



April 11, 2015

Ms. Lavane Hessler
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Facilities and Lands
P.O. Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921

Dear Ms. Hessler,

Please accept this as our 2014 capacity grant report. I apologize for the delay. We had it queued for biannual reporting in error. You'll see from past reporting that we have diligently reported our successes. With a separate email that follows, I am sending a copy of the Ice Age Trail Alliance's Report to Congress.

Using our grant application as a guide, we are taking this opportunity to highlight our accomplishments measured against the three Indicators of Project Success that we described in our application.

1. Recruit, supervise and retain volunteers who develop, maintain and promote the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin:

During 2014, the Alliance held eleven trailwide Mobile Skills Crew (MSC) projects. Lasting four to 13 days, attendance averaged about 175 per project. Over 1,300 volunteers donated a new record-breaking 30,200 hours at these events. In 2014 alone, we recruited 255 new volunteers...55 more than we anticipated. Volunteers traveled to Wisconsin from Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota and beyond specifically to participate in Mobile Skills Crew projects. Five of these events took place on state properties. We recently learned that the Coalition for Recreational Trails has chosen the Ice Age Trail, Blue Hills Trail Maintenance project as the winner of the Annual Achievement Award for outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program funds in the Maintenance & Rehabilitation category. Throughout the Ice Age Trail, volunteers constructed 12 trail structures built with rock, timber or lumber resulting in a total of 2,577 linear feet. New miles of Ice Age Trail in 2014 totaled 10.2 miles. Existing miles of Ice Age Trail that were significantly upgraded totaled 44.

Volunteer trainings in crew leadership, technical trail skills, chainsaw safety, First Aid and CPR, and food handling safety were attended by 94 individuals. In addition to large-scale projects and volunteer trainings, no less than 150 local projects were coordinated on the Trail statewide.

Working to Create, Support and Protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Ice Age Trail Alliance

2110 Main Street • Cross Plains, WI 53528
800-227-0046 • www.iceagetrail.org

The IATA "Trail Notebook" series has been reprinted and distributed to over 120 crew leaders and local volunteer leaders.

2. Build partnerships between public agencies, private citizens, businesses and nonprofit organizations to benefit the Ice Age Trail in Wisconsin:

The goals of working with no less than six public agencies, six businesses and six nonprofits were met or exceeded throughout 2014:

- Businesses: Integrated Restoration, Jennie-O Turkey, REI, Klingbiel Lumber, Nature Ovens Bakery, American Girl, Fontana Sports, Vermont Valley Farms
- Civic groups: Lodi Optimist, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America, United Way of Dane County, Imperial Lion Troupe, Izzak Walton League
- Government/municipalities: Village of Cross Plains, Dane County, City of St. Croix Falls, Chippewa County, Town of West Point, United States Forest Service, Village of Hartland
- Nonprofit Organizations: Natural Heritage Land Trust, Aldo Leopold Foundation, Riverland Conservancy, Polk County Fair Board, National Park Foundation, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Fair Share Coalition.

Our trailwide Saunters program reached 8 school districts in 2014 and Service Learning projects numbered 27

3. Promote the protection of a corridor for the Ice Age Trail including protecting properties for the Trail:

Alliance staff along with DNR and NPS staff participated in 39 meetings that culminated in 3 public corridor planning meetings and open houses. Alliance staff commitment exceeded 141 hours. The Alliance further assisted in the land acquisition process that led to 7 properties permanently protecting 3.5 miles of Trail and 418 acres.

The IATA maintains a Geographic Information System (GIS) database for the Trail. I'm pleased to report that our staff has reached over 95% of the Trail and is now surveyed with detailed information about trail construction, reroutes and other user amenities.

In March of 2014 the Ice Age Trail Alliance achieved Land Trust Accreditation that marks its status as one of only 268 land trusts nationally to have met this high standard of accountability.

In collaboration with the Department of Tourism Joint Effort Marketing Grant project, we have been able to determine there are 1,252,685 annual users of the Ice Age Trail. Further and most enlightening is that the Trail has a direct economic benefit to the State of over \$113 million.

We are proud to report our successes each year. In 2014, the Alliance provided a match that exceeded \$750,000. When our volunteer time and paid staff time is accumulated, the Ice Age Trail Alliance dedicates the equivalent of 49 full-time positions to this State authorized project. The DNR Conservation Capacity Grant to the Ice Age Trail Alliance is a sound investment and critical to our ability to leverage considerable funds to the benefit of the State.

We welcome any further questions or requests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Wollmer", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Wollmer
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
Operating Budget
2015

Draft

	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Projection
Revenue			
Government Grants			
NPS-Operations	\$ 166,250	\$ 147,300	\$ 155,001
NPS Trail Construction	-	-	-
NPS-Special Projects	53,915	60,000	56,173
DNR	20,000	20,000	15,000
State Field Support	74,200	74,200	74,200
Other governmental (including releases)	70,056	166,600	121,004
Total government grants	<u>384,421</u>	<u>468,100</u>	<u>421,378</u>
Individual and Foundation Grants and Contributions			
Foundation Grants (including releases)	34,650	95,000	30,295
Corporate Contributions	53,630	55,000	61,241
Individual Contributions			
YBC	114,287	140,000	104,497
Board	23,275	25,000	21,360
Other donors	188,124	240,000	204,044
Bequests and contract annuities	30,000	-	30,000
Release from restriction	68,790	98,400	97,500
Total individual and foundation grants/contribs	<u>512,756</u>	<u>653,400</u>	<u>548,937</u>
Other Revenue			
Merchandise Sales	33,179	30,000	67,036
Interest Income	314	300	135
Investment Income	65,597	10,000	22,427
Annual Conference	12,655	17,500	21,087
Fundraising Events	1,987	3,000	8,171
CRP Payment	395	2,500	4,199
Rental	3,750	4,000	12,558
City of Cross Plains - bridge relocation	-	5,000	5,000
Other income	(1,668)	-	5,300
Total other revenue	<u>116,209</u>	<u>72,300</u>	<u>145,913</u>
Total Revenue	1,013,386	1,193,800	1,116,228

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Inc.
Operating Budget
2015

Draft

	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Projection
Expenses			
Personnel	492,924	543,200	550,262
Occupancy/Building	54,363	61,400	60,951
Postage & Shipping	10,032	10,000	13,967
Printing	12,567	18,000	10,907
Newsletter	22,740	24,500	24,872
Equipment Rental	4,893	4,500	5,301
Travel	25,069	34,900	31,794
Meeting expenses	3,591	4,500	5,008
Professional Services	32,589	79,000	65,406
Conferences & Training	6,437	9,000	7,025
Legal & Accounting	8,228	9,000	7,950
Dues & Memberships	15,583	10,000	7,563
Bank Charges	4,665	6,000	4,486
Maintenance & Repairs	6,307	5,000	6,390
Merchandise	23,763	21,900	27,168
Property Taxes	1,046	7,000	7,200
Lobby	4,182	4,200	4,678
Annual Conference and Other Events	29,811	35,500	41,060
Trail Construction and Mobile Skills	53,144	105,000	87,440
Miscellaneous Expense	470	500	-
Land Acquisition and Management	37,287	44,000	10,818
Telephone	9,778	13,300	12,040
Supplies	12,127	11,000	18,647
Website/Advert/promo	34,934	30,000	32,723
Insurance	16,194	17,000	24,996
Depreciation	32,377	45,000	33,100
	<u>955,101</u>	<u>1,153,400</u>	<u>1,101,752</u>
Total Expenses			
	<u>\$ 58,285</u>	<u>\$ 40,400</u>	<u>\$ 14,476</u>
Surplus (Deficit)			



February 9, 2015

Dear Friend of the Ice Age Trail,

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a local, state and national treasure. It provides benefits in your community and beyond Wisconsin's borders that include positive conservation, recreational, cultural and economic values. Support for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is easily justified when considering the continued public excitement for using, building and maintaining the Trail. Despite recent economic challenges in our country, the Trail has seen growth in enthusiasm, use and support.

