

Collaborative Recreation Planning Examples

Recreation-focused collaboration can often expand expertise, resources, and community buy-in for recreation planning and management. The links below review successful collaborative planning processes around forest recreation. These examples show various ways that collaborative processes were initiated, how they structured and governed their groups, and how their planning process was organized.

1. CoTrails on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest, GA

The CoTrails collaborative process started in early 2011. More than simply getting public input on how to manage trails, this project initiated a collaborative team of Forest Service and trail users both to draft a strategic plan and, more importantly, to motivate and manage groups of volunteers to carry it out.

<p>CoTrails Website Georgia ForestWatch tells the story of CoTrails and provides a great number of trail-related resources.</p>	<p>http://gafw.org/current-issue-collaborative-trails-project/</p>
<p>Planning Process The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests website provides detail on the initial phases of their collaborative planning process.</p>	<p>Link to Planning Phase 1 Link to Planning Phase 2</p>

2. Non-motorized Trail Strategy – Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest, NC

The Nantahala & Pisgah National Forest launched an effort in 2011 to engage stakeholders in providing input on non-motorized trails to help the Forest Service with strategic planning.

<p>Trail Planning Webpage</p>	<p>Link to webpage</p>
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3. Vermont Trail Collaborative – Green Mountain National Forest, VT

The Vermont Trail Collaborative was planned as a two-year collaborative initiative (2009-2011) carried out in partnership with the University of Vermont’s Tourism Research Center. The collaborative ultimately sought to provide the Forest Service with a coherent body of knowledge on the trail system and empower local groups to continue bettering their trails.

Vermont Trail Collaborative Website	Link to website
Final 2011 Report	Link to final report
Group Structure A summary of the kinds of stakeholders/specialists in the collaborative and how they were organized.	Link to summary of the group structure
Green Mountain National Forest 2015 Comprehensive Trail Strategy The findings of the Vermont Trail Collaborative were incorporated into the most recent trail strategy, along with another round of public input. See page 10 for a description of the second, briefer collaborative process.	Link to the final trail strategy

4. Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative – Inyo National Forest, CA

Partner organizations formed the Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative recreation collaborative at a grassroots level in order to inform the Inyo National Forest Management Plan Revision process.

Collaborative Webpages	http://eastsierrarec.org/Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access
Proposed Recreation Strategy This document was made by the collaborative for the Forest Service to consider in their planning process.	Link to collaborative recreation strategy