

# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office  
P.O. Box 12000  
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
8300 (NV-930) P

October 5, 2001

EMS TRANSMISSION 10-5-2001  
Information Bulletin No. NV-2002-004

To: Field Managers, Nevada

From: Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands & Planning

Subject: Considering and Applying for National Recreation Trail Designation DD: 11/01/2001

Program Area: Recreation Management - National Recreation Trails (NRT) Program

Policy/Action: Please have your outdoor recreation planners consider the possibility of designating any trails in their field offices for "national recreation trail" status. Offices should ensure the designation would be consistent with any land-use planning documents and more than one trail can be nominated or exist in a field office.

Time-frame: Applications are due to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., no later than November 1, 2001.

Budget Impact: None.

Contact: Please contact Chris Miller (acting Recreation Lead) in the Nevada State Office regarding questions or concerns. Chris may be reached at 861-6628.

Signed By:  
Meg Jensen  
DSD, NRL&P

Authenticated By;  
Debbie Spitale  
Staff Assistant

1 Attachment:

1. Information Bulletin No. 2001-156 (3 pp)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

September 25, 2001

In Reply Refer To:  
8300 (250)P

EMS TRANSMISSION 09/26/2001  
Information Bulletin No. 2001-156

To: State Directors  
Attn: State Recreation Program Leads

From: Group Manager, National Recreation

Subject: Considering and Applying for National Recreation Trail Designation DD: 11/01/2001

**Program Area:** Recreation Management - National Recreation Trails (NRT) Program

**Purpose:** This Information Bulletin (IB) alerts State and Field Offices recreation program staff to the November 1 deadline for submission of any applications to the National Park Service for potential national recreation trail designations for existing trails of various types.

**Policy/Action:** Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are encouraged to work with their local trails organizations and consider the designation of 'national recreation trail' for existing trails meeting the criteria. Offices should ensure the designation would be consistent with any land-use planning documents. Designations within or across monuments, National Conservation Area's (NCA), wilderness or wilderness study areas or other special areas should be consistent with law, proclamations and policy. The criteria, brochure, application and all program information and instructions are located at <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/>. Field offices should coordinate with their State office recreation program lead and appropriate program areas to ensure quality control. A copy of the application should be sent to Deb Salt, National Trails Coordinator at BLM-California Desert District, 6221, Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, CA 92507.

**Time-frame:** The applications are due to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C., no later than November 1 each year. The trail applications are reviewed, then trails are selected and designated by the Secretary of Interior on National Trails Day, the first Saturday in June each year.

**Budget Impact:** None.

**Background:** The NRT designation provides greater recognition, visitor use direction and funding access for special trails which warrant more visibility. The recent revitalization of this program was achieved in a cooperative effort between the National Park Service, who administers the program, and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and several partner organizations.

The NRT Program was authorized under the National Trails System Act of 1968, along with National Scenic Trails (NST), National Historic Trails (NHT) and side or connecting trails. Whereas, NST and NHT, such as the Pacific Crest NST or Lewis and Clark NHT, can be designated only by an act of Congress, national recreation trails are designated by either the Secretary of the Interior or Agriculture (delegated). There are over 800 NRTs currently designated, about 30 of which are managed by the BLM.

The revitalized program contains both the criteria for trail designation and an incentives package to provide trail managers with opportunities for assistance and funding. Virtually all trail types qualify for this designation, including hiking, mountain bike, snowmobile, rail trails, four-wheel drive, equestrian, water, all terrain vehicle (ATV), motorcycle and others. In order to be designated, a trail must be open for public use (applies to private trails), be designed, constructed and maintained to agency standards, open for public use for at least 10 years after designation, and designation must be supported by landowners. State-of-the-art trails are strongly encouraged to apply for this designation.

Incentives include technical assistance, a NRT newsletter, networking and training opportunities, assistance with recognition and special events, letters of support for grants, partnership development and trail protection efforts and access to funding from NRT partners. The American Trails organization maintains a database of NRTs and program information on their public web site at <http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/>.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None.

**Coordination:** This Information Bulletin was coordinated with Rodger Schmitt, National Recreation Group Manager, (WO 250) and Geoff Middaugh and Jesse Juen, Group Managers for the divisions of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Office.

**Contact:** Any questions on the NRT program can be directed to Deb Salt, National Trails Coordinator, at (909) 697-5309.

Thank you for your help and cooperation in recognizing the important role that trails play in the recreation management spectrum, and showcasing the hard work and dedication of trails staff and organizations, as well as the agency's outstanding recreation resources.

Signed by:  
Rodger Schmitt  
Group Manager  
National Recreation

Authenticated by:  
Barbara J. Brown  
Policy & Records Group, WO-560