When the Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail in 1980, a legislative oversight excluded the Ice Age Trail as a Unit of the National Park System. This omission causes a considerable negative impact on the Trail through the allocation and availability of budgeted National Park Service funds. Unit designation for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail would have zero effect on the federal budget and, like the Trail itself, offers an opportunity for bipartisan support. We've included information on this issue.

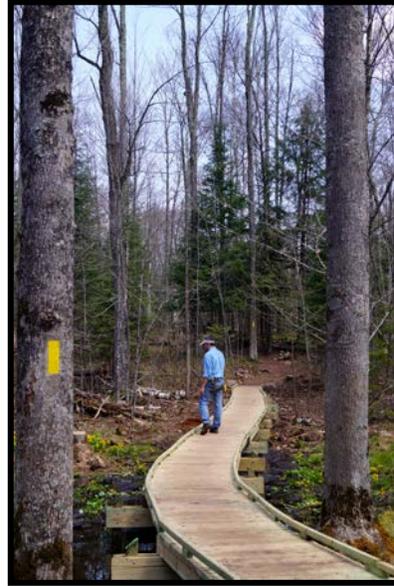
We're pleased to report that 2014 was a record year for volunteerism on behalf of the Trail. Last year 2,379 people contributed 78,354 hours of volunteer service with a private sector value of over \$1.7 million!

Volunteer service is at risk. Dramatic cuts in federal funding through the National Park Service have cut deep into our ability to support this army of volunteers. Safe working environments, serviceable tools and responsibly designed trail projects are at risk. The spirit of volunteerism represents only a part of the resources we are able to leverage against the federal funding we've received.

Over 1.25 million people from across the country use the Ice Age Trail each year. A 2012 study quantified the economic impact of the Trail at over \$113 million annually. The Trail plays a significant role in Wisconsin's travel industry!

We're building the Ice Age Trail for today and for generations to come. The next generation of users will be more diverse than ever. Our outreach efforts are focused on this reality. This legacy will continue only with adequate federal support and the continued impact of leveraging private funds against well-earned public funding.

Working to Create, Support and Protect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Ice Age Trail Alliance
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Elevated boardwalk during and after construction

More than 3.4 million Wisconsinites live within an hour drive of the Trail, and 18 million Americans live within a two-hour drive. Conferring Unit Status on the Ice Age Trail will enable the Trail to be considered for existing Department of Interior funding sources. Trail user days grow exponentially each year. The Trail has the inherent ability to meet the nature-based outdoor recreation needs of a significant portion of the population living in the upper Midwest.

In summary, the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is a valuable resource to the residents of Wisconsin and the Midwest. The Trail provides conservation, cultural interpretation, quiet recreation and protection of our glacial history. National Park System Unit designation would enhance the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The Alliance looks forward to working with you and our entire Wisconsin delegation to support the Ice Age Trail.

Sincerely,

Mike Wollmer
Executive Director

David Lonsdorf
President, Board of Directors



FY2016 AT-A-GLANCE

Requests on behalf of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

National Scenic Trail Parity Through Unit Status

Designating the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as a Unit of the National Park System would have zero impact on the federal budget. Unit status would elevate recognition within the National Park Service and other partners like the National Park Foundation.

Land Protection Requires LWCF Appropriation: \$3,930,000

On behalf of the 11 National Scenic Trails, 19 National Historic Trails and 150,000 trail organization members, we support the FY2016 appropriation of \$66,038,500 from the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) proposal.

Trail Construction Funding: \$673,000

Construction funding will address the growing backlog of trail construction and maintenance projects including major trail structures needed for user safety and resource protection. Funds will be dedicated to engage the next generation of stewards in trail building and conservation.

Please consider

The Ice Age National Scenic Trail is an investment in many ways. The economic value of the Ice Age NST is real. As you manage our country's future path, please consider that conservation, land protection, recreation and cultural preservation have direct economic value to communities large and small.





NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL PARITY SOUGHT THROUGH UNIT STATUS

Current status of Units:

- 405 Units of the National Park System
- 6 National Scenic Trails in the National Park System
 - 3 trails are recognized as units – Appalachian, Potomac Heritage, Natchez Trace
 - 3 trails are not recognized as units – Ice Age, New England and North Country

Inequities for non-unit trails:

- As the primary administrator of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, the National Park Service has the same responsibilities and expectations as a unit. However, they don't have access to certain funding to be able to perform responsibilities.
- The non-unit trails are ineligible for program funding such as Cyclic Maintenance funds. This is especially detrimental with the recent loss of Challenge Cost Share (CCS) and Connecting Trails to Parks (CTTP) funding programs.
- Although trails have some of the largest volunteer programs in the National Park Service, the non-unit trails are not recognized in the NPS Volunteers-in-Parks brochure.
- Trails are not included in the statistics on the National Park Service's About Us web page. Other non-unit entities are included (e.g., National Heritage Areas).
- Non-units are not recognized by key NPS partners. The Ice Age National Scenic Trail does not appear on the National Park Foundation's website.
- The NPS's Harpers Ferry Center does not include brochures in the NPS Informational Folder program, so each NPS office must produce and print their brochures out of their park budget. The National Park Service office in Madison is severely limited on supply of Ice Age Trail brochures, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance office is out of stock.
- In 2007, Ice Age Trail partners submitted three projects as part of the National Park Service's Centennial Initiative. Two of the projects were ranked in the top three by the Midwest Regional NPS office, and then ALL Ice Age Trail projects were eliminated for Centennial funding because the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is not a unit.





Create
Support
Protect

LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND FY2016

NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM COLLABORATIVE LANDSCAPE PROPOSAL

The Ice Age Trail Alliance strongly supports the FY2016 appropriation of Land & Water Conservation Funds for the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal. Specifically the Alliance supports the appropriation of 3.93 million dollars in LWCF funding for the acquisition of four important properties for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The Indian Lake, Big Rock Creek and Cross Plains Complex projects will protect important natural resources and secure key anchor points for the Ice Age NST.



National Trails System

Land and Water Conservation Fund



FY2016 LWCF Request: \$66,038,500

Background

In August 2014, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service assembled a comprehensive land protection package for an appropriation through the FY2016 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the National Trails System through the Collaborative Landscape Planning program. This \$66,038,500 package includes 48 parcels in 17 states along 14 national scenic and historic trails. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application are impressive, and perhaps, an example to be followed in future Federal efforts of all kinds.

The National Trails Landscape

The national scenic and historic trails are wilderness and rural, historic and cultural corridors traversing 49 states and every ecological biome in the US. These long-distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 national wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas, protect crucial conservation areas, preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural places, and provide wildlife migration corridors, as well as education, recreation and fitness for people of all ages.

By Congressional action, national scenic and historic trails are nationally significant. Each is a collaborative venture in the conservation, interpretation, and responsible public use of important elements of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. As established by law, the administration and management of these trails requires Federal interagency collaboration. Significant LWCF investment is essential to protect them for public appreciation and benefit.

The collaborative nature of the national scenic and historic trails means that a financial investment by any of the partners has the potential to be greatly leveraged by contributions from other partners. This has been the case repeatedly in the National Trails System. Any Federal financial investment in these trails is highly stimulatory. In 2013 alone, private organizations, state agencies, local and tribal government entities, and volunteers contributed over \$36,000,000 in funding and other support to the National Trails System.

