

## CHAPTER 3: PLAN FOR ACTION

Recommendations have been developed that will help resolve major issues involving the development, maintenance, and promotion of West Virginia trails. These recommendations were developed by the West Virginia Statewide Trail Plan Committee from participant input at the Spring 1998 public trail workshops and from the Spring 1999 trail user survey effort. Each recommendation is made up of the following key elements: objectives, actions, participants and time frames.

### KEY ELEMENTS

**The Objectives** – The objectives are the trail-related issues identified most frequently in the regional workshops and the statewide trail user survey. All identified objectives are considered important and are listed in no particular order of priority.

**The Actions** – The actions provide potential remedies to the issues and objectives identified in the workshops and trail user survey.

**The Participants** – The participants include the agencies and groups involved in implementing actions to address issues facing the state's trail system. The list of potential participants indicates lead and supporting agencies or groups to implement specific actions.

The participant list is not inclusive. For example, trail groups (such as North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation) should be engaged in any action that impacts their trail system. Involvement of other necessary entities should be explored by the lead agent.

The lead agencies identified for each action in the plan will be charged with developing steps to implement that action. This will be done through formation of task forces comprised of representatives from all participating groups. These task forces will develop methods for achieving the desired objectives.

**The Time Frame** – Establishes immediate, intermediate or long-term chronologies for completing each action and associated follow-up activities. These time frames are for guidance only, and must be flexible due to changing needs and initiatives.

### PARTICIPANT LIST & LEAD AGENT SUMMARY

The following participant list summarizes the recommended lead agent tasks, indicated by each "Objective-Action" (ie 1-4) This summary list, combined with the action matrix at the end of this chapter, is intended as an aid to quickly identify roles as work plans are developed. The large number of tasks highlights the importance of the creation of a State Trails Program, the number one priority recommendation in the plan of action.

| <b><u>Acronym</u></b> | <b><u>Entity / Objective-Action (ie 1-4)</u></b>   |
|-----------------------|--|
| <b>ATI</b>            | <b>Appalachian Transportation Institute</b>  |
| <b>CoCs</b>           | <b>Chambers of Commerce</b><br>11-1  |
| <b>CVBs</b>           | <b>Convention &amp; Visitors Bureaus</b><br>12-1   |
| <b>Gov Office</b>     | <b>Governor's Office</b><br>1-2, 7-6   |
| <b>Local Govts</b>    | <b>Local Governments</b><br>7-2, 9-2   |
| <b>NTOs</b>           | <b>National Trail Organizations</b> (AHS, American Trails, NAWT, RTC, etc.)  |
| <b>RC&amp;Ds</b>      | <b>Resource, Conservation &amp; Development Councils</b>   |
| <b>SC</b>             | <b>Sierra Club</b>   |
| <b>SRA</b>            | <b>State Rail Authority</b><br>10-5  |
| <b>TM-Fed</b>         | <b>Trail Managers – Federal</b> (NPS, USACOE, USFS, USFWS)<br>6-2, 13-7  |
| <b>TM-St</b>          | <b>Trail Managers – State</b> (DNR, State Parks, & Div of Forestry)<br>4-4, 5-3, 6-2, 7-2, 7-5, 9-3, 10-3, 10-6, 13-1, 13-6, 13-7, 13-8                      |
| <b>WVATS</b>          | <b>West Virginia Assistive Technology System</b><br>13-1, 13-3, 13-4, 13-5   |
| <b>WVBPH</b>          | <b>West Virginia Bureau for Public Health</b><br>3-1, 13-3, 13-4, 13-5   |
| <b>WVDCH</b>          | <b>West Virginia Division of Culture and History</b><br>13-8   |
| <b>WVDO</b>           | <b>West Virginia Development Office</b><br>7-4, 9-2, 10-1, 10-2, 11-1  |
| <b>WVDOT</b>          | <b>West Virginia Department of Transportation</b><br>3-1, 3-2, 3-3, 3-4, 8-2, 10-1, 10-2, 10-5, 10-6, 12-3, 13-2   |
| <b>WVDT</b>           | <b>West Virginia Division of Tourism</b><br>2-1, 4-1, 4-2, 4-4, 5-1, 7-6, 12-1, 12-2   |
| <b>WVL</b>            | <b>West Virginia Legislature</b><br>7-3, 9-1, 11-2, 11-4   |
| <b>WVLT</b>           | <b>West Virginia Land Trust</b><br>10-4  |
| <b>WVRC</b>           | <b>West Virginia Rivers Coalition</b>  |
| <b>WVRPA</b>          | <b>West Virginia Recreation &amp; Parks Association</b><br>1-2, 2-2, 5-1, 5-2, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, 7-1, 7-3, 7-4, 8-1, 8-3, 8-9, 9-2, 9-3, 10-4, 11-3, 12-1, 13-8 |
| <b>WVRTAB</b>         | <b>West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board</b><br>1-1, 1-2, 1-3, 6-1, 8-1, 8-3, 10-3  |
| <b>WVRTC</b>          | <b>West Virginia Rails-to-Trails Council</b><br>12-3   |
| <b>WVSTA</b>          | <b>West Virginia Scenic Trails Association</b>   |

