

HR 845

National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Public Lands and Natural Resources

Introduced: Feb 10, 2015

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-245.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-245. (Nov 28, 2016)

Law: 114-245 (Enacted Nov 28, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/845>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY-At Large]

Party: Republican • **State:** WY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (86 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Feb 10, 2015
Rep. Brooks, Susan W. [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Feb 11, 2015
Rep. Benishek, Dan [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Feb 13, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Mike [D-CA-5]	D · CA		Feb 13, 2015
Rep. Simpson, Michael K. [R-ID-2]	R · ID		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]	D · NM		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4]	R · WA		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Ashford, Brad [D-NE-2]	D · NE		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Labrador, Raul R. [R-ID-1]	R · ID		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Mar 26, 2015
Rep. Pearce, Stevan [R-NM-2]	R · NM		Mar 26, 2015
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Mar 26, 2015
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Apr 14, 2015
Rep. Huffman, Jared [D-CA-2]	D · CA		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Graves, Tom [R-GA-14]	R · GA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		May 12, 2015
Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]	R · AR		May 14, 2015
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		May 18, 2015
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		May 18, 2015
Rep. Veasey, Marc A. [D-TX-33]	D · TX		May 21, 2015
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Delaney, John K. [D-MD-6]	D · MD		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2]	R · MN		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Amodei, Mark E. [R-NV-2]	R · NV		Jun 3, 2015
Rep. Castor, Kathy [D-FL-14]	D · FL		Jun 9, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Tonko, Paul [D-NY-20]	D · NY		Jun 9, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jun 11, 2015
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Jun 11, 2015
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jun 11, 2015
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Jun 16, 2015
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Jun 16, 2015
Rep. McNerney, Jerry [D-CA-9]	D · CA		Jun 16, 2015
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		Jun 25, 2015
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Jul 10, 2015
Rep. Roskam, Peter J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Walden, Greg [R-OR-2]	R · OR		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. Reichert, David G. [R-WA-8]	R · WA		Sep 8, 2015
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Sep 16, 2015
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Griffith, H. Morgan [R-VA-9]	R · VA		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Westerman, Bruce [R-AR-4]	R · AR		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Sep 22, 2015
Rep. Kildee, Daniel T. [D-MI-5]	D · MI		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Noem, Kristi L. [R-SD-At Large]	R · SD		Sep 29, 2015
Rep. Ryan, Paul D. [R-WI-1]	R · WI		Oct 8, 2015
Rep. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Oct 20, 2015
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Oct 22, 2015
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Oct 26, 2015
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Oct 27, 2015
Rep. Love, Mia B. [R-UT-4]	R · UT		Nov 2, 2015
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Nov 4, 2015
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Nov 4, 2015
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Tipton, Scott R. [R-CO-3]	R · CO		Nov 17, 2015
Rep. Heck, Joseph J. [R-NV-3]	R · NV		Nov 18, 2015
Rep. Costello, Ryan A. [R-PA-6]	R · PA		Nov 19, 2015
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Feb 1, 2016
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Feb 10, 2016
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Mar 2, 2016
Rep. Gibson, Christopher P. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Mar 15, 2016
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Apr 26, 2016
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Apr 28, 2016
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Apr 29, 2016

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Price, Tom [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Jun 7, 2016
Rep. Kuster, Ann M. [D-NH-2]	D · NH		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Payne, Donald M., Jr. [D-NJ-10]	D · NJ		Sep 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 27, 2015
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Public Lands and Natural Resources

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1110	Identical bill	Jul 16, 2015: Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-154.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on September 20, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act

(Sec. 4) This bill directs the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to publish a national strategy to significantly increase the role of volunteers and partners in trail maintenance.

The strategy shall:

- augment and support the capabilities of federal employees to carry out or contribute to trail maintenance;
- provide opportunities for volunteers and partners to carry out trail maintenance in each region of the Forest Service;
- address the barriers to increased volunteerism and partnerships;
- prioritize increased volunteerism and partnerships in those regions with the most severe trail maintenance needs, and where backlogs are jeopardizing access to national forest lands; and
- aim to increase trail maintenance by volunteers and partners by 100% within 5 years.