Federal financial investment does not just help to buy land to protect critical resources; it also sets the stage for citizen and community involvement in national trail stewardship. The Federal investment in these trails – well illustrated by the Appalachian Trail – clearly stimulates citizen engagement and volunteerism, connects citizens with the Nation's natural and cultural heritage, and strengthens communities across the land.

Outcomes with Collaborative Landscape LWCF

Each national trail has a comprehensive management plan that outlines management objectives for it. Protection of a continuous recreation corridor is paramount for the scenic trails while protection of significant cultural sites is critical for historic trails. The projects included in the proposal will help fulfill those trail-specific plans. Indicators of success vary from trail to trail, but include increased visitation, increased community participation, return of rare or endangered species, and restoration of damaged landscapes.

Threats to the National Trails System Landscape

National scenic trails are to be continuous corridors of superlative recreational opportunity, so permanent gaps are a major threat to their integrity. Trail gaps result in the abandonment of trail sections, negating years of effort and public and private investment. Disruption of natural and historic settings by energy development, mining and logging, housing and commercial development, and other changes destroy the quality of visitor experience along both national scenic and historic trails. Destruction of irreplaceable historic and cultural resources and rare and endangered ecosystems lessens the value and inspiring nature of these trails.



FY 2016 National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Proposal



BLM Acquisitions



USFWS Acquisitions



NPS Acquisitions



USFS Acquisitions

National Trails System

Land and Water Conservation Fund



FY2016 LWCF Request: \$66,038,500

The primary partners who work with the Federal agencies to construct, maintain, protect and promote the National Trail System respectfully ask Congress to support FY2016 LWCF appropriations of \$66,038,500 to protect critical sites and segments along the Congressionally authorized Ala Kahakai, Lewis and Clark, Captain John Smith Chesapeake, California, Nez Perce, Oregon, Overmountain Victory, and Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trails; and along the Appalachian, Continental Divide, Ice Age, New England, North Country, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails. These partners include the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Appalachian Mountain Club, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Continental Divide Trail Society, E Mau Na Ala Hele, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Lewis and Clark Trust, Chesapeake Conservancy, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, North Country Trail Association, Oregon-California Trails Association, Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Partnership for the National Trails System, and W3R, Inc.

Bureau of Land Management Budget Request \$13,916,500 million | 17 parcels | 16,779 acres

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (NM): \$2,300,000 to close the largest critical trail gap in New Mexico

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (MT): \$6,000,000 for trail, landscape, habitat and recreation protection along the Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (ID): \$3,100,000 for trail and resource conservation at one of the last remaining working ranches at Henry's Lake

Oregon National Historic Trail (ID): \$144,000 to acquire land for trail development along historic trail route

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (OR, CA): \$1,872,500 for trail and resource protection within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon and in the Mojave Desert in Southern California

US Fish and Wildlife Service Budget Request \$12,060,000 million | 3 parcels | 3,763 acres

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (PA): \$4,000,000 to connect conservation habitats along the Kittatinny Ridge

California National Historic Trail (ID): \$2,500,000 to protect the largest breeding concentration of Sandhill Cranes, as well as, a haven for other waterfowl from a current farming threat

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (VA): \$5,560,000 to protect the Bower's Parcel that includes migratory wildlife habitat, priority wetlands, forest and uplands and a historical site

US Forest Service Budget Request \$8,382,000 million | 8 parcels | 3,024 acres

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NC): \$1,100,000 to complete the acquisition of the Grassy Ridge ecosystem

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (MT): \$255,000 to achieve uninterrupted trail corridor enabling migration and human recreation

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (CA, WA): \$7,027,000 to provide critical scenic protection to the hiker experience, improve trail location and protect wildlife habitats, including Donner Summit in California

National Park Service Budget Request \$31,680,000 million | 20 parcels | 7,565 acres

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (HI): \$4,750,000 to protect endangered species, preserve 26 cultural sites and ensure undisturbed view sheds, soundscapes, and wilderness for users of the trail in an area that contains prehistoric lava flows

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NY, MA): \$2,940,000 to extinguish the threat of imminent development, ensure connectivity of forested habitats and improve route away from threatened species

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (VA): \$6,000,000 to permanently protect and open for public education a nationally significant American Indian site, and to continue public archaeological research.

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CO, NM): \$5,608,000 to remove motorized use of the trail and restore habitat, to acquire the last unprotected portion of the trail in NM and to protect significant cultural sites

Ice Age National Scenic Trail (WI): \$3,930,000 to provide an urban access point to the trail in the city of St. Croix, protect critical view sheds, provide interpretative opportunities of unique geological-cultural features and close gaps in the trail

New England National Scenic Trail (CT, MA): \$1,875,000 to protect ecosystem, historic and cultural resources, in addition to, enhancing users recreational experience

Nez Perce National Historic Trail (OR): \$355,000 to provide a better interpretative site and visitor proximity to Clearwater Battlefield

North Country National Scenic Trail (MI, PA): \$2,892,000 to connect Moraine and McConnell's Mill State Parks in Pennsylvania and protect riparian habitats in Southern Michigan

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (TN): \$330,000 to protect the historically significant Shelving Rock Encampment site

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (NY): \$3,000,000 to protect the Revolutionary War's single largest cemetery from destruction



Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Land and Water Conservation Fund FY2016 Request





FY2016

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

St Croix - Big Rock Creek Farms, Wisconsin

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$1,140,000

Congressional District:
WI-7, Representative Duffy

Acres: 640

Miles of Trail: 7

Acquiring Agency: Ice Age Trail
Alliance, Trust for Public Land

Landscape Characteristics:

Here the western terminus of the Ice Age NST is located at Interstate State Park, which is situated along the picturesque St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, an hour outside of the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. Geologically, this area is a blend of pre-Pleistocene basalt bedrock, overlaid by glacial till. Basalt bedrock outcrops contain potholes and reveal the glacier's striation marks and direction. Connecting the state park and the Visitor Center at SACN is St. Croix Falls, the *City of Trails*, which boasts a thriving downtown and all-season trails.

Benefits of Protection: Protection of this property along with others in the area will provide residents and visitors of the City of St. Croix Falls with a connection to the western terminus of the Ice Age NST, and enable continuous 7-mile trail segment with adjacent properties. With this single acquisition, more than four miles of Ice Age NST will be protected. Furthermore, the property acquisition provides protection of a large unbroken diverse forest habitat.

Threats to the Landscape: Agricultural conversion, loss of natural resources, logging and/or extraction, residential development, visual intrusion, loss of public access, and loss of habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Partner Contributions: Since 2001, more than \$0.5M of non-federal (state and local) funds have been used to purchase lands for the Ice Age NST in this area. The Trust for Public Lands is currently working with the Ice Age Trail Alliance to acquire the property (barring federal funds). The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will contribute up to 50% of the cost. Also, the West Wisconsin Land Trust may assist in the granting portion of the project. Local volunteers, including the IATA Indianhead Chapter, will monitor the property. IATA will construct and maintain the IANST. An estimated \$200k of volunteer value has been contributed toward the construction, maintenance and natural resource enhancement of the IANST in this area.



The Big Rock Creek Farms parcel provides a connection to the western terminus of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.



ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
 FY 2016 National Trails System LWCF Collaborative Landscape Funding Proposal



Big Rock Creek Farms site.

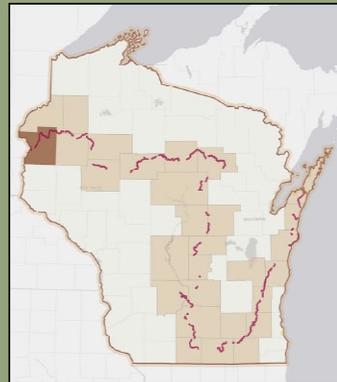


Big Rock Creek flows through the Big Rock Creek Farms site.



