



Official Trail Definitions

USFS Definitions: (36 CFR 212.1)

Trail: *A route 50 inches or less in width or a route over 50 inches wide that is identified and managed as a trail.*

Forest trail: *A trail wholly or partly within or adjacent to and serving the National Forest System that the Forest Service determines is necessary for the protection, administration, and utilization of the National Forest System and the use and development of its resources.*

National Forest System trail: *A forest trail other than a trail which has been authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State, county, or other local public road authority.*

USFS / NPS / BLM / FWS Interagency Definition:

Defined by the Interagency Trail Data Standards Team in July 2002, the interagency definition is based on and encompasses individual agency definitions of a trail, and includes “standard” trails, National Scenic Trails and National Historic Trails:

Trail: *A linear route managed for human-powered, stock, or OHV forms of transportation or for historic or heritage values.*

Clarifier: “Trails provide public access for opportunities of outdoor recreation as well as access to many significant prehistoric and historic sites.

Some portions of historic trails are accessible today, and provide recreational and other benefits, while others, more 'virtual' in nature, provide a cultural and/or historic experience, but are not physically capable of being traversed or accessed. Historic trails can consist of a path, a route, a corridor, a road, a river/stream, etc.”