

## **Arkansas Trails System**

Approved by Arkansas Trails Council July 2011

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### **What is the Arkansas Trails System?**

- \*\* A system of Arkansas Trails defined by the "Arkansas Trails System Act" 1979 (see full text in attachment 2) and maintained by the Arkansas Trails Council.
- \*\* The Arkansas Trails System list should support the primary objectives of the Trails Council, as stated in the by-laws, specifically:
  - \*\* Accordingly, the Arkansas Trails Council has further defined the Arkansas Trails System as a *representative* list of some of the most attractive trails in Arkansas, intended to:
    - reflect the wide diversity of trail experiences in Arkansas;
    - provide a resource to Arkansas Trail users to find data on Arkansas Trails;
    - serve as an attraction to draw trail users across the country to come to Arkansas for an exceptional trail experience.
  - \*\* The list should include representative samples of:
    - Trails for each user group: Hikers/walkers, backpackers, bicycles, mountain bikes, equestrians, motorized, canoes/kayaks, and multi-purpose.
    - Trails of various types: backcountry/wilderness trails; urban trails; health/exercise trails; wildlife/nature trails; scenic trails; water trails.
    - Trails representing each of the various managing agencies: National Park Service; US Forest Service; US Army Corp of Engineers; Arkansas State Parks; Arkansas Game & Fish; county, city, or local communities
    - Trails representing the six geographic regions of Arkansas: Ozark Plateau; Ouachita Mountains, Arkansas River Valley; West Gulf Coastal Plain; Mississippi River Delta; and Crowley's Ridge.

### **Baseline List**

- \*\* The Arkansas Trails System shall establish a new baseline for the Arkansas Trails System list in 2011, based upon the guidance above.
- \*\* This baseline will include:
  - \*\* 34 National Recreation Trails;
  - \*\* Trails of over 20 miles;
  - \*\* The most representative trails reflecting the diversity of trail experiences in Arkansas;
  - \*\* At least one trail in each group above.
- \*\* This list will be published on the Arkansas Trails Council web site, with the intention of developing a new web page specifically for "Arkansas Trails System".
- \*\* The published list will take maximum advantage of existing databases and web-site descriptions by referring to existing databases, rather than recreating those data bases. For each trail on the list only the minimum information will be provided:
  - Name
  - Managing Agency
  - Location (Geographic Region and specific city, park, or county)
  - Length & Difficulty
  - Trail type and user groups allowed
  - Link to additional information (existing databases)
- \*\* The published list will include an invitation to the public and to trail management agencies to recommend additions to the list.

### **List Maintenance**

- \*\* The Arkansas Trails Council will, on at least an annual basis, review the list and make changes as agreed to.
- \*\* The Arkansas Trails Council shall provide a public means for soliciting changes and recommended additions to the list. Application Form is shown as Attachment 2.
- \*\* The Council shall create a sub-committee, in accordance with Article VIII of the by-laws, to review these

applications as submitted and present recommended changes as a standing agenda item at quarterly council meetings. Changes approved by the Council at a quarterly meeting will be added to the web list as soon as practical.

***Web Implementation:***

- \*\* Initially, the Arkansas Trails System will be a separate section of Arkansas Trails Council web site with a definition of the Trails system and its intent, the baseline list, the procedure/application for additions and/or changes to the list, and links to other web sites with information on Arkansas Trails, data bases with information on Arkansas Trails, and trail management agency sites.
- \*\* It is the council's intent to ultimately develop a separate web site for the Arkansas Trails System. This new web site would help promote the objectives of the trail system and utilize the Trails system as an additional enticement for people to visit Arkansas. See Attachment 3 for a vision of this web site.

**Att. 1: Application for inclusion in Arkansas Trails System List:** See attached