-  Ice Age National Scenic Trail
-  2016 Request
-  Previous Request
-  Public Lands

Big Rock Creek Farms
 Polk County, WI



NATIONAL
 PARK SERVICE



WISCONSIN
 DEPT. OF
 NATURAL
 RESOURCES



U.S. FISH &
 WILDLIFE
 SERVICE

National Trails System Land and Water Conservation Fund



FY2016

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Indian Lake - Collins, Wisconsin

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$800,000

Congressional District:
WI-2, Representative Pocan

Acres: 100

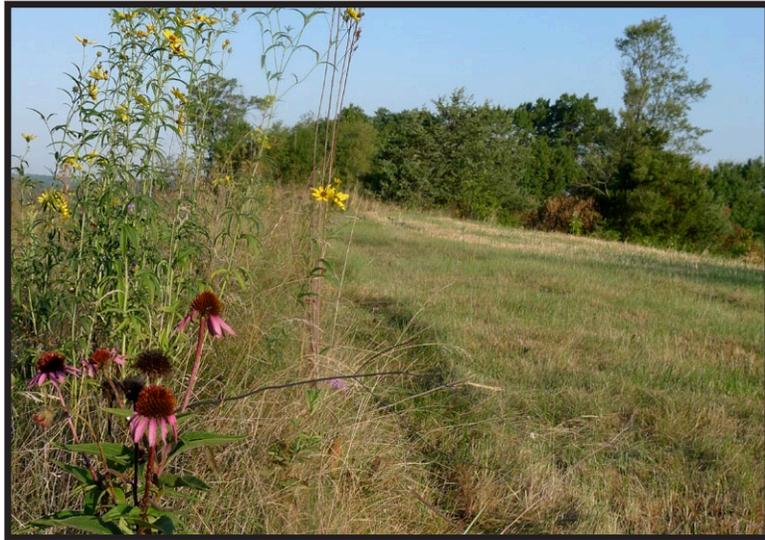
Miles of Trail: 1.5

Acquiring Agency: Dane County

Landscape Characteristics:

Properties in this landscape are defined by glacial geologic

features such as terminal moraine, steep bluffs and beautiful views into the Driftless Area. It is a great place to see the tunnel channel mouth where it cuts through the Milton Moraine to the east. The property has bedrock topography with a thin cover of till over it. There is active agriculture on portions of the property which help provide open views of the following landscape.



The Indian Lake - Collins parcel has been previously used for agricultural purposes, leading to beautiful, wide-open views of the surrounding area for hikers.

Benefits of Protection: Protection of this and other properties in the area will provide for a landscape diverse in geologic history and a IANST segment roughly four miles in length. This parcel contains 1.5 miles of trail but enables an additional 2.5 miles of trail on adjacent properties. It will help connect the Ice Age National Scenic Trail, Indian Lake County Park, and Springfield Hill County Park. Furthermore, acquisition of this property will ensure that the already constructed, federally-funded, bridge over Hwy 12 will be used for the Ice Age Trail.

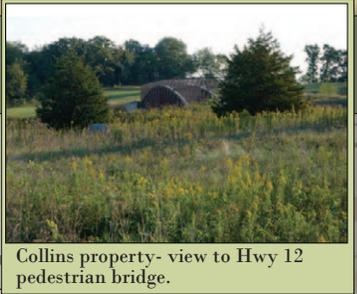
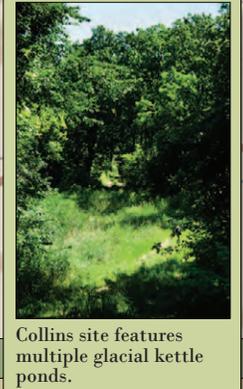
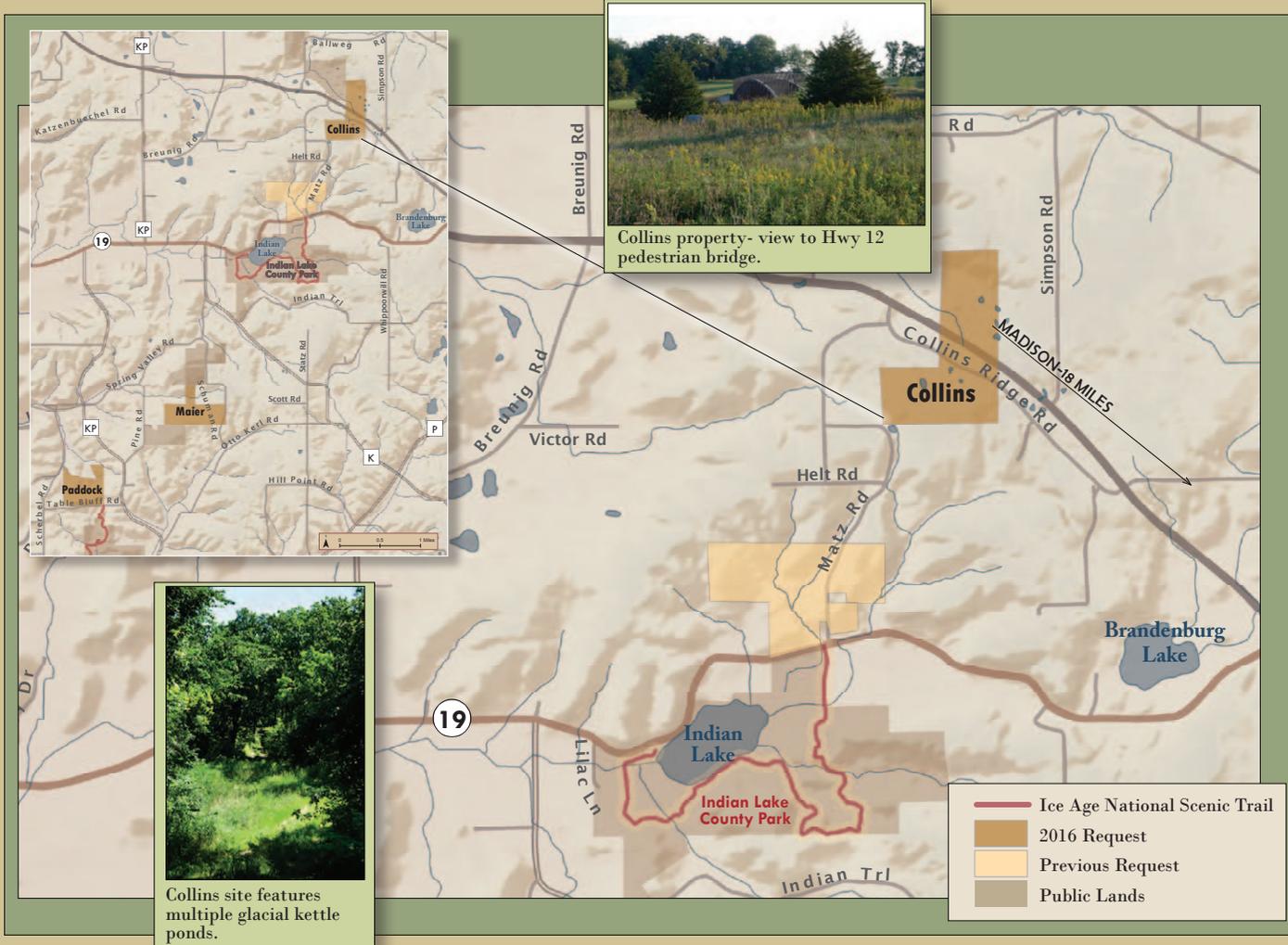
Threats to the Landscape: Agricultural conversion, loss of natural resources, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

Partner Contributions: Since 2001, \$2.6 million of non-federal (state and local) funds have been committed to acquiring lands for the Ice Age Trail in this area. In addition, Dane County has spent nearly \$6 million on Ice Age National Scenic Trail lands adjacent or close to these parcels/ landscapes. An estimated \$250,000 of volunteer value has been contributed to the construction, maintenance and natural resource enhancement of the IANST in this area. Since 2001, \$1.1 million in LWCF funds have been committed to the project in this landscape. Dane County would acquire the property (unless NPS is required to do so with the use of these funds). The Ice Age Trail Alliance would write a grant for WDNR funding for up to 50%. The IATA would construct and maintain the IANST on the property and help with ecological restoration.

