

AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION
OF THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Department of the Interior, establishes procedures for the planning, coordination, development, and administration of the National Trails System as established by Public Law 90-543.

This MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT provides for consultation between the two Secretaries to resolve specific responsibilities for the trails covered under PL 90-543 and establishes agreement on general matters which pertain to all operations of the National Trails System involving both Departments.

An Interagency Task Force composed of members of each Department shall be established, members to be selected by the respective Secretaries. The Task Force shall:

- a. Develop the procedures for studies of the routes identified in Section 5(c) of the Act, and studies of other trails to determine the feasibility and desirability of proposing designation as National Scenic Trails.

- b. Develop a uniform marker for the National Trails System, including thereon an appropriate and distinctive symbol for each national recreation and scenic trail.
- c. Develop standards for erection and maintenance of markers along the trails.
- d. Develop criteria and standards for the selection of trail location.
- e. Develop regulations governing the use, protection, management, development, and administration of the trails.
- f. Develop uniform regulations necessary for governing conduct on and along trails located within federally administered areas to provide for proper government and protection of such trails.
- g. Develop procedures, the objectives of which shall basically be uniformity, for the identification and designation of national recreation trails (Sec. 4, P.L. 90-543) and for connecting or side trails (Sec. 6, P.L. 90-543).
- h. Submit the results of the above to the respective Secretaries for approval.

Necessary lands or interests in lands for rights-of-way across private lands within the exterior boundaries of federally administered units will be acquired by the agencies administering such units.

Prior to the publication in the Federal Register of the rights-of-way for a national scenic trail, the trail's administrator(s) shall grant to those Federal agencies having actively participated in the trail's establishment, the right, if they so desire it, of reviewing the selected right-of-way. The purpose of this review will be to determine the relation of the trail's route to all resource management and fire protection activities under the jurisdiction of the participating agency or to other such activities situated outside its authority and to suggest minor changes to the right-of-way where it is thought that by doing so will better improve the trail.

Agencies of each Department will enter directly into supplemental agreements to cover development and management of specific trails where two or more agencies are involved. Such supplemental agreements shall be consistent with this Agreement.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Date: May 10, 1969

Signed: Clifford M. Hardin
Secretary of Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Date: May 23, 1969

Signed: Walter J. Hickel
Secretary of the Interior

Updating of the Trails Task Force Charter, 2001

From **EXECUTIVE ORDER #13195**

TRAILS FOR AMERICA IN THE 21st CENTURY

Section 2. The Federal Interagency Council on Trails.

The Federal Interagency Council on Trails (Council), first established by agreement between the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior in 1969, is hereby recognized as a long-standing interagency working group. Its core members represent the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service, the Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, and the Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. Other Federal agencies, such as those representing cultural and heritage interests, are welcome to join this council. Leadership of the Council may rotate among its members as decided among themselves at the start of each fiscal year. The Council's mission is to coordinate information and program decisions, as well as policy recommendations, among all appropriate Federal agencies (in consultation with appropriate nonprofit organizations) to foster the development of America's trails through the following means:

(a) Enhancing federally designated trails of all types (e.g., scenic, historic, recreation, and Millennium) and working to integrate these trails into a fully connected national system;

(b) Coordinating mapping, signs and markers, historical and cultural interpretations, public information, training, and developing plans and recommendations for a national trails registry and database;

(c) Ensuring that trail issues are integrated in Federal agency programs and that technology transfer and education programs are coordinated at the national level; and

(d) Developing a memorandum of understanding among the agencies to encourage long-term interagency coordination and cooperation to further the spirit and intent of the National Trails System Act and related programs.

Signed January 18, 2001, by President William Jefferson Clinton