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>WVSTP</b> | <b>West Virginia State Trails Program</b> (a proposed entity)<br>1-3, 1-4, 2-1, 2-2, 2-3, 3-1, 3-3, 3-4, 4-2, 4-3, 4-4, 5-1, 5-2, 5-3, 6-1, 6-3, 7-1, 7-2, 7-3, 7-4, 8-1, 8-2, 8-3, 9-1, 9-2, 9-3, 10-2, 10-3, 10-4, 10-5, 10-6, 11-1, 11-2, 11-3, 11-4, 12-2, 12-3, 13-1, 13-2, 13-3, 13-4, 13-5, 13-6, 13-8 |
| <b>WVTC</b>  | <b>West Virginia Trails Coalition</b><br>1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 5-1, 6-1, 6-3, 7-1, 7-4, 12-2,  |
| <b>WVWC</b>  | <b>West Virginia Whitewater Commission</b>  |
| <b>WVWN</b>  | <b>West Virginia Watershed Network</b>  |

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### **Objective #1: Create a West Virginia State Trails Program**

**Action 1:** Expand the membership and responsibilities of the West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board to provide adequate public and private sector representation on trail-related issues, such as the inclusion of federal trail managers and statewide trail organizations. To ensure cohesive trail system planning and development, the expanded Recreational Trails Advisory Board would provide guidance on policy and program development, as well as spending recommendations for all trail-related funding sources. Once properly established, this program would be involved with most objectives and actions contained within the Statewide Trails Plan.

**Lead Agencies:** WVRTAB, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** Governor's Office

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 2:** Appoint a State Trails Coordinator to lead the new State Trails Program, either through a statute or executive order. The coordinator will strive to build collaborative public/private partnerships to further trail development, management and promotion on a statewide basis.

**Lead Agencies:** Governor's Office, WVRTAB

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-St, WVDT, WVRPA, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 3:** Create an advisory group within the State Trails Program as a funding and oversight mechanism. This group would include all agencies and advisory groups currently involved in trail-related project funding such as the West Virginia Recreational Trails Advisory Board that oversees federal transportation funds; state agencies like Division of Natural Resources and the West Virginia Development Office that manage state trail funds; and private groups like the West Virginia Trails Coalition and the West Virginia Rails-to-Trails Council that can access foundation and grant monies.

**Lead Agencies:** WVRTAB, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** WVBPH, WVDO, WVDOT

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 4:** Establish a long-term schedule for continuing updates of the Statewide Trail Plan.

**Lead Agency:** WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** All

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing -- Every 5 years*

### **Objective #2: Coordinate Activities**

**Action 1:** Establish an annual trails conference with the cooperation and assistance of the West Virginia Division of Tourism. This conference could be planned as a stand-alone event or could serve to augment the current tourism conference. Related agencies and organizations should provide input at the conference to facilitate the development of a yearly plan of action.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDT, WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St, WVBPH, WVRTAB

**Time Frame:** *Immediate, Ongoing -- Yearly*

**Action 2:** Conduct a schedule of trails coordination meetings, ongoing informational meetings throughout the state to address trail issues and conditions. These meetings should include a cross-spectrum of trail users, managers and trail-related businesses.

**Lead Agencies:** WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** CVBs, RC&Ds, TM-St, WVRPA, WVRTAB, WVRTC

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing -- Biannually*

**Action 3:** Develop and upgrade trail web sites and links to encourage cooperation and sharing of information between agencies and groups.

**Lead Agencies:** WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** All

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

### **Objective #3: Develop Alternative Transportation**

**Action 1:** Increase public awareness of the benefits of alternative transportation. Develop an educational initiative to promote quality of life improvements that may be achieved through alternate transportation enhancements in the form of dedicated biking, jogging/walking facilities and others.