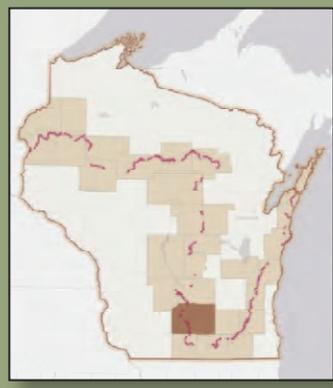


Prepared by the Ice Age Trail Alliance | (608) 798-4453 | www.iceagetrail.org
and the Partnership for the National Trails System | (608) 249-7870 | www.pnts.org

ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
 FY 2016 National Trails System LWCF Collaborative Landscape Funding Proposal



Collins
 Dane County, WI



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
 U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE



FY2016

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Gallagher and Kirner, Wisconsin

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$1,990,000

Congressional District:
WI-7, Representative Mark Pocan

Acres: 102

Miles of Trail: 3-4

Acquiring Agency: NPS

Landscape Characteristics:

Located just west of Madison near the town of Cross Plains is a 1,500-acre area that contains an outstanding collection of glacial landforms, including a gorge carved by melt water and expansive views of both driftless and glaciated terrain.

Benefits of Protection:

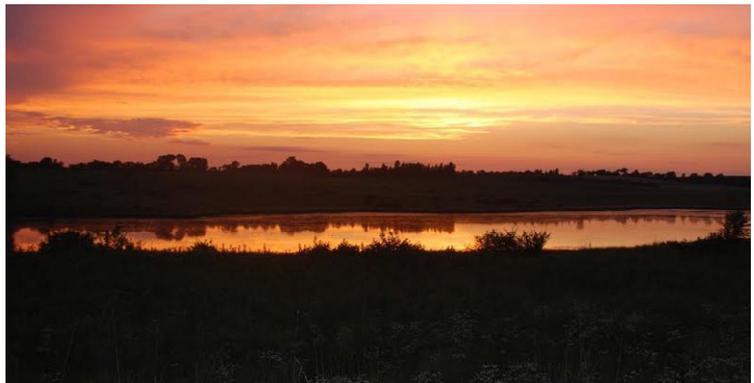
Acquiring these tracts will help protect a 1,700 acre Ice Age Reserve Unit. This unit will provide a critical connection for the trail and interpretive opportunities of unique geologic features. Acquisition would also provide protection of a critical view shed within the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains and along the trail. The Kirner Tract, in particular, is one of three parcels that would allow the trail to be built through the Complex at Cross Plains road to road, creating approximately three to four miles of new trail.

Threats to the Landscape: Agricultural conversion, loss of natural resources, logging and/or extraction, residential development, visual intrusion, loss of public access, and loss of habitat for threatened or endangered species.

Partner Contributions: The USFWS has invested heavily in the adjacent Shoveler's Sink property. Dane County will assist with 30% of the Kirner tract acquisition.



Coyle Pond.



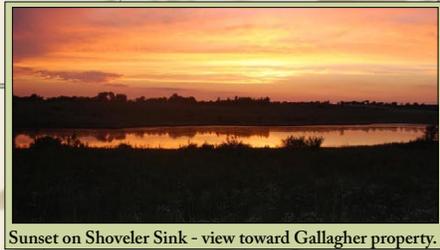
Sunset on Shoveler Sink looking at the Gallagher Property.



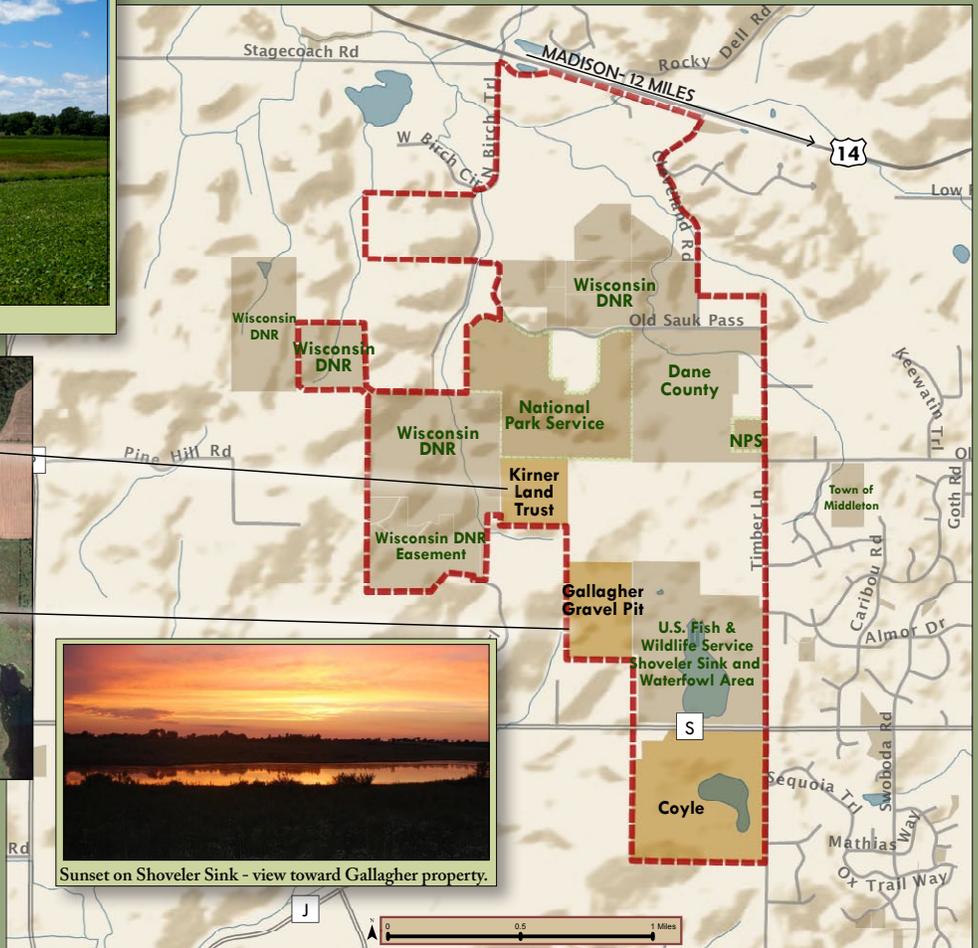
ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL
 FY 2016 National Trails System LWCF Collaborative Landscape Funding Proposal



Coyle Pond.

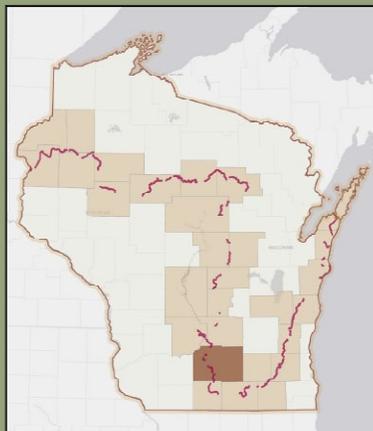


Sunset on Shoveler Sink - view toward Gallagher property.



