

# Complete America's Great Trails Act – One Pager

## Background

Since their inception in 1968 through the National Trails System Act (NTSA), national scenic trails have been improving our quality of life, promoting outdoor and physical activity, and preserving our country's heritage. These trails provide walking, hiking, and biking routes as well as access to breathtaking scenery. The enacting legislation called for the trails it established to "provide for the maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural and cultural qualities," and for the adherence to a "standard of excellence in the routing, construction and maintenance" of each trail.

Administered by either the National Park Service or the Forest Service, national scenic trails span 18,249 miles across thirty-two states and host millions of visitors each year. The NTSA originally established only two trails, the Appalachian and the Pacific Crest, but the number of trails has since grown to eleven. These routes provide unparalleled recreational and conservation opportunities, but nine trails remain under development, and even the original two trails are not fully complete.

## Complete America's Great Trails Act

The Complete America's Great Trails Act would create a tax credit for landowners who voluntarily make land contributions towards the completion of the national scenic trails. The tax credit would be equal to the fair market value of the portion of land. By providing this incentive to landowners, the goal of the act is to extend, strengthen the connectivity, and improve the maintenance of these tremendous natural assets.

## The Eleven National Scenic Trails

### *Appalachian Trail*

Total Mileage: 2,190

States: Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, North Carolina, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Vermont, West Virginia

### *Arizona National Scenic Trail*

Total Mileage: 800

State: Arizona

### *Continental Divide Trail*

Total Mileage: 3,100

States: Colorado, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Wyoming

### *Florida National Scenic Trail*

Total Mileage: 1,300

State: Florida

### *Ice Age Trail*

Total Mileage: 1,000

State: Wisconsin

### *Natchez Trace Trail*

Total Mileage: 65

State: Mississippi

### *New England National Scenic Trail*

Total Mileage: 215

States: Connecticut, Massachusetts

### *North Country Trail*

Total Mileage: 4,600

States: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin

### *Pacific Crest Trail*

Total Mileage: 2,650

States: California, Oregon, Washington

### *Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail*

Total Mileage: 1,200

States: Idaho, Montana, Washington

### *Potomac Heritage Trail*

Total Mileage: 900

States: District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia