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<p style="text-align:center">**Partnership for the National Trails System**
Corridor Protection Gap Analysis for
National Scenic and National Historic Trails</p>

Issue: The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is conducting a *Corridor Protection Gap Analysis and Connectivity Assessment for National Trails*, using publicly available data developed by agency partners, PNTS, its member trail organizations, and other partners.

Background: Fifty years after the passage of the National Trails System Act, many critically important landscapes and resources of the National Trails System lack any protection.

Between 2013 and 2018, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) participated in a Collaborative Landscape Planning Program of the four federal land-managing agencies that sought to identify critically important unprotected landscapes and corridor protection opportunities along National Trails. This National Trails System-wide effort has resulted in identification and protection of thousands of acres of land along many units of the National Trails System, significantly increasing the resiliency, sustainability, and accessibility of these National Trails. The success of this effort led to the realization that an ongoing National Trail System-wide project to identify trail protection needs would be of great value, which led to the development of a project to conduct a "gap analysis" for the National Trails System.

Project Description: PNTS, in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, will utilize an integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) approach to identify, map, and prioritize trail protection projects throughout the National Trails System. This effort will dovetail with the Interactive Map of the National Trails System, which utilizes the ArcGIS Online platform to create a single online map for all 30 National Scenic and National Historic Trails and their publicly available data. (The National Trails Interactive Map is available at: https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d89951079a374f28ab4a3b9fc41 025dd.) Elements of this "gap analysis" will include:

- Collection, acquisition, and compilations of existing trail data into a single GIS database.
- Identification and evaluation of data sets to obtain the best available data.
- Spatial analysis of trail areas on public land or in protected areas using the USGS Protected Areas Database (PAD-US), the National Conservation Easement Database (NCED), and other publicly available data sets.
- Spatial analysis of system resiliency, sustainability, and unprotected National Trail segments and resources using development risk data from Colorado State University.
- Development of a GIS database that depicts National Trail segments by protected/ unprotected status and quantifies protected status and threats to trails by jurisdiction.
- Development of 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.

PNTS also will identify, analyze, and catalogue Model Agreements, examples of trail and conservation easements, and other techniques for protecting National Trails. At the completion of the project, this information will be organized into a draft *Handbook for National Trails Protection*.