- Ice Age National Scenic Trail
- 2016 Request
- Previous Request
- Public Lands

Cross Plains
 Dane County, WI





NATIONAL
 PARK SERVICE



WISCONSIN
 DEPT. OF NATURAL
 RESOURCES

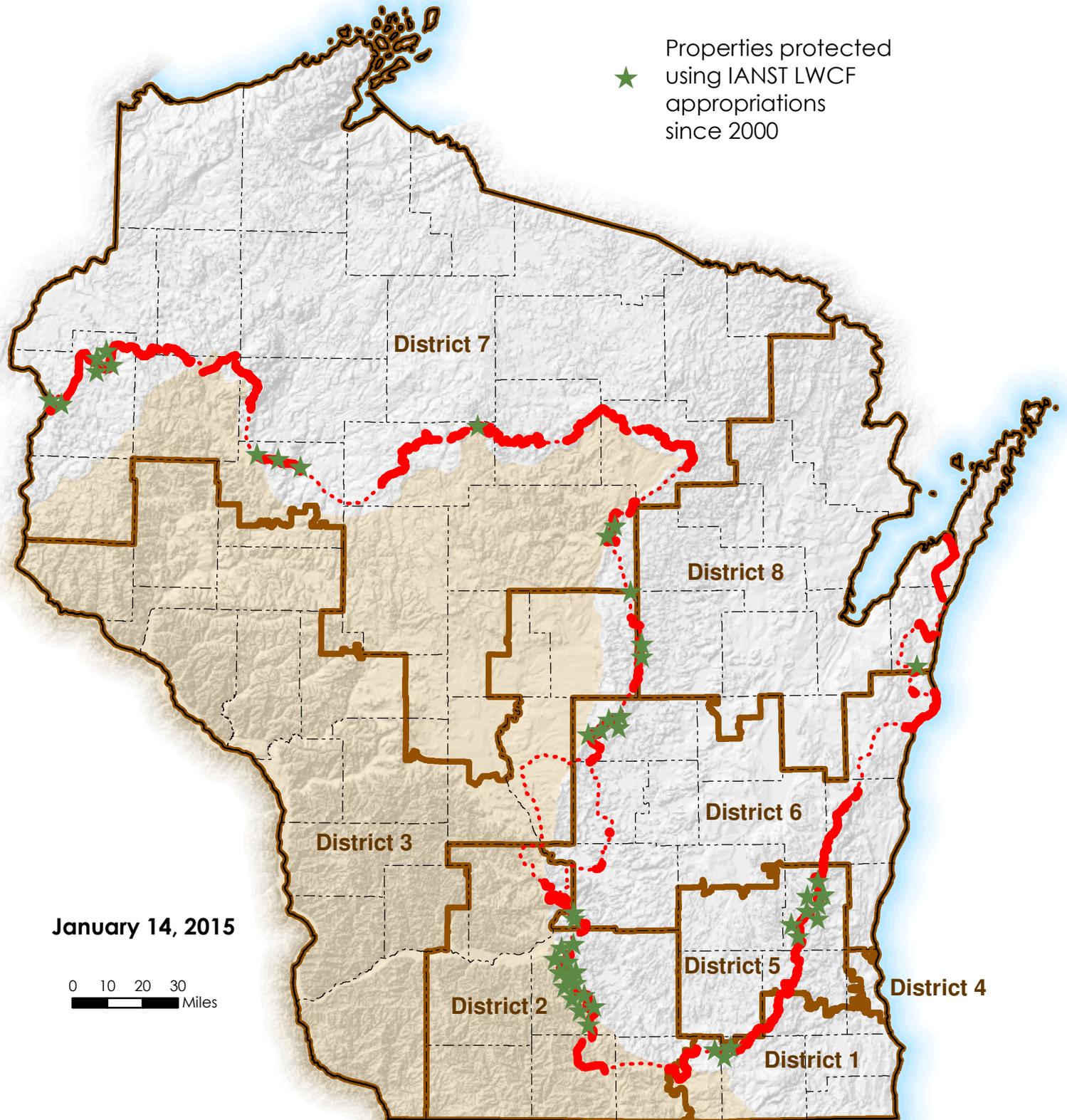


U.S. FISH &
 WILDLIFE
 SERVICE

Ice Age National Scenic Trail Acquisitions Supported by LWCF

with Congressional Districts

★ Properties protected using IANST LWCF appropriations since 2000



January 14, 2015

0 10 20 30
Miles

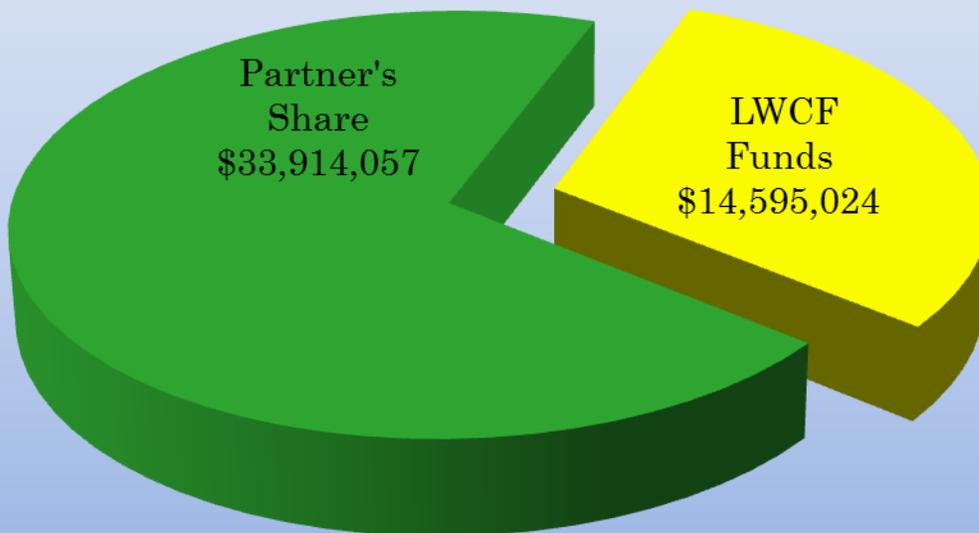


LAND PROTECTION REPORT

By the numbers

Total number of acquisitions for Ice Age NST in 2014:	6
Total acres protected in 2014:	378
Total miles of Ice Age NST protected in 2014:	3.1 (estimated)
Total miles of Ice Age NST yet to protect:	500+

Leveraging LWCF Funds Since 2000



2014 Land Acquisition Success:

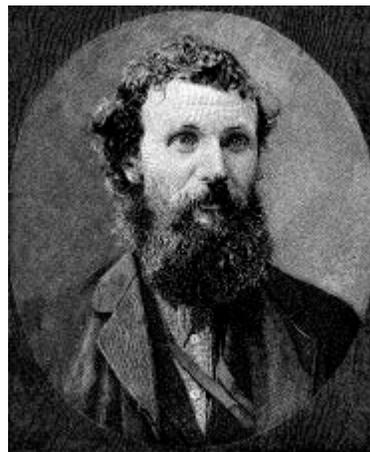
John Muir's Boyhood Farm, Marquette County

Number of transactions: 1

Acres: 198

Trail construction and prairie restoration: FY2016

Miles of Trail: 1.3 (estimated)



Highlights

The Natural Heritage Land Trust, with assistance from the Ice Age Trail Alliance and other partners secured nearly 200 acres adjacent to what John Muir referred to as Fountain Lake. Roughly 30 acres of this property overlaps the historic farm where the Father of the National Parks grew up playing, exploring and writing. Plans for this property include trails, a prairie restoration and a centennial celebration of the National Park Service and this historic site.



2014 Land Acquisition Success:

Rib Lake Area, Taylor County

Number of transactions: 2

Acres: 92.2

Existing Ice Age Trail miles: 1.3



Highlights

The Ice Age Trail Alliance acquired two properties with approximately 1.3 miles of existing Ice Age National Scenic Trail. These two properties are adjacent to a third property owned by the Ice Age Trail Alliance which creates a significant string of protected lands along the terminal moraine – the key glacial feature that defines the Ice Age NST. The Alliance's new Marimor Preserve also provides spur trails, a parking lot, camping and allows the Alliance to preserve a piece of Wisconsin's great Northwoods.

