economic development and tourism.
- b. Offering to enter into a Cost Share Agreement with the agency for reimbursement of fixed costs associated with your chapter's use of gas/diesel, food, "stock days," camping fees (if any) and the purchase of saws, fuel/oil, hand tools, etc.

Note: BCHA's Partnerships Committee chairman can share information about how to effectively negotiate such agency agreements.

4. If deferred maintenance projects important to your chapter are not included among the agency's list:
 - a. Engage the agency trails/recreation manager in a dialogue to explore to what it would take to include your priority project(s) on the list in subsequent years.
 - b. Review their list of project selection criteria to ensure that your proposal responds to agency-developed criteria.
 - c. Seek the opinion of other local trail user groups, tourism and chamber of commerce and local elected officials, who might support trail work/restoration that your chapter would like to promote as GAOA Legacy Restoration Fund projects. There is strength in numbers.
 - d. Offer to assist your agency contact in developing letters of support from other partners and/or local governments.
 - e. Offer to assist your agency contact in preparing any necessary paperwork.

III.

Register for an Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Training Session:

The Trails+ grant remains open to applications through 2022, with the second round of announcements planned for the fall. We've scheduled another online training session to review the application for the remaining \$4.26 million.

- Register: [July 14 at 10AM](#)
- [Apply for Trails+](#)
- Read the [2022 Trails+ program guide](#) (Spanish and English versions available)

On March 1, Trails+ opened with \$7 million in funding. This investment enables ORD to broaden the scope and ambition of the grant, with local awards of up to \$99,999 and regional awards of up to \$500,000.

In June, ORD announced the first cohort of awardees, with grants totaling \$2.74 million. There remains \$4.26 million to be distributed this year.

[Apply.](#)