

Partnership for the National Trails System



A Gap Analysis for the National Trails System

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Before we start, we would like to know a little bit about you!

Are you with:

- A nonprofit trail organization?
- A federal, state, or local agency?
- A land trust?
- Other?



logos for 14 National Historic Trails

And are you associated with:

- A National Historic Trail?
- A National Scenic Trail?
- Both?
- Neither?



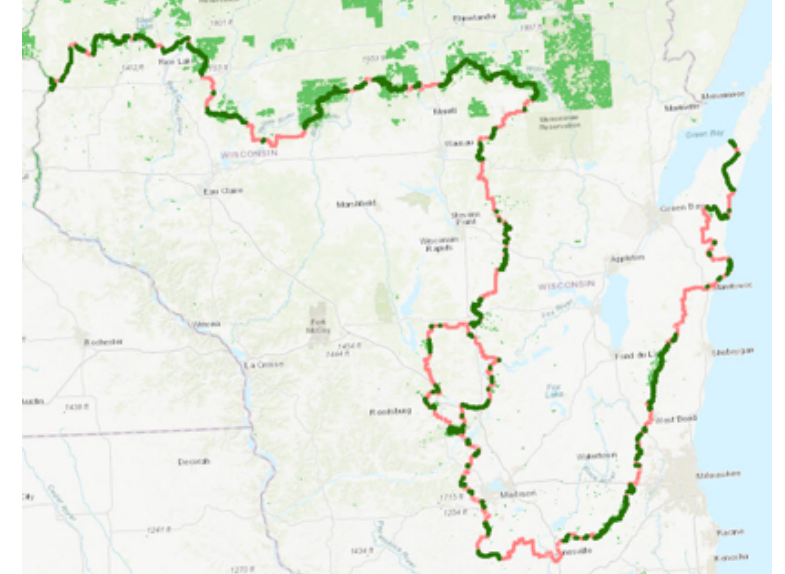
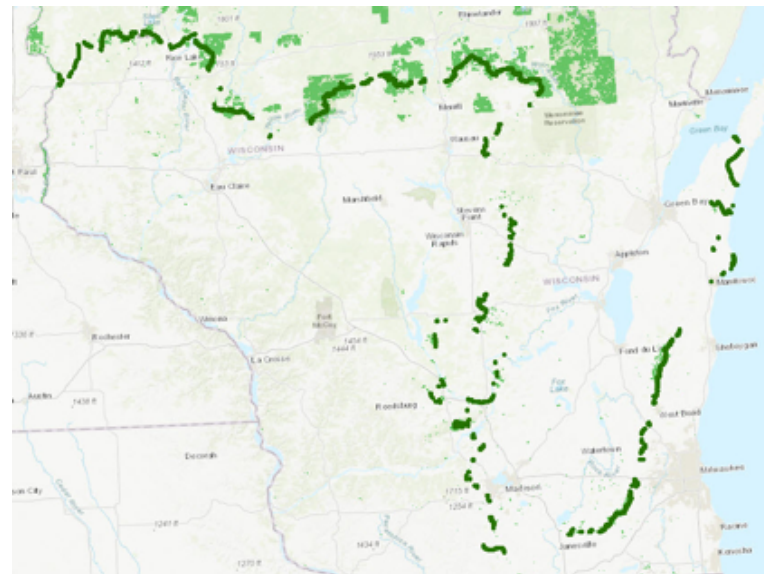
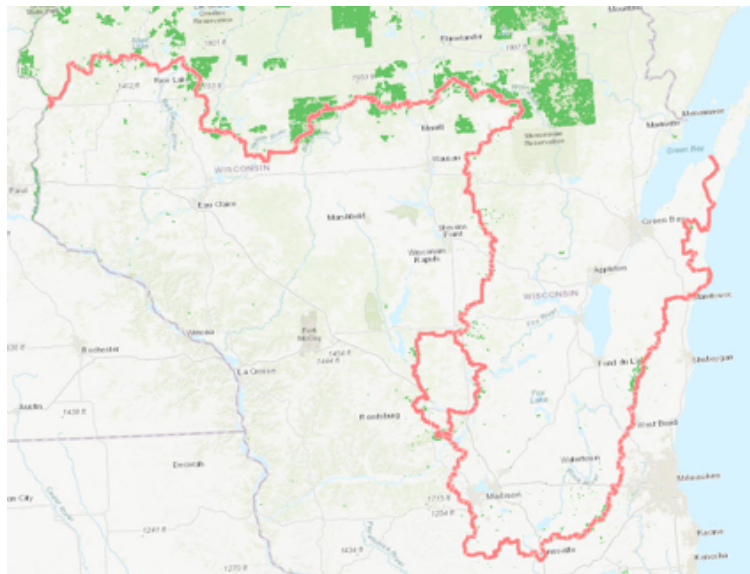
Map of the National Trails System



