

**National Scenic and Historic Trails
Land Preservation Workshop
October 11 and 12, 2006
Nashville, TN**

Descriptions of Sessions

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 10:15 A. M. to Noon

How do you define the lands to be acquired or protected in order to establish the trail, provide visitor access, and preserve natural/cultural resources and the user experience?

The most basic element for establishing a trail or protecting trail resources is control or ownership of land. But how much is enough? Which are the right lands, or the best lands? How do you determine these? National Scenic and Historic Trails generally have different authorities for land acquisition in the National Trails System Act. Also, among the trails in each category there are varying authorities—some have eminent domain, some only “willing seller” authority, and nine trails have a total prohibition on Federal acquisition outside existing Federal areas. Additionally, Congress does not establish acquisition boundaries for national trails in the way that they do for national park and forest areas; they only authorize a route. With all these varying authorities and ambiguities, how do the partners working on a trail decide which lands should be acquired, protected, or managed for the trail? What approaches have been used among the trails in the system, taking into account the many individual resource, partnership, and geopolitical realities of a trail? This workshop will present a spectrum of ways these questions are being answered. The National Park Service’s **Tom Gilbert**, Superintendent of Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, will moderate this session that includes presentations by:

Mike Dawson of the Pacific Crest Trail Association; **Howard Pardue** of the Florida Trail Association; **Tom Gilbert** of the National Park Service, **Paul Carson** of the National Park Service (Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail), and **Travis Boley** of the Oregon-California Trails Association.

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 12:30 to 1:00 P. M.

Christopher Douwes’ presentation provides a national overview of Federal surface transportation programs that can benefit National Scenic and Historic Trails through transportation and recreation infrastructure. Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities benefit the traveling public and help communities to increase transportation choices and access for pedestrians and bicyclists; and to enhance the built and natural environment through scenic and historic highway programs, landscaping, historic preservation, and environmental mitigation.

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 1:15 to 2:45 P. M.

What are the techniques/approaches to use to assemble a trail corridor if you don't have eminent domain or lack authorization to use Federal funds to acquire land from willing partners?

Gary Werner of the Partnership for the National Trails System will moderate the following roundtable of experts who will share what they have learned from their many years of experience in protecting land for trails:

Don King of the USDI National Park Service; **David Beaver** of the USDI Bureau of Land Management; **Kyle Jones** of the USDA Forest Service, and **Tom Gilbert** of the USDI National Park Service.

Wednesday, October 11, 2006 from 3:00 to 4:45 P. M.

How does an organization select the most appropriate port-folio of funding options? What are the strengths and weaknesses of different options?

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Dave Startzell moderates this session which identifies a number of federal funding programs and focuses on their criteria and processes to allow organizations to select the most appropriate port-folio of funding options. Presenting are:

David Beaver of the USDI Bureau of Land Management will discuss the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), criteria for projects, the application process, and the program's current status. **Benjamin Bibb** of the USDA Forest Service will present alternatives to the LWCF including the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act and corporate donations. **Michael Zeman** of the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service will discuss funding programs within the USDA programs, including the Federal Conservation Reserve Program.

Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 9:15 to 10:30 A. M.

This session continues the discussion of funding options for land protection.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Caroline Dufour moderates this session which presents other federal grant programs and continues with an example of strategy and tool for fund-raising, as well as case studies illustrating state and private funding sources.

Bradley Bingham of the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service describes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program which restores habitat on private properties. **Paula Ward and Bryan Martin** of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance describes using GIS to help choose a funding strategy – packaging your fundraising based on the lay of the land. **David Startzell** of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy presents funding outside the box - case studies illustrating fundraising with foundations, major donors and conservation buyers.

Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 10:45 A. M. to Noon

What are the circumstances under which national conservation organizations would participate in trail protection projects, and how can we help or work with them?

Florida Trail Association's **Howard Pardue** moderates this session which brings together representatives from three of the nation's best known land trusts: The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and The Trust for Public Land. Creating a permanent route for a long distance trail or acquiring specific sites critical for the purpose of a trail are daunting challenges. Acquiring property requires special expertise in site evaluation, landowner relationships, real estate negotiations and legal transactions. This is costly expertise, not normally available in non-profit trail organizations and, at times, not even available in larger public agencies with trail routing and management responsibilities. What are the options for a trail organization needing land acquisition expertise? What are the pros and cons of assuming a land acquisition function versus working through partners to obtain expertise and services?

If you think a land trust might be the best way to go then what specifically can a land trust do for a trail/trail organization? Not all land trusts are alike. What do you look for? How do you know which land trust would be the best one to seek assistance given your circumstances? Last but not least, under what circumstances would a land trust be willing to work on trail protection land deals?

Discussing these issues are: **Andy McLeod** of the The Trust for Public Land), **Vernon Compton** of The Nature Conservancy and **Andrew Schock** of The Conservation Fund.

Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 12:30 to 1:15 P.M.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities. This presentation will explain these programs and offer suggestions on how to apply for funds. **Bob Richards** of the Tennessee Department of Environmental Conservation presents Tennessee's RTP grant program including application planning/public input, scoring criteria, grant review and 2006 awards. It includes review of eligible categories of projects and how the RTP advisory council works. **Neil Hansen** of the Tennessee Department of Transportation discusses Tennessee's Transportation Enhancement Program.

Thursday, October 12, 2006 from 1:30 to 3:00 P.M.

What are the issues surrounding managing conservation easements for National Scenic and Historic Trails (easement drafting, baseline documentation, monitoring, and enforcement)? How do you creatively use easements to protect trail lands while avoiding or minimizing difficulties?

Easements are flexible legal instruments for securing some limited rights to use or control the use of, another person's land. Although there are many types of easements, two are generally most useful in preserving land for scenic and historic trails: Right-of-way and Conservation easements. Both types of easements can be adapted to very specific conditions of individual tracts of land and circumstances of ownership. Both types of easements "run with the land" and establish long-term relationships between the current and future owners of the land they encumber and the easement holder. Both types of easement require active monitoring by the easement holder.

The Partnership for the National Trail System's **Gary Werner** moderates this panel which explores two over-arching questions: How and where have easements worked, and how and where have easements not worked well? **Mike Dawson** of the Pacific Crest Trail Association and **Caroline Dufour** of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy will present the use of easements along the Pacific Crest and Appalachian National Scenic Trails.