2014 Land Acquisition Success:

Historic Portage Canal, Columbia County

Number of new transactions: 1

Acres: 46

Existing Ice Age Trail miles: 0.6

Future plans: Establish a loop trail and restore woodlands



Highlights

The Ice Age Trail Alliance acquired the property along the historic Portage Canal connecting the Fox and Wisconsin Rivers. The Alliance worked with partners at Natural Heritage Land Trust and the National Society for Historic Dames to protect the land. The Ice Age NST currently runs along the east edge of the canal and plans are to connect a loop trail along the Fox River.



TRAIL CONSTRUCTION REQUEST: \$673,000

By the numbers

Miles of projected new trail construction:	11.75
Miles of projected upgrades to existing Trail:	13.50
Linear feet of new elevated boardwalk:	2,250
Number of new pedestrian bridges:	6
Returning military veterans engaged:	40
Youth volunteers engaged:	750





Ice Age Trail construction projects provide at minimum a 4:1 return on Federal investment.

FY2016 Federal Trail Construction Request Worksheet

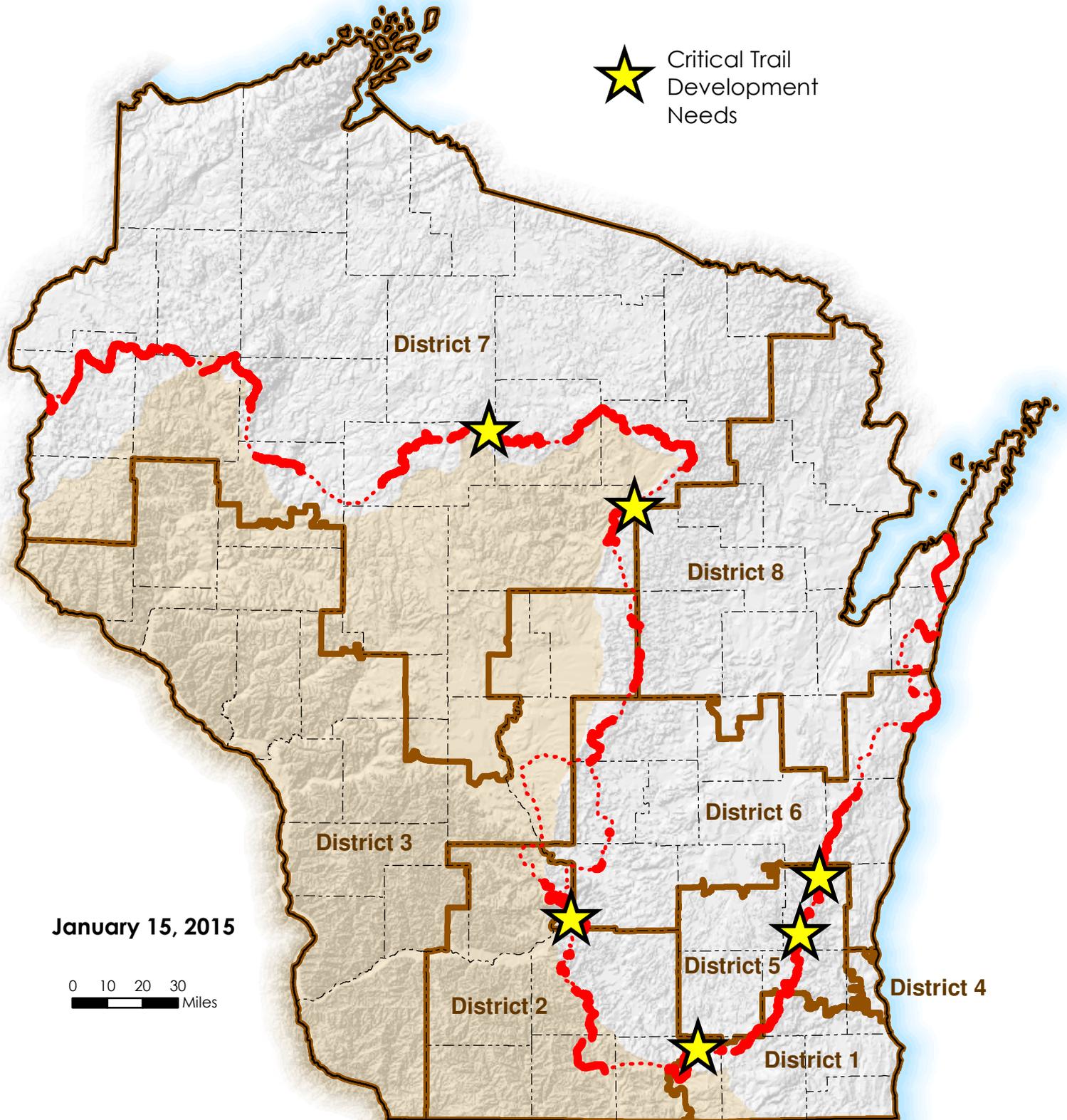
Segment Name	County	District	Scope of Work	\$ Estimate
Storrs Lake	Rock	2	1.25 miles of new trail construction including 500 ft. of elevated boardwalk and 2 miles of trail maintenance and stewardship, in a spectacular wildlife viewing area.	\$34,000
Holy Hill	Washington	5	Replace a 500 ft. non-compliant 25-year-old boardwalk; relocate the Trail from unprotected private land to protected trail right of way; and perform 2 miles of deferred trail maintenance and stewardship.	\$89,000
Milwaukee River	Washington	5	Construct a 110 ft. pedestrian bridge over the Milwaukee River with elevated boardwalk approaches. Currently, this 36-mile section of Trail entirely on public lands is interrupted by a 1/4-mile connecting road walk where trail users must cross a hazardous narrow county bridge against traffic moving at 55 mph.	\$145,000
Gibraltar	Columbia	6	Extensive rock wall and step construction to mitigate erosion and improve safety and access at iconic Gibraltar Rock located 25 miles from the state capitol building and 10 miles from Devil's Lake State Park, Wisconsin's most popular state park with 2.1 million annual visitors.	\$85,000
Plover River	Marathon	7	6 miles of new trail on the terminal moraine of the last continental glaciation; includes boardwalk and bridge construction and relocation from a snowmobile route.	\$170,000
Wood & Rib Lake	Taylor	7	Bridge and boardwalk construction, 4 miles of new trail construction and 6 miles of deferred maintenance to upgrade a 20-mile semi-primitive trail experience in Wisconsin's great Northwoods.	\$150,000
TOTAL				\$673,000



FY2016 Ice Age National Scenic Trail Construction Request

with Congressional Districts

 Critical Trail Development Needs



January 15, 2015

0 10 20 30 Miles



FY2014 TRAIL CONSTRUCTION REPORT

By the numbers

Total miles of new Ice Age NST constructed in FY2014:	9.5
Total miles of Ice Age NST significantly improved:	44.2
Total trail structures built:	74
Total independent sector volunteer value:	\$1,766,882

Federal and Partner Cost Comparison



FY2014 Trail Construction Success:

Blue Hills, Rusk County

Miles of new Trail: 1.8

Infrastructure built: 20' bridge & 140' boardwalk

Participant data: 113 volunteers gave 3,678 hours

Youth engagement: 21 (Bruce, Baraboo & Lodi school districts)



Highlights

Through blazing sun, mosquitoes and soggy humidity, volunteers pulled together in the hard work of significantly upgrading the Ice Age Trail in the remote Blue Hills. Over the course of 13 days volunteers maintained and improved 9 miles of the most wild and remote sections of Ice Age Trail.