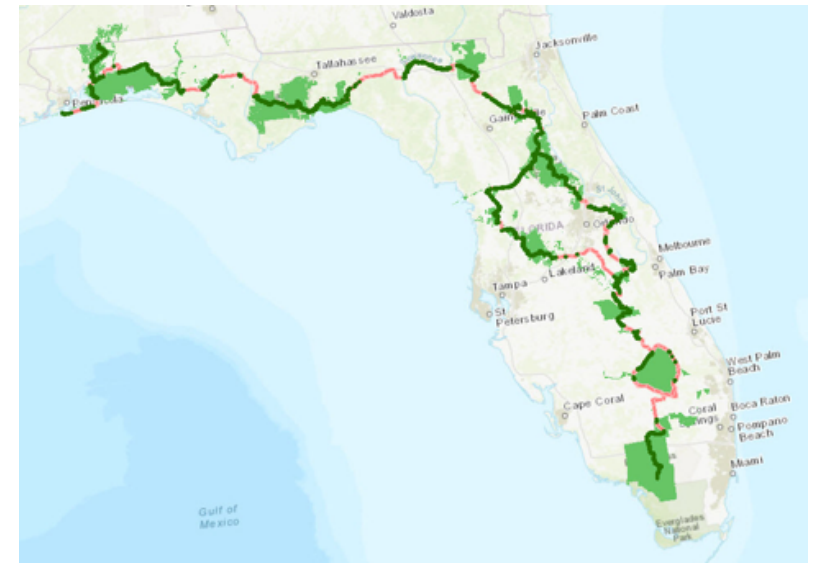
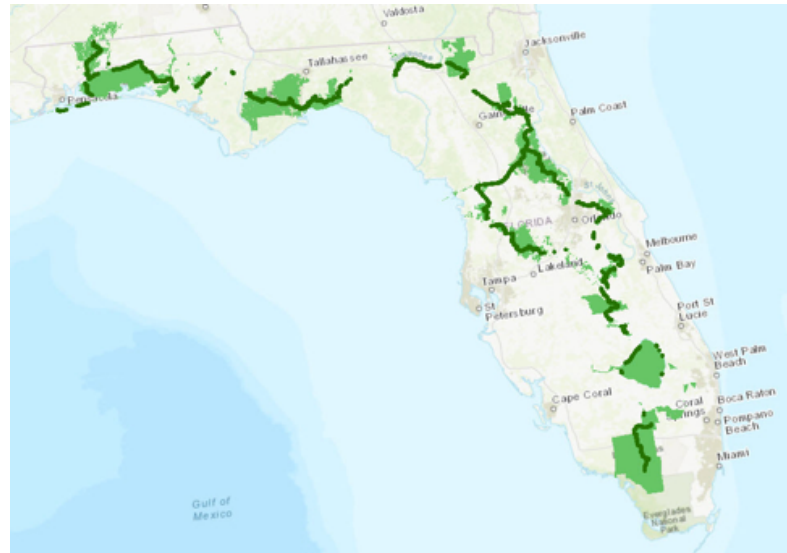
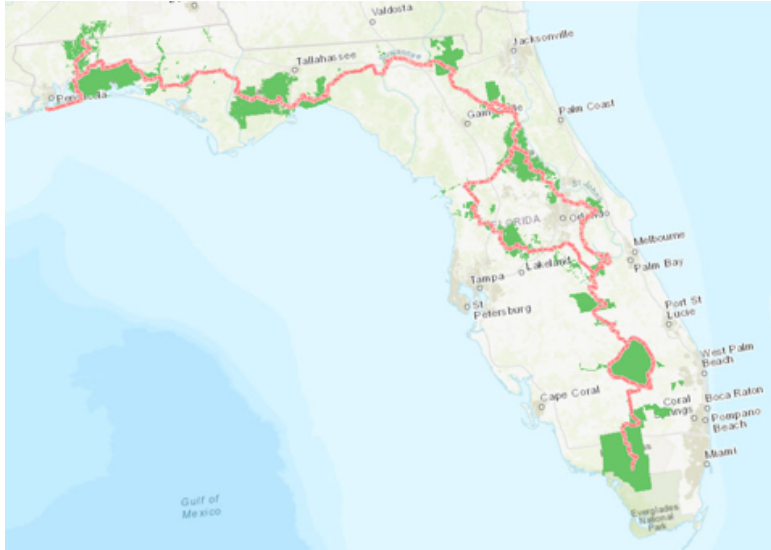