**Lead Agencies:** WVBPH, WVDOT, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** ATI, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 2:** Incorporate alternate transportation into all road planning and design (such as bike lanes; swept, paved shoulders; parallel off-road paths; and sidewalks). Encourage state government, primarily under the authority of the West Virginia Department of

Transportation, to assume a key role in the form of alternative transportation project design, planning and funding assistance.

**Lead Agencies: WVDOT**

**Supporting Agencies: ATI, Local Govts, TM-Fed, WVRTAB, WVSTP**

**Time Frame: *Immediate, Ongoing***

**Action 3:** Create a coalition of transportation planners, local communities and committed advocacy groups to assess alternate transportation needs statewide.

**Lead Agencies: WVDOT, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: ATI, Local Govts, SC, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Immediate, Ongoing***

**Action 4:** Identify those state-controlled rights-of-way that would benefit from a bicycle, pedestrian, OHV, water or equestrian trail. Selected routes should be prioritized and funded for the construction of such facilities.

**Lead Agencies: WVDOT, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: ATI, Local Govts, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate, Ongoing***

#### **Objective #4: Promote the Economic Benefits of Trails**

**Action 1:** Create incentives and programs to entice desirable entrepreneurial and private investment in trails and tourism.

**Lead Agencies: WVDT**

**Supporting Agencies: CoCs, Gov Office, WVL**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate, Ongoing***

**Action 2:** Develop a media campaign. Create television and other media-driven forms of advertisement and informational programming that emphasize trail-related economic development. Develop and produce literature expanding on trails-related economic benefits with documented successes in the form of brochures, fact sheets and newsletters.

**Lead Agencies: WVDT, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: WVDO, WVDOT, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate, Ongoing***

**Action 3:** Conduct economic development workshops emphasizing the potential of small business development related to trails.

**Lead Agencies: WVSTP, WVTC**

**Supporting Agencies: CoCs, WVDO, WVDT**

**Time Frame: *Immediate, Ongoing -- Yearly***

**Action 4:** Conduct economic impact studies of trails on public and private lands, identifying expenditures by activity (hiking, biking, horse-riding, four-wheeling, paddling, lodging, equipment purchases, travel expenditures, etc.). The study should be updated on a regular basis. Promote the results of these studies widely.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVDT, WVSTP  
**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, WVDO, WVTC  
**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing* -- Every four years

#### **Objective #5: Encourage Cooperative Maintenance**

**Action 1:** Create a comprehensive system for identifying and prioritizing trail conditions and maintenance requirements on a statewide basis.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDT, WVSTP, WVTC  
**Supporting Agencies:** SC, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVRPA, WVRTAB  
**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 2:** Encourage local trail advocacy groups and management entities to develop volunteer maintenance programs. This program should be augmented to include a Volunteer Trail Maintenance Corps that would be available for work on trail projects statewide.

**Lead Agencies:** WVSTP  
**Supporting Agencies:** NTOs, SC, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVRPA, WVTC  
**Time Frame:** *Immediate, Ongoing*

**Action 3:** Synthesize currently available literature to create a standard trail maintenance handbook to guide trail managers and volunteers.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVSTP  
**Supporting Agencies:** SC, TM-Fed, WVTC  
**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

#### **Objective #6: Minimize Multiple-Use Conflict**

**Action 1:** Develop trail user policies and safety programs for all trails in the state. Create a multiple-use conflict team to resolve issues when they occur on trails.

**Lead Agencies:** WVRTAB, WVSTP, WVTC  
**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St, WVDOT, WVRPA  
**Time Frame:** *Long-Term*

**Action 2:** Develop a trail management system for all existing and proposed trails in West Virginia. Ideally, this system would be a part of a West Virginia State Trails Program.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St  
**Supporting Agencies:** WVDOT, WVRPA, WVSTP, WVTC  
**Time Frame:** *Long-Term, Ongoing*

**Action 3:** Develop design enhancements and improvements to help resolve multiple-use conflict on existing and future trails. Create specific standards for signage, design, and safety.

**Lead Agencies:** WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St, WVDOT, WVRPA, WVRTAB, WVRTC, WVSTA

**Time Frame:** *Long-term, Ongoing*

### **Objective #7: Encourage Trail Partnerships**

**Action 1:** Encourage intrastate and interstate partnerships to improve local trails and regional linkages.

**Lead Agencies:** WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** NTOs, RC&Ds, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVRPA

**Time Frame:** *Long-term, Ongoing*

**Action 2:** Encourage the Division of Natural Resources to develop a state rural development program similar to the United States Forest Service's Rural Development Program. This program would encourage partnering with gateway communities for sustainable development.

