



Summer of Trails

What is the “Summer of Trails”?

The Summer of Trails is crowd-funding effort to help improve trails on National Forests and Grasslands.

Who is managing the Summer of Trails crowd-funding effort?

The National Forest Foundation (NFF), the nonprofit partner of the U.S. Forest Service, has developed and launched the Summer of Trails campaign. The U.S. Forest Service is providing additional programmatic and funding support.

How much is the NFF hoping to raise?

The NFF hopes to raise at least \$500,000 through the crowd-funding campaign. The Forest Service will match up to \$500,000 for a total of \$1,000,000, which will be invested in trail maintenance and improvements across the National Forest System.

Why crowd-fund this effort?

Americans love their trails, especially the 158,000 miles of trails on the National Forests and Grasslands, but the USDA Forest Service, which manages these trails, has limited trail maintenance budgets. The Summer of Trails is an opportunity for the American people to give back to the trails they love.

Which trails will receive the funding?

The NFF will divide all funds raised equally among the nine Forest Service Regions (Alaska, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest, Southwest, Rocky Mountain, Intermountain, Northern, Southern and Eastern). Through a competitive grant process administered by the NFF, local trail groups will apply for funding for priority trails in each region. The NFF, in coordination with the Forest Service, will issue grants to the most competitive proposals.

What types of trails will receive funding?

That will depend on the grant proposals the NFF receives. The funding will be available for any type of National Forest System trail, including motorized/non-motorized and wilderness/non-wilderness trails.

Is there additional leverage on these funds?

Yes. All successful grants will provide a 1:1 cash or in-kind match for the funding they receive.

When will the on-the-ground work begin?

The NFF anticipates that all grants will be awarded in the winter 2018/2019 and work will begin in spring 2019.

What happens if the NFF doesn't raise \$500,000?

The amount raised through the NFF's Summer of Trails campaign will be matched by the Forest Service and equally split among the nine Forest Service regions.

Why this summer?

This summer, 2018, marks the 50th anniversary of the National Scenic Trails Act. To celebrate this and to improve trails conditions across America's National Forests, the NFF is launching the Summer of Trails campaign.

Who should I contact if I have questions?

Greg M. Peters (gpeters@nationalforests.org) is the NFF's Director of Communications. Please contact him with general questions.

Adam Liljeblad (aliljeblad@nationalforests.org) is the NFF's Director of Conservation Awards. Please contact him with questions about applying for grants.

Learn more about the campaign here: nationalforests.org/SummerOfTrails

Learn more about the NFF's granting programs here: www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs