

Rob Adams

From: Rod and Karen [rp053101@cpcinternet.com]

Sent: Wednesday, May 06, 2009 22:05

To: Undisclosed-Recipient;

Subject: Fw: AHP Newsgroup: Recreational Trails Program Up for Reauthorization

Pass this on to your chapter membership. Please take the time to contact your senators and representatives from your state and encourage them to reauthorize and fund this program.

Rod

----- Original Message -----

From: [Peg Greiwe](#)

To: [Back Country Horsemen of America](#)

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 8:34 PM

Subject: FW: AHP Newsgroup: Recreational Trails Program Up for Reauthorization

Hello BCHA,

For your information

Peg, BCHA

----- Original Message -----

From: [American Horse Publications](#)

To: [AHP Newsgroup](#)

Sent: Tuesday, May 05, 2009 4:17 PM

Subject: AHP Newsgroup: Recreational Trails Program Up for Reauthorization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2009

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Bridget Harrison

202-296-4031

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RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM UP FOR REAUTHORIZATION

The AHC is working to preserve the Federal Highway Administration's Recreational Trails Program. If Congress does not take action this year this program could no longer be available to recreational riders.

The RTP provides funding directly to the states for recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. It was created in 1991 as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 and was last re-authorized in 2005 as part of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users, this law is about to expire. The RTP will have to be re-authorized in the next national surface transportation program bill if it is to continue.

Since its inception the RTP has provided approximately \$677 million for thousands of state and local trail projects across the country, including many that benefit equestrians. RTP projects consist of construction, maintenance and restoration of trails and trail related facilities as well as the acquisition of easements or property for trails.

Although each state manages its own program, 30% of RTP funds must be spent on non-motorized projects like equestrian trails, 30% on motorized, and 40% percent on multiuse projects.

“The RTP is one of the few sources for federal funding of trail projects that are not on federal land. The program is a great resource for equestrians to fund projects in their state and local parks,” said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass.

In the coming months Congress is expected to begin work on the next 5 year highway bill. The AHC, in conjunction with a broad coalition of recreational trail users is requesting that Congress not only re-authorized the RTP, but also increase funding for the program to \$555 million to be spent over the five years of the bill.

The AHC urges recreational riders to contact their members of Congress to voice support for this program. “This is a great program and I hope equestrians will take the time to call or write their Representatives and Senators and let them know this program is important to the horse community,” said AHC President Jay Hickey.

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As the national association representing all segments of the horse industry in Washington, D.C., the American Horse Council works daily to represent equine interests and opportunities. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the AHC promotes and protects the industry by communicating with Congress, federal agencies, the media and the industry on behalf of all horse related interests each and every day.

The AHC is member supported by individuals and organizations representing virtually every facet of the horse world from owners, breeders, veterinarians, farriers, breed registries and horsemen's associations to horse shows, race tracks, rodeos, commercial suppliers and state horse councils.

The AHP Newsgroup is a benefit of membership and provides members with press releases and newsworthy items. On approval, submissions are sent from the AHP administrative office to the AHP-LIST of AHP member e-mail addresses. Submissions must contain information about an AHP member. Messages should be sent as text only in an e-mail message to ahorsepubs@aol.com. Attached files, such as PDF and images, will not be used. Messages may contain links, but please use the www or http:// that precedes the URL address. Images, logos or attached files will not be included or distributed. Members are urged to include contact information on image availability. Members are limited to two press releases per month. These news releases are also listed online at www.americanhorsepubs.org under AHP Newsgroup for easy reference.

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