Interactive Map of the National Trails System

Ice Age National Scenic Trail



Florida National Scenic Trail



High Potential Historic Sites are defined in the National Trails System Act, Section 12 [16 USC1251] as;

“those historic sites related to the route or sites in close proximity thereto, which provide opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail during the period of its major use; criteria for consideration as high potential sites include historic significance, presence of visible historic remnants, scenic quality, and relative freedom from intrusion.”



Identifying High Potential Sites and High Potential Segments of the Lewis and Clark NHT



Identifying High Potential Sites on the Lewis and Clark NHT

Review:

- Comprehensive Plan
- Foundation Documents
- High Potential Historic Sites and
- High Potential Historic Segments documentation and mapping
- Other Publicly Available Sources



Identifying High Potential Sites and High Potential Segments



Interactive Map of the National Trails System

Using TPL's in-house GIS capabilities, we plan to:

- Compile existing trail data into a single GIS database.
- Obtain the best available data.
- Conduct spatial analyses of trails using the USGS Protected Areas Database (PAD-US), the National Conservation Easement Database (NCED), and other publicly available data sets.
- Conduct spatial analyses of unprotected trail segments and resources using development risk data from CSU.
- Develop a GIS database that depicts National Trail segments by protected/unprotected status and quantifies protected status and threats to trails by jurisdiction.
- Develop a web map viewer that provides National Trail managers with the ability to view trail corridor protection status for any segment of a National Trail.

The Trust for Public Land

Our mission

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people.

Our vision

To ensure healthy, livable communities for generations to come.



