



The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge 2020 - 2030



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana. (USDA Forest Service photo by Preston Keres)

Over the next decade, USDA Forest Service employees, together with Federal partners, States, communities, Tribes and Tribal organizations, volunteers, partners, and others are encouraged and challenged to prioritize, invest, and innovate to achieve a sustainable system of trails. Together, as a collective trails community, we are taking action on the 10 elements of the 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge. The Trail Challenge is helping us to build our collective capacity and improve trails on the ground. We are achieving this by working together, adapting to different needs and opportunities, and amplifying successes for the benefit of trails and the people who use them.

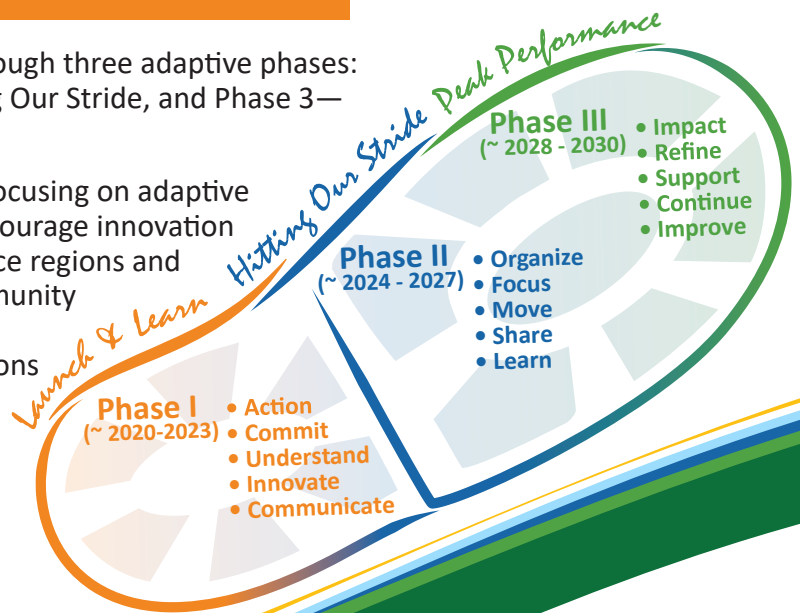
Trail Challenge Goals:

1. Improve our collective capacity to care for trails over the long term.
2. Directly increase on-the-ground results benefiting trails.

Phase 1: Launch & Learn

The Trail Challenge is being implemented through three adaptive phases: Phase 1—Launch and Learn, Phase 2—Hitting Our Stride, and Phase 3—Peak Performance.

During the Launch and Learn phase, we are focusing on adaptive “learning lab” approaches that invite and encourage innovation and sharing. Success is driven by Forest Service regions and units working in collaboration with trail community stakeholders at local and broader levels to implement Trail Challenge elements (or portions of elements) when and where it makes the most sense. Successes and lessons learned during the Launch and Learn phase will help in refining, standardizing, and setting requirements of the two remaining phases of the Trail Challenge.



Participation

Participation during the Launch and Learn phase is required in two elements: Establish Trails Advisory Group and Meet Data Standards. Other elements are optional during this phase, although some amount of regional participation in one or more of these elements is expected. Regions and units, in collaboration with partners, are also welcome to start working on additional elements or new projects associated with elements at any time during the Launch and Learn phase.

Forest Service units, working together with regional offices and local trail community members, should identify and prioritize the Trail Challenge elements they will be working on during this phase. Selected elements should be documented in the Element Selection Menu. Units working together with regional offices are encouraged to revisit annually their priorities and update the Element Selection Menu as needed.

Trail Challenge Element	Participation
National Elements	
A Establish Trails Advisory Group (Trail Strategy Action 1.4)	Required for Washington Office and Regions
B Evaluate Trails Program* (Trail Strategy Action 2.2)	Optional
Unit Elements	
C Achieve Sustainable Trail Systems* (Trail Strategy Action 4.1- 4.4)	Optional
D Promote Cross-Program Integration (Trail Strategy Action 5.3)	Optional
E Meet Data Standards (Trail Strategy Action 6.3)	Required for all Forest Service units
Optional Unit Elements	
F Support Outdoor Recreation Economy* (Trail Strategy Action 3.3)	Optional
G Increase Outreach and User Ethics* (Trail Strategy Action 3.4)	Optional
H Expand Use of Service and Job Corps* (Trail Strategy Action 3.5)	Optional
Partner Elements (invited)	
I Invite Shared Partner Leadership* (Trail Strategy Action 1.5)	Invited
J Invite Trail Endowment (Trail Strategy Action 4.5)	Invited

* Trail Challenge elements collaboratively implemented by Forest Service units/employees with partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders.

Progress Tracking and Sharing Results: During the Launch and Learn phase, initial online reporting tools will be available for sharing progress. Tracking successes and lessons learned will help in developing nationally standardized tracking tools for the remaining Trail Challenge phases.

Support and Oversight: The Forest Service’s National Trail Board, Trails Advisory Group, Regional Recreation Directors, and Washington Office leadership and Trail Program staff, along with national trail partners, are actively listening and adjusting to feedback from agency units and engaged trail community members. They are also providing national support to units during the Trail Challenge, such as convening national teams to develop related toolkits and training materials.

Materials and Resources: For online resources, including instructions, examples, and reporting details, refer to the Trail Challenge Guidebook and element-specific “Idea Sheets” that contain best practices and implementation tips on the [Trail Challenge webpage](https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/10YTC) (also available at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/10YTC>).

