



April 2006

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## An 8- mile Looping System of Mountain Bike Trails Dedicated IMBA Trail Care Crew visits Breaks Interstate Park



Elkhorn City, KY (March 18- 19, 2006) - Through the help of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) Trail Care Crew, volunteers built another 1 mile of trail, and dedicated 8- miles of the Breaks Mountain Bike Trail system. The Crew was sponsored by the Elkhorn City Area Heritage Council, who worked closely with the Appalachian Cycling Association, the Breaks Interstate Park staff, and the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program, to host a weekend of partnership meetings, trail building school, trail rides, and a ribbon- cutting. Over 50 volunteers from KY and VA participated, representing a broad range of trail users including bikers, hikers, ATV riders, equestrians and paddlers, all working together on the trail system. This partnership project resulted in the development of new relationships to continue trail building and promotion efforts in the Russell Fork River watershed. The NPS specifically helped make contacts for partnerships and assist with coordination of the week's events. For more information, contact Peggy Pings, NPS RTCA ([mpings@wvu.edu](mailto:mpings@wvu.edu) or 304- 293- 2941 x2446).

## **\$1.3 million Awarded for Grants in Upper Connecticut River Basin 15 Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2077)**

Connecticut River, NH/VT (February 28, 2006) - As part of the 15 Mile Falls Hydroelectric Project relicensing, a Settlement Agreement created the Upper Connecticut River Mitigation & Enhancement Fund (MEF). For 2006, \$1.3 million were awarded from the fund. In 2002, FERC issued the license incorporating the agreement and the licensee made the initial contribution of over \$3.3 Million to the MEF. Licensee contributions will continue on an annual basis until \$15 Million has been contributed (so far awards have been just under \$500,000 in 2003, \$750,000 in 2004, and over \$800,000 in 2005). These funds, based on revenues from power generation, have been used to complete projects ranging from dam removal to land protection to fluvial geomorphology study. Each year, the Fund Advisory Committee (FAC) made up of 12 representatives including NPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the states of VT and NH and regional NGO's, meet to consider grant applications for projects. Among the projects for 2006 are the following:

- \$218,000 to the Orange County Headwaters Project to purchase development rights on a 604 acre headwaters property in Orange County, VT (an additional 617 acres of conservation easements were donated by the same owner.)
- \$317,000 to the Passumpsic Valley Land Trust to complete removal and associated restoration of the East Burke Dam on the Passumpsic River, VT.
- \$220,000 to Trout Unlimited to support the Nash Stream Restoration Project (NH) to restore 9 miles of habitat and reopen access to over 4 miles of tributary habitat.
- \$180,000 to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests to support their effort to permanently protect 4 parcels of land (totaling 402 acres)
- \$49,000 to the North Country Council (NH) to complete a three year inventory, assessment and delineation of wetlands in 9 towns along the Connecticut River.

For more information, contact Kevin Mendik, NPS Hydro Manager ([kevin\\_mendik@nps.gov](mailto:kevin_mendik@nps.gov) or 617- 223- 5299).

### Trail Miles Add to Burgeoning Network

Local trails designated segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Fairfax County, VA (February 2006) - Five miles of trails in Riverbend Park and Scott's Run Nature Preserve, both managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority, were recognized by NPS Regional Director Joe Lawler as segments of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail. This designation recognizes the contribution of the two trails to a developing network of locally- managed trails between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands. The designation also represents a partnership among the Authority and adjacent landowners—the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and NPS Great Falls Park—which manage segments of the Trail. For more information, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/) or [www.nps.gov/pohe](http://www.nps.gov/pohe), or contact Marty Smith, Park Manager ([marty.smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:marty.smith2@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703- 759- 5098) or Don Briggs, NPS Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Office ([don\\_briggs@nps.gov](mailto:don_briggs@nps.gov) or 304- 535- 4016).

### \$400,000 Grant for Schuylkill River Trail Announced

Area revitalization will include a hiking and bicycling trail

Philadelphia, PA (February, 2006) - In what officials called a move to reclaim the Schuylkill from Philadelphia's industrial past for its residential future, Pennsylvania's Environmental Secretary Kathleen A. McGinty announced plans to clean up 45 acres of polluted riverfront. McGinty announced a \$400,000 state grant to the Schuylkill River Development Corp. to add the "DuPont



Crescent" to the hiking and bicycling trail that planners hope will one day follow the river from its confluence with the Delaware to Valley Forge. The NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program assisted the Schuylkill River Development Corp., and other federal, state, and community partners with the preparation of the Tidal Schuylkill Master Plan, which laid out a vision for greenways, trails, and economic and community revitalization along the lower Schuylkill River. For more information, contact David Lange, NPS RTCA ([david\\_a\\_lange@nps.gov](mailto:david_a_lange@nps.gov) or 215- 597- 6477) or Helen Mahan, NPS RTCA ([helen\\_mahan@nps.gov](mailto:helen_mahan@nps.gov) or 215- 597- 6483).

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