The Trust for Public Land



Our impact

FROM NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS
TO NATIONAL PARKS

5 thousand+ places created

3 million+ acres protected

68 billion+ public funds generated

8 million+ people within 10-min

walk

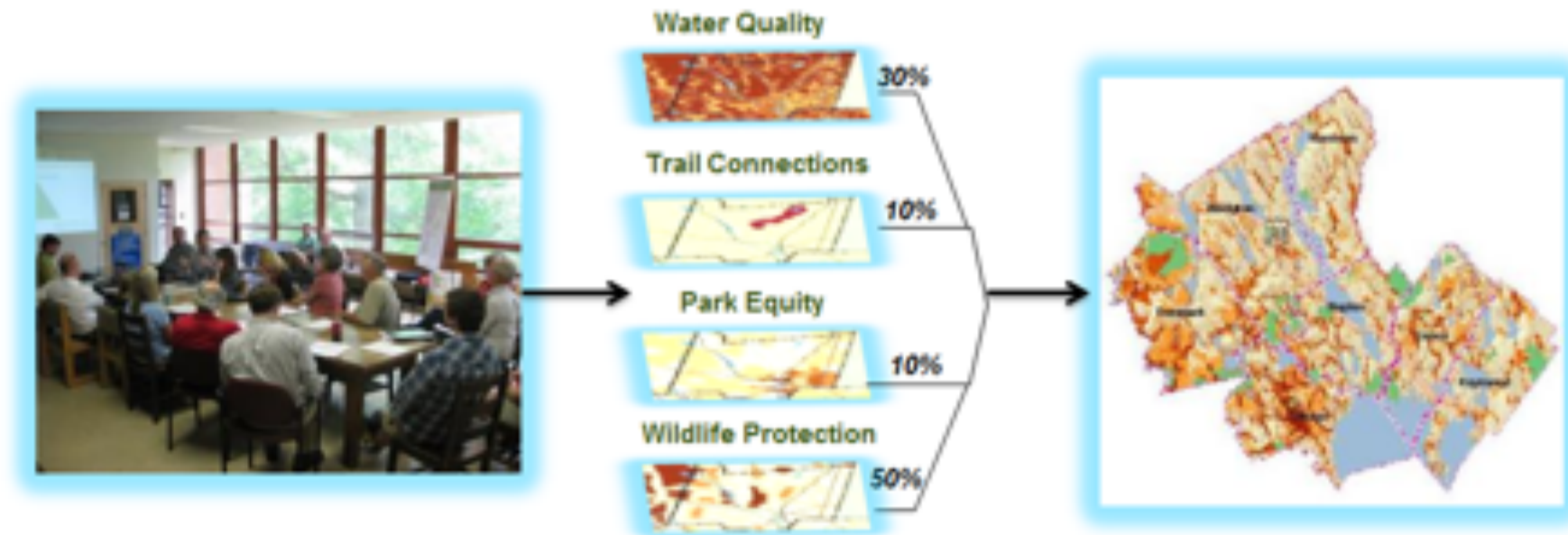
The Trust for Public Land



What are our PLAN Services?

- Creating Maps and Cartographic Products
- Greenprinting
- Urban Park Planning (Level of Service and park evaluations)
- Landscape Analyses
- Greenway and Trail Planning
- System-wide park evaluations
- Climate-Smart Cities
- ParkScore
- ParkServe
- Planning Research projects (i.e. Oregon Working Lands Database, State Revolving Funds)

