



POSITION IN SUPPORT OF THE RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association (ROHVA) is a not-for-profit trade association formed to promote the safe and responsible use of recreational off-highway vehicles (ROVs) manufactured or distributed in North America. ROHVA also serves as the primary resource for information on ROVs.

ROHVA supports full funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) which embraces the “user-pay/user-benefit” philosophy of the Highway Trust Fund, returning federal tax on fuel used for nonhighway recreation to the states for trail projects. Although the tax supporting the Fund is paid only by gas-using vehicles, revenue is available for all recreational trails – motorized, non-motorized, and mixed use alike. While the program has been funded at roughly \$85 million annually since 2009, a 2021 Federal Highway Administration report found that “...the estimated amount of taxes on nonhighway use of recreational vehicles is \$843,422,069 (average of \$281,140,690/year).” ROHVA supports the allocation of all off-highway fuel tax revenues derived from motorized recreational uses being allocated to RTP and for updated fuel-use studies every three to five years.

Background on RTP:

Trail projects eligible for RTP grants are varied, giving states flexibility. Eligible projects include: maintenance and restoration of recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trail and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails; purchase/lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment, educational/safety materials and signage, and construction of new trails.

30% of RTP funds are earmarked for motorized recreation; 30% are earmarked for nonmotorized recreation; and 40% are available for projects that support diverse recreational trail use within recreational trail corridors and at trailheads.

Apportionment of funds among states since 2009 is 50% of all funds are awarded to 50 states and the District of Columbia equally and the remaining 50% is apportioned based upon nonhighway recreational fuel use in each state.

Information on RTP projects funded between 1991 and 2021 is available on the RTP database: <https://recreationaltrailsinfo.org/>. RTP has become the foundation for state trail programs across the country. It attracts hundreds of millions of dollars of matching support from other sources, encourages cooperation among trail users, facilitates improved physical and mental health, provides safety education, and boosts trail-driven economic activity in countless communities. The RTP provides recreational opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds representing all socio-economic backgrounds and physical abilities, making it an amazing success story of federal/state/local/private partnerships.