Coalition for Recreational Trails Announces 2012 Annual Achievement Award Winners and Recognition for RTP's Congressional Champions

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Washington, D.C. – Eight trail projects have been chosen by the Coalition for Recreational Trails (CRT) as recipients of its 14th Annual Achievement Awards in recognition of their outstanding use of Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds. CRT also recognizes Tennessee as this year’s award winner in the Outstanding State Trail Program category and Illinois for its Outstanding Recreational Trails Advisory Committee. The two state awards were chosen by the Awards Committee of the National Association of State Park Directors. These national awards will be presented at a special Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington, D.C. on June 5, 2012 as part of the celebration of Great Outdoors Week 2012.

Key Congressional Champions will be honored at the awards ceremony as well. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Richard Burr (R-NC), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and James Risch (R-ID) will be recognized as Champions of the Recreational Trails Program for their leadership and involvement with ensuring that dedicated funding for RTP was included in Senate transportation-reauthorization legislation known as MAP-21. Representatives Thomas Petri (R-WI) and Michael Michaud (D-ME) will also be recognized as RTP Champions for their work to build strong bipartisan support for inclusion of the RTP in the House of Representatives’ transportation-reauthorization legislation. Representative Nick Rahall (D-WV) will be presented with the CRT’s Lifetime Leadership Award for his continuous efforts in support of the RTP. Only Rep. Rahall and Rep. Petri, who was given the award in 2011, have received this recognition.

The trail projects that received CRT Achievement Awards and their award categories are:

- **The Lombard Trail** (Idaho) – Maintenance and Rehabilitation
- **Intertwine Alliance Bi-State Regional Trails Website** (Oregon, Washington) – Education and Communication
- **Kwolh Butte Shelter** (Oregon) – Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing
- **Swords Park Trail, Phase 2** (Montana) – Environment and Wildlife Compatibility
- **Chattahoochee Nature Trails** (Florida) – Construction and Design (local)
- **Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway** (Nevada) – Construction and Design (long-distance)
- **Children’s Center's Life Trails and Therapeutic Park** (Oklahoma) – Accessibility Enhancement
- **Mount Yale Trail Realignment Project** (Colorado) – Use of Youth Conservation and Service Corps

Additional information on the award-winning projects can be found at [www.americantrails.org/awards/CRT12awards/index.html](http://www.americantrails.org/awards/CRT12awards/index.html)
The Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is an assistance program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). See the RTP website for more information (www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/index.cfm). Federal transportation funds benefit recreation by making funds available to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both nonmotorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The RTP funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund, and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from nonhighway recreational fuel use: fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles, and off-highway light trucks.

Coalition for Recreational Trails

The Coalition for Recreational Trails, a national organization representing the nation's major trail interests, has been working since 1992 to build awareness and understanding of the RTP, to support its implementation and to help ensure that it receives adequate funding. The awards are part of the Coalition's ongoing effort to promote and celebrate this highly successful program, which has greatly enhanced the quantity and quality of trail experiences available to the public.
Tennessee – Outstanding State Trail Program

**Contact:** Robert Richards, Recreation Educational Services, Department of Environment and Conservation, 10th Floor, L & C Tower, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243. Phone: 615-483-2294

Illinois – Outstanding State Recreational Trails Advisory Committee

**Contact:** Richard Westfall, Greenways and Trails Section, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702. Phone: 217-782-7940

Mount Yale Trail Realignment (Colorado) – Use of Youth Conservation and Service Corps

**Sponsors/Partners:** Pike and San Isabel National Forests/Salida Ranger District; Colorado Fourteener Initiative; Rocky Mountain Youth Corps; Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado; Colorado College; Wildlands Restoration Volunteers

**Contact:** Ben Lara, Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Salida Ranger District, 325 W. Rainbow Boulevard, Salida, CO 81201. Phone: 719-530-3955

Chattahoochee Nature Trails (Florida) – Construction and Design: Local

**Sponsor/Partner:** City of Chattahoochee

**Contact:** Elmon Lee Garner, City of Chattahoochee, P. O. Box 188, Chattahoochee, FL 32324. Phone: 850-663-4475

The Lombard Trail (Idaho) – Maintenance and Rehabilitation

**Sponsors/Partners:** Bureau of Land Management/Challis Field Office; Great Basin Institute; Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation

**Contact:** Todd Kuck, Bureau of Land Management, Challis Field Office, 1151 Blue Mountain Road, Challis, ID 83226. Phone: 208-879-6200

Swords Park Trail: Phase 2 (Montana) – Environment and Wildlife Compatibility

**Sponsor/Partner:** City of Billings

**Contact:** Darlene Tussing, City of Billings, Planning Department, 3033 Demaret Place, Billings, MT 59106. Phone: 406-860-6121

Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway (Nevada) – Construction and Design: Long Distance

**Sponsor/Partner:** Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway

**Contact:** Janet Phillips, Tahoe-Pyramid Bikeway, 4790 Caughlin Parkway #138, Reno, NV 89519. Phone: 775-825-9868

The Children’s Center’s Life Trails and Therapeutic Park (Oklahoma) – Accessibility Enhancement

**Sponsor/Partner:** The Children’s Center

**Contact:** Albert D. Gray, The Children’s Center, 6800 N.W. 39th Expressway, Bethany, OK 73008. Phone: 405-440-6714
Kwohl Butte Shelter (Oregon) – Multiple-Use Management and Corridor Sharing

Sponsor/Partner: Deschutes National Forest
Contact: Marv Lang, Deschutes National Forest, Bend, OR 97701. Phone: 541-383-4973

Intertwine Alliance Bi-State Regional Trails Website (Oregon-Washington) – Education and Communication

Sponsor/Partner: The Intertwine Alliance
Contact: Eric Rosewall, The Intertwine Alliance, P. O. Box 5632, Portland, OR 97228. Phone: 971-269-0907