**Lead Agencies:** Local Govts, TM-St, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** Gov Office, RC&Ds, WVDO, WVL

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 3:** Draft legislation that allows nonprofit trail and river groups to be covered by local governments' insurance policies.

**Lead Agencies:** WVL, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** Local Govts, WVRPA, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

**Action 4:** Encourage the 11 Regional Planning and Development Councils to become involved in trail planning and development by stressing the economic benefits of such efforts.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDO, WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** CoCs, WVDOT, WVRPA, WVRTAB

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 5:** Provide consultation services for trails. Encourage the Division of Natural Resources to create within the State Parks section the capacity to coordinate and advise on recreational development, including trails, at the local level. Provide funding as needed to complete this action.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St

**Supporting Agencies:** WVSTP

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 6:** Expand West Virginia Tourism Commission membership. Encourage the Governor's office to recommend an amendment to West Virginia Tourism Commission bylaws to include as a voting member, the West Virginia State Parks; and, as nonvoting

members, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This will ensure better coordination and liaison on trail issues among the major trail management entities in the state.

**Lead Agencies: Gov Office, WVDT**

**Supporting Agencies: TM-Fed, TM-St**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate***

### **Objective #8: Connect Existing Trails**

**Action 1:** Develop a major statewide effort to locate and map existing and proposed trails and river access points. Such an effort will provide a wealth of information for trail users as well as help identify existing and potential connections among trails.

**Lead Agencies: WVRTAB, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: TM-Fed, TM-St, WVDOT, WVDT, WVRPA, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Immediate, Ongoing -- Updates every two years***

**Action 2:** Visualize linkages through the development of a map and textual synopsis of the information gathered in the statewide trail inventory mentioned in Action #1.

**Lead Agencies: WVDOT, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: WVDO, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Immediate, Ongoing updates***

**Action 3:** Collaborate regionally to connect trails. Encourage local, state and federal trail management entities to work together in their respective regions to implement an efficient process to connect proximate trails, and create a framework for trail route addition and expansion that will benefit statewide trail development objectives.

Encourage the acquisition and protection of a linked system of open and green spaces.

**Lead Agencies: WVRTAB, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: NTOs, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVLT, WVRPA, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Long-term, Ongoing***

### **Objective #9: Collaborate with Private Landowners**

**Action 1:** Broaden and enhance legislation that limits landowner liability related to recreation and trail use.

**Lead Agencies: WVL, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: TM-St, WVDOT, WVRPA, WVRTC, WVSTA, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate***

**Action 2:** Develop local strategies for encouraging landowners to be receptive to trail system development. These efforts should include information on the economic benefits of trails and the role of private land in limiting development and preserving land for recreational use.

**Lead Agencies: Local Govts, WVDO, WVSTP**



**Supporting Agencies:** CoCs, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVLT, WVRPA, WVTC  
**Time Frame:** *Immediate, Ongoing*

**Action 3:** Create an incentive program that encourages private landowners to provide public access to their lands for recreational purposes.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** Gov Office, WVLT, WVRPA

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

### **Objective #10: Create More Trails**

**Action 1:** Fund a demand study by planning region to determine trail mileage needed, considering all trail user groups.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDO, WVDOT

**Supporting Agencies:** WVDT, WVRTAB, WVSTP

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

**Action 2:** Consolidate all existing and proposed trail development into a master plan. Update the master plan as necessary.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDO, WVDOT, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-St, WVDT, WVRTAB, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 3:** Complete and repair the state's major flagship trails (such as the North Bend and Greenbrier River Rail-Trails), through state and local agency and private group collaboration. This will benefit nearby trails by increasing linkages and use.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVRTAB, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** CVB's, Local Govts, RC&Ds, WVDO, WVDOT, WVRTC, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 4:** Develop incentive programs that encourage businesses to donate land for trails and create public trail access sites. This would include establishment of a nonprofit foundation to encourage donations.

**Lead Agency:** WVLT, WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** CoCs, Gov Office, Local Govts, WVL, WVRPA

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate, Ongoing*

**Action 5:** Create standard state procedures for acquiring and converting abandoned rail lines to trails.

**Lead Agencies:** SRA, WVDOT, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** WVL, WVRTC, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 6:** Include river access points in new road construction or repair.

**Lead Agencies: TM-St, WVDOT, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: ATI, Local Govts, TM-Fed, WVRC, WVWC, WVWN**

**Time Frame: *Immediate***

### **Objective #11: Develop Funding and Assistance Programs for Trails**

**Action 1:** Promote development of individual trail-related businesses by providing demographic and research support, strategic planning and consulting, loan package development, grant assistance, and media and marketing support.

