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## Press Release

**The Pulaski Users Group (PUG) Announces a Funding Award from the Legacy Trails Program.**

*'Johnson Creek Trail Re-establishment in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area' receives \$48,000 for trail stewardship from American Trails.*

**Hailey, Idaho, February 2023:** *The Pulaski Users Group (PUG) announces that it has received \$48,000 from the Legacy Trails Program, administered by American Trails, to re-establish the Johnson Creek area in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA).*

This funding will allow the Pulaski Users Group to re-establish a number of USFS system trails starting from the Graham Trailhead on the northwestern side of the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) up to Pat's Lake. These trails provide alternative access to the remote and very wild western portion of the SNRA. The Johnson Creek Trail portion to Pat's Lake has not received maintenance, Forest Service or other, since the 1990's, and is in desperate need of attention. The lack of a clearly defined trail is promoting user created trails and river crossings which is negatively impacting the watershed. This project will benefit recreational users, future wildland firefighting efforts, and limit sedimentation and erosion. PUG crews will work closely with USFS staff over the course of the next two summers on this project.

“We are excited to partner with PUG to have long overdue trail maintenance completed on Bayhouse and Johnson Creek trails. Trail conditions out of Graham are below agency standards and we are looking forward to reestablishing quality access to this remote part of the Sawtooth Wilderness.” Says Caitlin Frawley, Forestry Technician on the SNRA.

American Trails is excited to announce the first year of trails projects funded by the Legacy Trails Program. The Pulaski Users Group’s project has risen above many other proposals to gain this funding. "We are excited to be able to support such excellent projects across the country, which will have a positive impact on watershed health, public access to the outdoors and overall trail resiliency" says Cathy Corlett, Trail Fund Director at American Trails. This new program is administered by American Trails and funded through a cost-share agreement with the United States Forest Service to distribute \$1.4 million dollars per year to support trails projects on forests and grasslands managed by the USFS through 2027.

More about the Legacy Trails Program: The Legacy Trails Program seeks to fund projects that restore fish and aquatic organism passage, improve trail resiliency, preserve trail access, decommission unauthorized trails, and convert unneeded Forest Service roads to trails. Project applicants may include nonprofit organizations, businesses or agencies at the state or local level. The Forest Service identifies and prioritizes watershed acres or areas where Forest Service roads and trails may impact water quality in streams and water bodies. Protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, and community water sources are among the top priorities for projects that improve and maintain trail access. Emergency operations, such as evacuation routes during wildfires, floods or other natural disasters also benefit from this program.

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## **About American Trails**

American Trails celebrates decades of working on behalf of all trail interests. Our website is one of the world's most comprehensive online sources for planning, building, designing, funding, managing, enhancing, and supporting trails, greenways, and blueways.

Since 1988, American Trails has been a training resource and collective voice for a diverse coalition of trail enthusiasts, professionals, advocates, land managers, conservationists, and friends of the outdoors and livable cities. American Trails strives to enrich the quality of life, mental health, and physical health for all

people and the sustainable development of communities by advancing and promoting the development, preservation, and enjoyment of diverse, high-quality trails and greenways.

More information about [American Trails](#).

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