

## **Five Trails Designated As National Trails**

In honor of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System, five trails on national wildlife refuges in Nebraska, New Mexico and North Dakota have been designed as National Recreation Trails by Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne. In total, the Secretary added 24 trails in 16 states to the National Trails System.

The five newly-designed National Trails in the Refuge System are:

### **Nebraska**

**Funk Peterson Wildlife Trail** – Located in Funk Waterfowl Production Area, this three-mile backcountry loop trail is a bird watcher’s paradise, providing habitat for millions of birds, including endangered whooping cranes and least terns that migrate biannually through the area.

### **New Mexico**

**Canyon Trail** – Located in Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, this 2.2-mile interpretive trail offers school groups and visitors the ability to study tracks in the shifting sands, evidence of kangaroo rats, box turtles, and a host of other wildlife that call the refuge home.

**Chupadera Wilderness Trail** – Traversing the Chupadera Wilderness Area of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, this 9.5-mile backcountry trail is rich in wildlife and wildflowers, and takes hikers through a range of landscapes culminating in a 360-degree view of several mountain ranges.

### **North Dakota**

**Arrowwood National Wildlife Refuge Leg of the Historic Fort Totten Trail** – This nine-mile backcountry trail will provide enhanced wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities, including hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

**Sullys Hill Nature Trail** – Located in one of only four units of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed to preserve bison, this 1.5-mile scenic loop trail provides a diverse sampling of native wildlife for visitors who are jogging or snowshoeing.

The National Trails System includes more than 1,000 trails covering more than 12,000 miles. The program is administered by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program and the U.S. Forest Service along with such non-profit partners as American Trails, which hosts the National Recreation Trail Web site at [www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails).

In designating the new trails, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne said, “One of my priorities at Interior is to reconnect American families to nature. The National Trails System provides an excellent link to the outdoors, particularly for children.”