

# Creating a Webmap for the National Trails System





# Background

- Compiling one 'official' dataset for the entire system has been a challenge for quite some time.
- Until just a few years ago, the only way to do this was to contact each trail, acquire all the data, and manually aggregate it together.
- With the advent of ArcGIS Online, it is now possible to post GIS data in a format that allow others to utilize information more effectively.



# Our Vision for an Interactive Map

- Use ArcGIS Online to share geographic information about National Trails and bring the data together in a way that shows the entire system.
- Identify a 'data steward' for each trail and ask them to maintain a public version of their trail data.
- Build a webmap that dynamically links to that data and combines everything in one place.
- Add additional data and functionality to enhance the usefulness to managers, partners, and the public.



# Current Status

- We have reached out to all the National Trails, identified a data steward, and established an official version of each trail on ArcGIS Online.
- We now have a 'working' map that includes all 30 National Scenic and National Historic Trails and point locations for all 1,200 National Recreation Trails.
- Before sharing publically, we want your feedback.
- We also want your support keeping the data up-to-date!



# Interactive Map Demo



## Next Steps

- Post Interactive Map on [PNTS.org](http://PNTS.org) website and begin promoting and sharing this tool.
- Maintain connection with the network of data stewards responsible for the data and support them in updating the information – posting new data, completing FGDC compliant metadata, applying the Federal Trail Data Standards, etc.
- Consider adding a Data Portal to the map so users can more easily download National Trail data.
- Consider adding additional data or functionality as appropriate and feasible. The main focus right now is just on 'centerline' data though.



# What Can You Do?

- Review the webmap - particularly the data shown - and give us your feedback.
- Once “live”, promote and share the webmap.
- Keep your data up-to-date! This is crucial.



# Using National Trails System Data





# National Trails System Data

- Can be used by the public and others to learn about National Trails.
- Can be used by managers for general planning purposes – viewing trail projects, looking at regional and large-landscape scale initiatives, or just seeing how a trail fits in with the National Trails System.
- Can be used by the Energy Industry and others when planning infrastructure projects – such as powerlines, pipelines, wind farms, roads, or solar arrays.



# Calculating Statistics

- GIS provides access to a wealth of information and can be used to generate a number of statistics fairly easily.
- Good statistics are valuable not only for managers but for educating others about National Trails.
- Using the latest trail data, we can generate a number of statistics – including ones that have never calculated before as well as updating existing statistics which may have changed as trail routes change.
- The results are only as accurate as the data used, so it is important that we use the best information possible and we keep the trail centerline routes up-to-date.



# Example National Trails System Statistics

States Traversed	=	49	98.0%
Counties Traversed	=	752	23.9%
Townships Traversed	=	1,452	8.8%
Congressional Districts Traversed	=	242	55.6%
Wilderness Areas Traversed	=	141	17.6%
National Park Units	=	84	20.1%
National Forests	=	89	57.8%
BLM Districts Traversed	=	46	92.0%
BLM Field Office Jurisdictions Traversed	=	101	80.8%
<b><u>POPULATION STATISTICS</u></b>			
Number of Communities within 60-miles	=	17,785	73.0%
Number of Urban Areas within 60-miles	=	340	74.2%
Total Population within 60-miles	=	231,519,367	74.1%



# Example National Trails System Statistics

Colleges & Universities within 1-mile	=	664
Public Schools within 1-mile	=	7,107
Private Schools within 1-mile	=	2,190
Major Electric Utility Lines that cross a National Trail	=	3,185
Major Pipelines Lines that cross a National Trail	=	3,423
Major Roads that cross a National Trail	=	86,850



# Calculating Statistics

There are many statistics that can be generated for National Trails.

- What do you think would be most useful?
- What do you think people would like to see?



# Conducting Analyses

Using the latest trail data, we can also conduct a number of analyses, such as:

- A 'gap' analysis - to identify unprotected areas along National Trails.
- A high-priority area analysis - to identify the most threatened/endangered areas along National Trails.
- Opportunity analyses – to identify nearby visitor and education centers that could potentially promote trails or organizations that may be interested in becoming new partners.



# Conducting Analyses

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# Questions / Comments?

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