THE TRUST for PUBLIC LAND
2013 National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference

Kathy DeCoster, VP and Director of Federal Affairs
Land for People:

The Trust for Public Land conserves land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come.

Mission Statement
TPL and National Trail Partners

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
El Camino Real De Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
Florida National Scenic Trail
North Country National Scenic Trail
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
Pony Express National Historic Trail
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
Old Spanish National Historic Trail
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
• Protecting and enhancing national trails system

– Partnerships – federal agencies and NGOs
– Trail acquisitions and viewshed buffers
– Funding – LWCF and Forest Legacy
– Getting a piece of the shrinking pie
– Working in a non-earmark world
Federal agencies and national trails

– NPS oversight over national trail system
– Land management agency acquisitions: BLM, FWS, NPS and USFS
– State/local and conservation easements through Forest Legacy Program
– Trail protection as a ranking factor
Process for securing funding

- Federal agencies have individual and idiosyncratic processes
- New! Interagency collaborative landscape process
- States and USFS have another process for Forest Legacy
- Included in annual FY budgets sent to Congress
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie
And Wenatchee National
Forests
Washington
Pacific Crest NST
Ottawa National Forest
Michigan
North Country NST
Acoma Pueblo
New Mexico
Continental Divide NST
Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
Hawaii Island, Hawaii
Carson National Forest
New Mexico
Old Spanish NHT
Valle de Oro NWR, New Mexico
El Camino Real NHT
Forest Legacy Program
High Peaks Project:
Crocker Mountain and
Orbeton Stream
Maine
Appalachian NST
San Bernardino National Forest
California
Pacific Crest NST
Upper Rio Chama Watershed
Forest Legacy Project
New Mexico
Continental Divide Trail
Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): A success story

• Created by Congress in 1964 to protect America’s natural and recreation heritage.

• Over 5 million acres of conserved in federal areas.

• Over 41,000 grants to state and local park and trail protection and development in all fifty states
LWCF: Investing in Conservation

- LWCF reinvests a portion of federal offshore oil and gas leasing revenues in land and water conservation and recreation for all Americans

- $900 M is deposited in LWCF account each year

- Unfortunately, over $18 billion of LWCF receipts have been diverted to other purposes over its history

- LWCF has been chronically underfunded – in FY 13 the appropriated level for all programs was $306 M
LWCF Funds and Offshore Revenues, FY94-FY-12

Graph showing LWCF Funds and Offshore Revenues from FY94 to FY12.
LWCF: Versatility

- National parks & forests
- Rivers, lakeshores, and coastal lands
- Trails and recreational corridors
- Working forests, farms and ranches
- Fish and wildlife refuges
- Cultural/historic sites and trail segments
- State and local parks, trails and access sites
LWCF & National Trail Protection

Appalachian Trail: $200m
Florida Trail: $18.7m
Pacific Crest Trail: $14m
Oregon Trail: $11m
Lewis and Clark Trail: $5.6m
Ice Age Trail: $17.9m
Tourism, Jobs and Local Economies

• Active outdoor recreation contributes a total of $646 billion annually to the economy, supporting 6.1 million jobs (1 in 20)

[Outdoor Industry Association]
Tell Your Trails Stories

- Talk about the People
- Talk about the Place
- Talk about the Test of Time
- Talk about the Contribution of Volunteers

*Trail Protection is a ‘must do’ not a ‘nice to do’*
Talk to Congress about the impacts of LWCF spending on your trails back home supporting tourism, jobs and the local economy.
Tell Congress: We need full and dedicated funding for LWCF in order to support the national trails system.
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