As a component of the strategy, USDA shall study opportunities to improve trail maintenance by addressing opportunities to use fire crews in trail maintenance activities that do not jeopardize firefighting capabilities, public safety, or resource protection. Upon a determination that trail maintenance would be advanced by the use of fire crews, USDA shall incorporate these proposals into the strategy.

The Volunteers in the National Forest Act of 1972 is amended, for purposes of certain provisions relating to the employment status of volunteers in the National Forests Program, to include as a volunteer a person providing volunteer services to USDA who is recruited, trained, and supported by a cooperator under a mutual benefit agreement with the USDA.

Such a volunteer also performs such volunteer services under the cooperator's supervision as directed by the USDA in such agreement, including direction that specifies:

- the volunteer services to be performed by the volunteers and the supervision to be provided by the cooperator;
- the project safety standards and protocols to be adhered to by the volunteers and enforced by the cooperator; and
- the on-site visits to be made by USDA, when feasible, to verify that volunteers are performing the volunteer services and the cooperator is providing the supervision agreed upon.

USDA shall adopt regulations for the implementation of this section. Such regulations shall ensure that the financial risk from claims or liability associated with volunteers who undertake trail maintenance is shared by all administrative units.

USDA shall report on:

- the effectiveness of the strategy in addressing the trail maintenance backlog;
- the increase in volunteerism and partnership efforts on trail maintenance as a result of the strategy;
- the miles of National Forest System trails maintained by volunteers and partners, and the approximate value of volunteer and partnership efforts;
- the status of the stewardship credits for the outfitters and guides pilot program established by this bill; and

recommendations for further increasing volunteerism and partnerships in trail maintenance.

(Sec. 5) USDA shall select at least 9 and no more than 15 priority areas for increased trail maintenance accomplishments.

Priority areas shall include a well-defined region on National Forest System land where the lack of trail maintenance has:

- reduced access to public land;
- led to an increase, or risk of increase, in harm to natural resources;
- jeopardized public safety;
- resulted in trails being impassible by the intended managed users; or
- increased future deferred trail maintenance costs.

In selecting priority areas, USDA shall:

- consider any public input received on such areas within three months of enactment of this bill;
- consider the range of trail users, including motorized and non-motorized trail users; and
- include at least one such area in each region of the Forest Service.

Within six months of the selection of the priority areas, USDA shall develop an approach to substantially increase trail maintenance accomplishments within each area.

In developing such an approach, USDA shall:

- consider any public input received on trail maintenance priorities and needs within the priority area,
- consider the costs and benefits of increased trail maintenance within the priority area, and
- incorporate partners and volunteers in the trail's maintenance.

In utilizing such an approach, USDA shall substantially increase trail maintenance within each of the priority areas.

Regional volunteer and partnership coordinators may be responsible in assisting partner organizations in the development and implementation of volunteer and partnership projects to increase trail maintenance within the priority areas.

USDA shall, in its sole discretion, periodically review the priority areas to determine whether revisions are necessary and may revise such areas, including by the selection of new areas or the removal of existing areas.

(Sec. 6) USDA may enter into cooperative agreements with any state, tribal, local governmental, and private entities to carry out this bill.

A cooperative agreement authorized under this section may:

- improve trail maintenance in a priority area,
- implement the strategy, or
- advance trail maintenance as deemed appropriate by the USDA.

(Sec. 7) USDA shall establish a pilot program on at least 20 administrative units to offset all or part of the land use fee for an outfitting and guiding permit by the cost of the work performed by the permit holder for the construction, improvement, or maintenance of National Forest System trails, trailheads, or developed sites that support public use.

In establishing the pilot program, USDA shall:

- select administrative units where the pilot program will improve trail maintenance; and
- establish appropriate terms and conditions, including those meeting the National Quality Standards for Trails and the Trail Management Objectives identified for the trail.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 28, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Nov 28, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-245.
- **Nov 18, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 17, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Nov 16, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S6421)
- **Nov 16, 2016:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S6421)
- **Sep 27, 2016:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Mr. Rouzer moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5875-5878)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 845.
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H5875-5876)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H5875-5876)
- **Sep 26, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Agriculture. H. Rept. 114-770, Part I.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Committee on Natural Resources discharged.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 603.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Feb 27, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry.
- **Feb 10, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 10, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.