**Lead Agencies: CoCs, WVDO, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: CVBs, Gov Office, WVDT**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate, Ongoing***

**Action 2:** Draft legislation to create a state trail fund to match federal funds for trail acquisition, development, management and maintenance. Possibilities include bonds and real estate transfer tax, as was done in Pennsylvania with the Keystone Recreation, Park and Conservation Fund initiative known as the Key'93 program.

**Lead Agencies: WVL, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: Gov Office, WVDOT, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate***

**Action 3:** Create a WV Trails Foundation to solicit and accept donations for trail-related projects.

**Lead Agencies: WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: WVLT, WVRPA, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate***

**Action 4:** Develop new sustainable sources of funding for trails. Possibilities include drafting legislation for a nominal tax on outdoor recreational equipment sales, and passing a return tax on bottles.

**Lead Agencies: WVL, WVSTP**

**Supporting Agencies: Gov Office, SC, WVRTAB, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate***

### **Objective #12: Raise Public Awareness of Trails**

**Action 1:** Encourage the West Virginia Division of Tourism to assist in developing and implementing marketing strategies for trails.

**Lead Agencies: CVBs, WVDT**

**Supporting Agencies: WVRPA, WVSTP, WVTC**

**Time Frame: *Intermediate, Ongoing***

**Action 2:** Create a coalition of state agencies and private groups to work together to create this statewide initiative to raise public awareness of trails. Develop and

disseminate trail information material through public and private groups and agencies. This information should be released through websites, newsletters, brochures, etc. To provide access to all potential trail users, this information should be developed in alternative formats such as large print, Braille, etc.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDT, WVSTP, WVTC

**Supporting Agencies:** All

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 3:** Identify and install signage along highways for trailheads. This directional signage will guide the visitor to the trailheads, and reduce chances of getting lost, resulting in a more pleasurable visit and positive word-of-mouth to future visitors.

**Lead Agency:** WVDOT, WVRTC, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** CVBs, TM-Fed, TM-St, WVRTAB, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

### **Objective #13: Improve Trail Accessibility**

**Action 1:** Develop and implement a standard method of collecting information related to trail features. One model for this is the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP).

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVATS, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** NTOs, TM-Fed, WVSTA, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Long-term*

**Action 2:** Develop a recognizable and standardized signage system for trails, including sign design, content, and placement.

**Lead Agencies:** WVDOT, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** WVRTAB

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 3:** Develop trailhead signage, maps and other trail guide products in alternate formats such as Braille, large print, cassette, etc.

**Lead Agencies:** WVATS, WVBPH, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St, WVDT

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

**Action 4:** Educate trail managers and developers about ADA and accessibility issues. This should be done at the annual State Trails Conference (see Objective #1, Action #1), through brochures, websites and other appropriate methods.

**Lead Agencies:** WVATS, WVBPH, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** NTOs, TM-Fed, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate, Ongoing*

**Action 5:** Target nontraditional trail-use groups for assistance in trail planning, promotion and use. Use a variety of methods to disseminate trail accessibility

information to potential user populations (i.e., senior citizens, parents of children with disabilities, minorities, and individuals with varying levels of abilities).

**Lead Agencies:** WVATS, WVBPH, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** NTOs, TM-St, WVDT, WVRTAB, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Immediate, Ongoing*

**Action 6:** Conduct a statewide water trails / blueways assessment for boaters. Catalog such attributes as water type, adjoining land use settings, public access points, water quality and others. Ideally, this information would then be compiled and released for the use of the paddling public.

**Lead Agency:** TM-St, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, WVRC, WVRTAB, WVTC, WVWC, WVWN

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 7:** Expand, subsidize and interpret the state's river gauging systems for the recreational paddler. This would allow paddlers to determine the availability of appropriate water levels. River gauges also serve as an emergency system to protect communities from rising flood waters.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-Fed, TM-St

**Supporting Agencies:** WVRC, WVSTP, WVWC, WVWN

**Time Frame:** *Immediate*

**Action 8:** Expand on-site environmental education and interpretation of resources. Encourage and develop guided tours, as well as self-guided routes. The programs would encourage respect and stewardship of the resource, Leave No Trace ethics, and address safety concerns.

**Lead Agencies:** TM-St, WVDCH, WVSTP

**Supporting Agencies:** TM-Fed, WVRPA, WVRTAB, WVRTC, WVSTA, WVTC

**Time Frame:** *Intermediate*

**[Insert Action Matrix HERE]**