At right: paying homage to Wisconsin's logging history, lumber was floated a mile downstream for bridge and boardwalk construction.



FY2014 Trail Construction Success:

Chequamegon National Forest, Taylor County

Infrastructure built: 6 boardwalks totaling 509 feet in length

Participant data: 136 volunteers gave 3,276 hours

Youth engagement: 57 (Medford School District & New Vision Wilderness)



"Words cannot describe the dedication, commitment and patience the IATA invested in this undertaking. Projects like this would not be possible without the countless hours volunteers contribute and IATA staff invests." Tim Vetter, Assistant Ranger – Recreation, Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest

Highlights

At this Mobile Skills Crew event 136 volunteers tromped through mud, hauled lumber and performed serious trail upgrades. Long a favorite of hikers, the segment was later featured in Backpacker Magazine (October 2014). Hikers from around the country converged to enjoy the work completed on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.

FY2014 Trail Construction Success:

City of St. Croix Falls, Polk County

Miles of new Trail: 2.4

Infrastructure built: bridge, boardwalks, rock walls and steps

Participant data: 157 volunteers gave 4,191 hours

Youth engagement: 50 (Boy Scouts of America Order of the Arrow)



Highlights

Jake Riegel and Ray Zillmer walked different paths in their lives; one was a river town doctor and the other a mountaineering lawyer. The satchels both men carried included extraordinary vision and the political instruments of their day to articulate a new measure of what community would come to mean in the 21st century. This project extended the Ice Age National Scenic Trail 2.4 miles to connect Riegel and Zillmer Parks. Extensive, technical rockwork resulted in 6 stone staircases, 4 walls and numerous other native material structures. A 55-foot wood bridge and 130 feet of boardwalk was constructed. Over one thousand meals were served to volunteers. Stefanie Mathew of the National Park Foundation and Eric Allen from the National Park Service, and Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts from 6 states participated.

FY2014 Trail Construction Success:

Gibraltar Segment, Columbia County

Miles of new Trail: 1.8

Infrastructure built: 367 feet of timber and 282 feet of rock retaining walls

Participant data: 552 volunteers gave 8,260 hours

Youth engagement: 202 (Lodi, Baraboo and Middleton school districts, UW-Madison, UW-Platteville and AmeriCorps PASS)



Highlights

For two miles, in all weather and all seasons, footprints dot the resistant path that meanders and climbs through a pine relic forest to attain a staggering view of the lower Wisconsin River Valley. In late October and again in April, a masterpiece entered the National Trails System when the Alliance conducted remarkable "trail building is people building" events at iconic Gibraltar Rock.

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
FIFTH DISTRICT, WISCONSIN
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CRIME, TERRORISM, HOMELAND
SECURITY, AND INVESTIGATIONS
CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,
AND TECHNOLOGY



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CALLING AREA:
1-800-242-1119
WEBSITE:
[HTTP://SENSENBRENNER.HOUSE.GOV](http://SENSENBRENNER.HOUSE.GOV)

April 15, 2015

The Honorable Jonathan B. Jarvis
Director of National Parks Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Director Jarvis,

We are writing about an important matter affecting the residents of the State of Wisconsin and many who visit our state.

Specifically, we urge your agency to grant Unit status to the Ice Age National Scenic Trail so that it is no longer excluded from many opportunities and federal assistance accorded to other similar trails.

When the Trail was designated a National Scenic Trail in 1980, a legislative oversight excluded the Ice Age Trail as a Unit of the National Parks Systemⁱ. This omission has caused a considerable negative impact on the Trail through the allocation and availability of budgeted National Parks Service funds. Unit designation for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail would have no effect on the federal budget, instead funds used will be monies already appropriated in the National Parks System's budget. Unit designation will ensure that the Ice Age Trail has access to financial resources that are necessary for the preservation of this significant Wisconsin landmark.

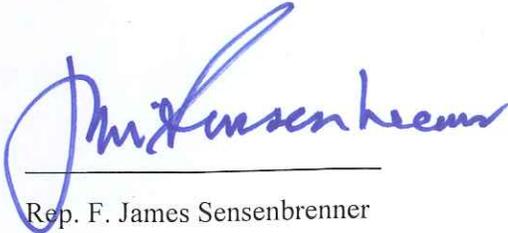
The Ice Age Trail is currently 600 miles long. An additional 600 miles of trail construction is planned in the future. Upon completion, the 1,200 mile trail will be longer than both the Potomac Heritage Trail and the Natchez Trace Trail *combined*. Both trails are recognized as Units under the National Parks Service.

In 2014, nearly 80,000 volunteer service hours were dedicated to the Ice Age Trail's construction and preservation. An estimated 1.25ⁱⁱ million people enjoyed hiking the Trail last year, and in doing so, brought over \$113ⁱⁱⁱ million to the Wisconsin economy. Not only is the trail a nationally renowned landmark, it is a significant contributor to the Wisconsin tourism industry.

The decision to approve the Ice Age National Scenic Trail for Unit status has been delayed long enough. We urge that you administratively declare the Ice Age National Scenic Trail as a Unit of the National Parks Service.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

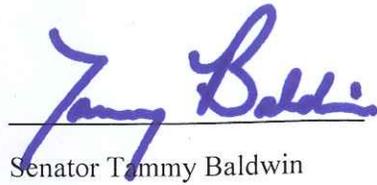
Sincerely,



Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner



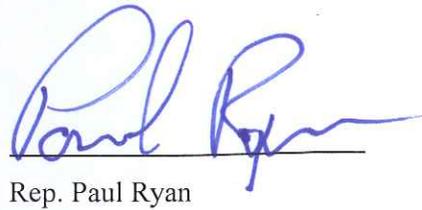
Senator Ron Johnson



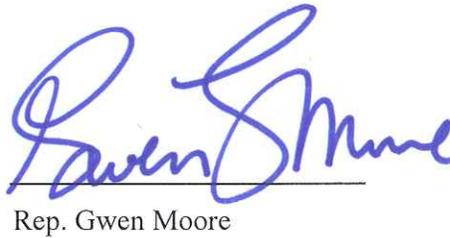
Senator Tammy Baldwin



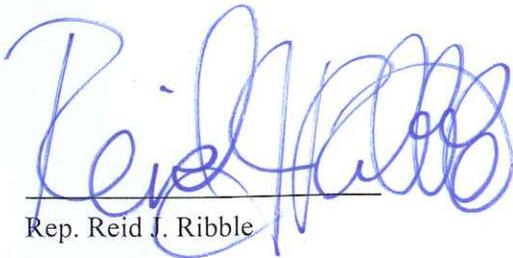
Rep. Ron Kind



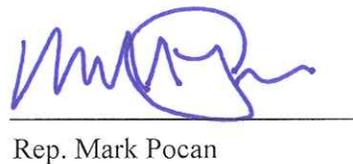
Rep. Paul Ryan



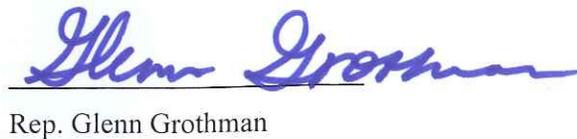
Rep. Gwen Moore



Rep. Reid J. Ribble



Rep. Mark Pocan



Rep. Glenn Grothman

ⁱ H.R. 7825, 96th Cong. (1980) (enacted). Print.

ⁱⁱ Ice Age Trail Alliance, *Year One Final Report 2012*. Wisconsin: Economic Development Partners, 2012. Web. 13 Feb. 2015.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ice Age Trail Alliance, *Year One Final Report 2012*. Wisconsin: Economic Development Partners, 2012. Web. 13 Feb. 2015.