



July 2, 2014

Greetings!

We have good news to share.

On June 18, 2014, a bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives by Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) and Tim Walz (D-MN). The bill, the **National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act (H.R. 4886)**, would go a long way toward addressing the trail maintenance backlog on our national forests.

BCHA strongly supports HR 4886.

See our press release [here](#). Go [here](#) for a copy of the bill text.

The bill was introduced by Reps. Lummis and Walz at the request of BCHA and our partner, The Wilderness Society, one year after the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued its June 2013 report regarding the Forest Service trail maintenance

backlog. If enacted as currently written, HR 4886 would:

- Direct the U.S. Forest Service to develop a strategy to more effectively utilize volunteers and partners to assist in maintaining national forest trails;
- Provide outfitters and guides the ability to pay permit fees in trail maintenance activities instead of dollars;
- Address the liability issue that hampers volunteer and partner trail maintenance activity in some national forests; and
- Prioritize specific areas for trail maintenance within national forests.

Take Action!

Please call or write your member of Congress in the House of Representatives to express your support for HR 4886. As a result of widespread bipartisan interest, the bill could sail through the House of Representatives if no controversial provisions or requests for new appropriations are added.

Go to this [website](#) to find contact information for your member of Congress. In your own words, tell your representative that you support HR 4866, the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act. Tell them of

your passion for, and commitment to, keeping national forest trails open and enjoyed by horsemen and others. Lastly, please ask them to consider co-sponsoring HR 4886.

If you are a resident of Wyoming or Minnesota, please include in your message a heartfelt "Thank You!" to Reps. Lummis and Walz, respectively, for introducing HR 4886 on our behalf.

Feel free to [share](#) copies of your letters with BCHA's Advisor for Public Lands & Recreation, including any response you receive from your member of Congress.

We are very excited to have this bill introduced in Congress.

Our campaign has taken over two years to get to this point. Consequently, we believe BCHA is well-positioned--along with its partners--to continue to explore and promote lasting solutions to the trail maintenance crisis on our National Forests.

Thank you! And please send letters **today** to your congressional representative in support of HR 4886

