**Updated 1.16.2023**

**News Release**

**Announcing the:**

**National Forest System Trail Stewardship**

**Partner Funding Program**

**For Field Season 2023**

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, in collaboration with American Trails, the American Hiking Society, Back Country Horsemen of America, the International Mountain Bicycling Association, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, and the American Motorcyclist Association, is pleased to announce the fourth round of a trails granting program in partnership with the USDA Forest Service for the National Forest Trail Stewardship Partnership Funding for National Forest System trails for the 2023 Field season – May 2023 through December 2023.

The Trail Stewardship Funding Program will award funds to trails and stewardship organizations for increasing trail maintenance accomplishments and reducing deferred maintenance (trail backlog) on National Forest System trails. Funding will be available for all types of terra trails (summer use trails), for both motorized and non-motorized uses.

Any current nonprofit organization (eg. 501 (c) (3), 501 (c) 7) in good standing with the IRS may apply for this Funding. Organizations should have a sponsored volunteer or other agreement with their local Forest Service office for work performed under these grants.

A total amount of money available during this round of Trail Stewardship Funding for work to be performed from May through December 2023 is unknown at this time due to the lateness of a final agency budget but we do expect funding of at least $225,000 to be available.

Details of the funding program including a Fact Sheet, Application Form, and Budget Form, are available at: [www.wildernessalliance.org](http://www.wildernessalliance.org).

The Trail Stewardship Funding application period will run from February 1st to April 15th, 2023. Applications should be mailed to: TrailGrants@wildernessalliance.org, no later than April 15th, 2023 to be considered.

Questions about the Trail Stewardship Funding program may be addressed to, Randy Welsh, Executive Director, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance at 801-808-2167 or randy@wildernessalliance.org.

“The National Forest Trails Stewardship Partnership Funding Program is an opportunity for the entire trails community to come together to maintain the amazing trail resource on the National Forests. These grants will encourage an increase in the number of volunteers and public involved with National Forest trails to help accomplish the Forest Service National Trail Strategy”, said Randy Welsh, Executive Director, National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, manager of this Funding Program.

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