

Tell Congress to Pass Trails Bills! Support the RNR Act, Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act

Background:

The U.S. horse industry, which supports nearly one million American jobs and contributes \$122 billion to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), urges Congress to pass two important bills: the bipartisan Recreation Not Red-Tape (RNR) Act (H.R. 3400/S. 1633); and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act of 2018 (H.R. 6510/S. 3172). Both bills will expedite maintenance projects and increase access to the nation's trails for recreational riders and other outdoor enthusiasts.

The RNR Act leverages taxpayer dollars by allowing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to promote the role of volunteers in trail maintenance. The bill also cuts red tape by allowing the Department of Agriculture (USDA) and BLM to develop a "trail management plan" that assures uniform maintenance standards for trails managed by two different agencies. Whereas the RNR Act maximizes existing funds, the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510/ S. 3172) establishes a new revenue stream to move forward with deferred maintenance projects. It would support National Park Service trails by diverting energy development revenues to a new public lands restoration fund dedicated to maintenance projects.

Status:

RNR Act - Since House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) introduced the RNR Act (H.R. 3400) in 2017, the chairman conducted a full committee hearing, resulting in passage of the legislation on April 18, 2018. Because the bill has passed the committee, House leadership has the discretion to schedule a vote on H.R. 3400 before the end of the year. The legislation currently has 12 bipartisan co-sponsors. On the Senate side, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) introduced a companion bill, S. 1633, which has won bipartisan co-sponsorships from Sens. Donnelly (D-IN), Ernst (R-IA), Tester (D-MT) and King (I-ME). Although leadership has referred the bill to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, no hearings have been scheduled.

Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act – On September 12, the House Natural Resources Committee voted unanimously to pass H.R. 6510, underscoring the bi-partisan support behind the bill. On the Senate side, Sen. Rob Portman (R-OH) and Mark Warner (D-VA) have joined 24 senate colleagues to give momentum to the Restore Our Parks Act of 2018 (S. 3172). Introduced in late June, the bill has been referred to the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Take Action:

House Message: Tell your lawmaker to co-sponsor the RNR Act (H.R. 3400) and the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act (H.R. 6510), and push these bills across the finish line! Also, ask your representative to urge Speaker Ryan (R-WI) and Minority Leader Pelosi (D-CA) to schedule House floor votes on these important, bipartisan measures.

Senate Message: Tell your senators to join the list of co-sponsors of the RNR Act (S. 1633) and Restore Our Parks Act (S. 3172) to build support for these important bills that will promote recreational riding on the nation's trails! If your senators are already co-sponsors, thank them for their support and tell them to pass these important bills before the end of the year.