Greenprinting Impacts

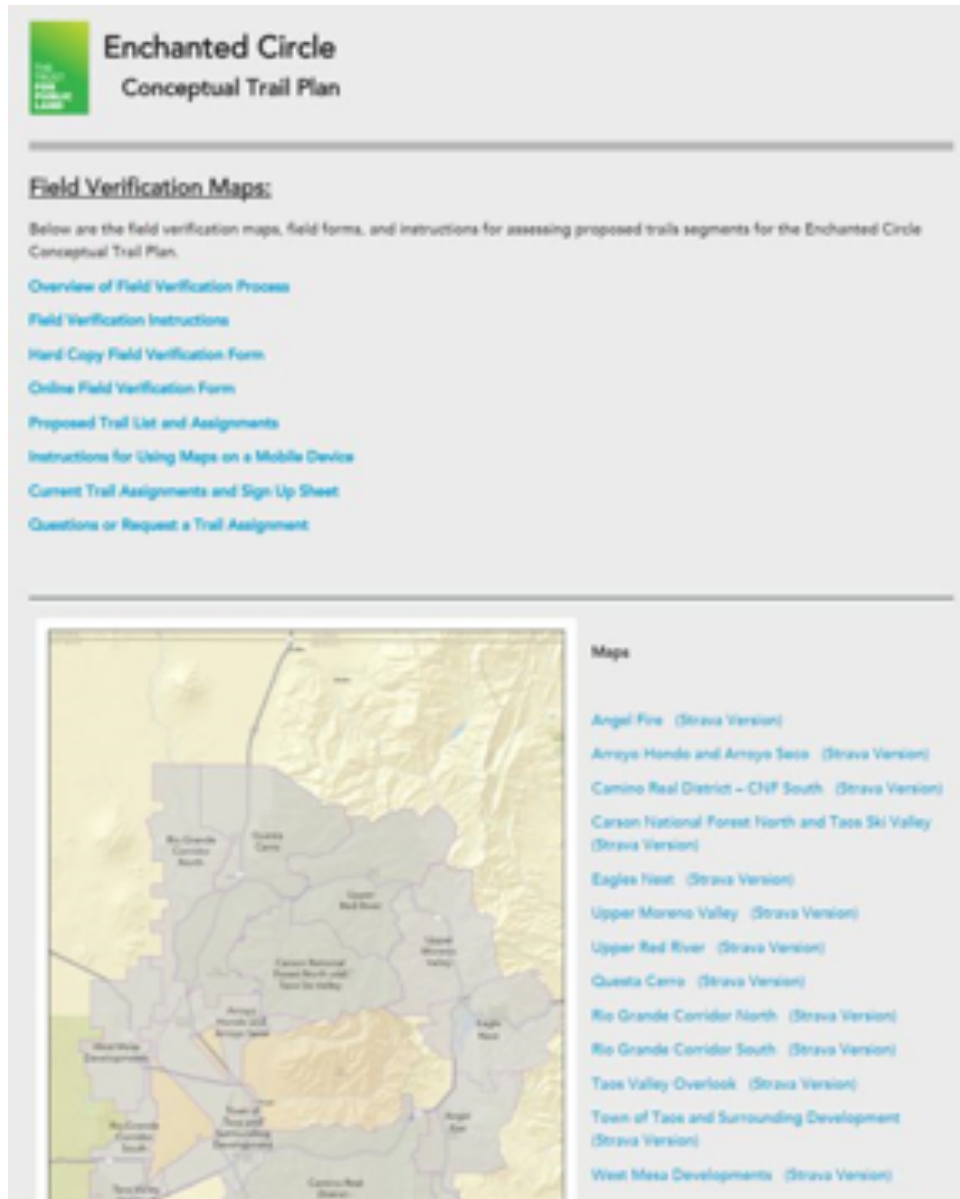


National Greenprinting Impacts

- 789 transactions
- 230,000+ acres protected
- Funding leveraged: 184 million
- Fostering lasting relationships

Conceptual Trail Plans

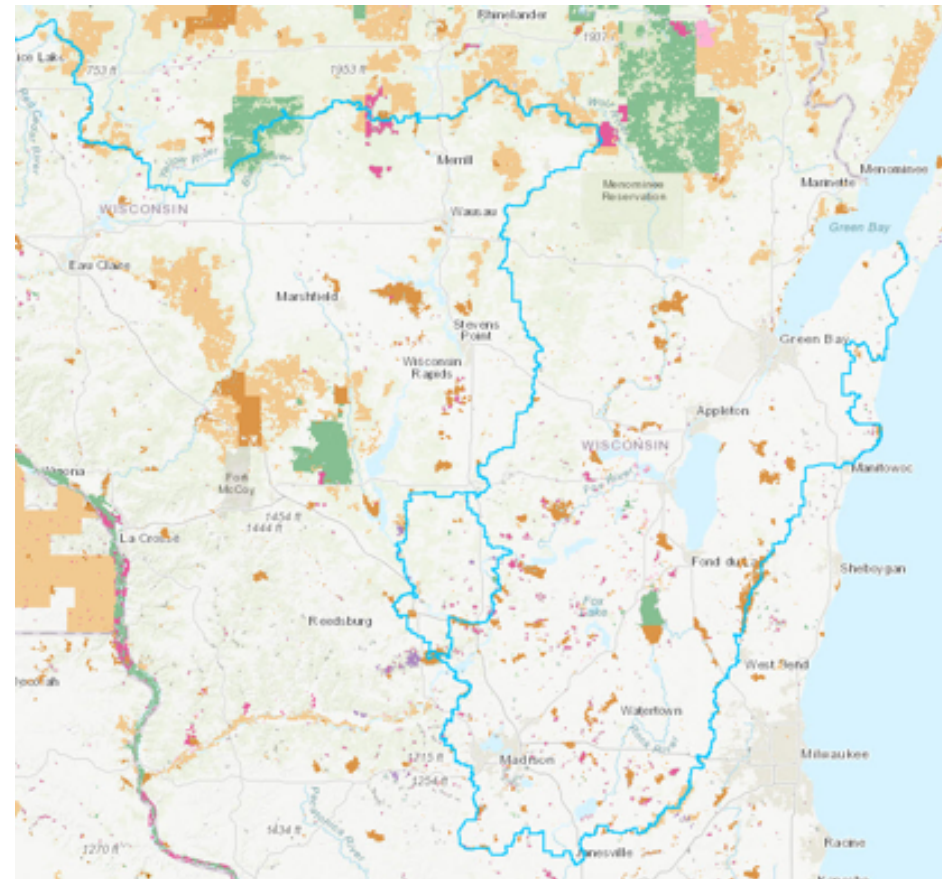
- Deliverable: Community-based priorities for expanding and connecting in-town and backcountry trails
- Impact: Increase opportunities to use trails for commuting, exercise, recreation, and connecting to the outdoors



National Trail Protection Gap Analysis

1. Download and compile trails into a single GIS database with similar schema and population of attributes
2. Download USGS PADUS and NCED to represent protected lands, supplement with select internal TPL conserved lands databases such as ParkServe as well as select state aggregator data such as the Florida Natural Areas Inventory and CoMAP in Colorado
3. Work with National Trails GIS Data Managers to review accuracy of trail line and obtain any refined land ownership or conserved lands data they have to more accurately identify where gaps exist in trail protection
4. Download development threat layer and develop list of additional factors and data to be considered for priority segment analysis, leveraging the work of the Collaborative Landscape Planning Program project and discussions with internal team and GIS Trail Data Managers
5. Create 1 mile analysis segments for two pilot projects, one historic trail and one scenic trail, and identify those that do not overlap the assembled conserved lands data
6. Use the pilot project 1 mile analysis trail segments to identify those that overlap the development threat data, as well as the data for prioritization factors
7. Rank unprotected trail segments based on degree of threat of development and summed scores for the additional priority factors
8. Refine and replicate to all trails
9. Summarize priorities for each trail by county, state or other jurisdiction
10. Develop map viewer that allows user and trail manager comments on conditions of trail and protection status

- Accuracy of conserved lands data
- Completeness of conserved lands data



Next Steps

- 1) Contact GIS Data Managers
- 2) Volunteers for Pilot Scenic and Historic Trail?

Questions for the audience:

- 1) Clearly, we can't undertake this task without help from the National Trail System GIS Data Managers. What concerns do you have?

- 2) How should we handle sensitive information, such as the location of particularly important archaeological sites along a National Historic Trail?

3) We recognize that the data in PADUS and the National Conservation Easement Database are several years out of date, and only as accurate as the data that were entered. In many cases, we have more accurate data that we can rely on, but we may not find everything. How can we improve our data sets – and in particular, our land ownership data sets?

4) We are proposing to use the “protected lands” layers in PADUS and the National Conservation Easement Database as our preliminary baseline for “protected lands.” Then, we would like to expand that definition to include, as appropriate:

- a. Lands or interests in lands owned by Trail organizations, including rights-of-way acquired by Trail organizations or other organizations that provide for public access;
- b. Public streets or roads, to the extent that they are part of the permanent route of a national scenic trail or national historic trail;
- c. Properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including National Register Districts and National Landmarks;
- d. Cemeteries;
- e. Tribal lands;
- f. Properties that are owned by religious institutions or other entities that recognize the significance of the property as a “high potential site” along a National Historic Trail.

What other lands or interests in land should we consider in the definition of “protected lands”?

Thank you!



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Question: Why is acquiring land so important, anyway?

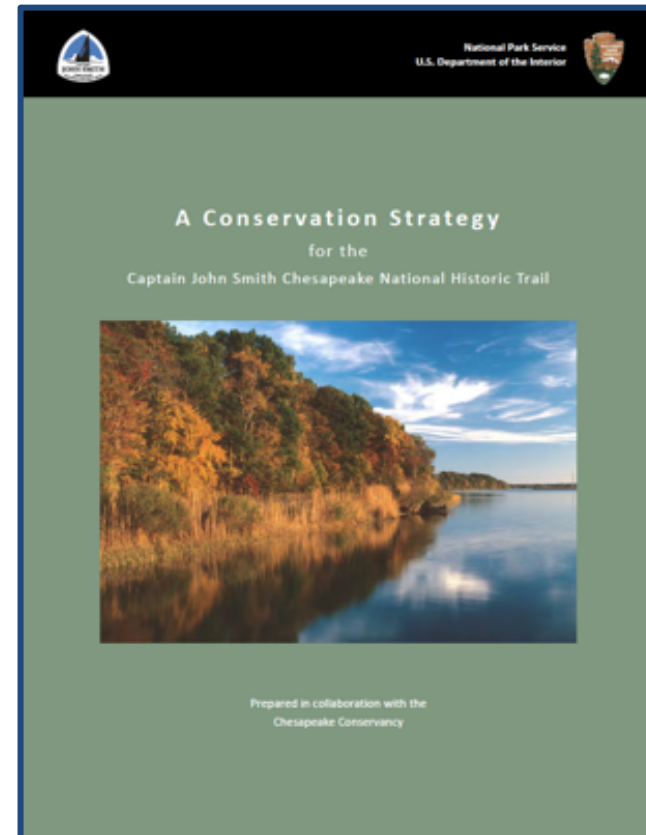
Answer #1: Because we live in a country based on English land law: whoever owns the land owns the rights to dictate what happens on that land, subject to some limited governmental authority, and...

Answer #2: Because we are managing these National Scenic and National Historic Trails in perpetuity, not just for the next ten or 15 years.

The key to protecting national scenic and national historic trails is acquiring and managing an interest in land in perpetuity.

So, who can acquire land to protect a National Scenic or National Historic Trail?

- Trail organizations
- Other nonprofit organizations
- Conservation buyers
- State and local agencies
- Federal land-managing agencies, and
- **Land trusts!**



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Identifying High Potential Sites and High Potential Segments

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