



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Alaska Long Trail

National Scenic Trail Feasibility Study

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# Background

**2021**

AK Trails conceptualized the idea of a 500-mile route from Seward to Fairbanks. The trail would use multiple existing routes on USFS, BLM, Alaska State Parks, Alaska DNR, ANSCA, and local government lands.

**Spring  
2022**

Senator Murkowski spoke at an Alaskan trails forum where she stated her intention to move this concept forward.

**Summer  
2022**

BLM Alaska worked with the Senate appropriations committee to project a financial feasibility assessment for the project.



# BLM's Congressional Assignment

FY2023 Omnibus Appropriation Law, through an amendment of the National Trails System Act, directed the Secretary of the Interior to complete a feasibility study for the proposed Alaska Long Trail.

- BLM AK was given funding through Congressionally designated spending to complete the study.
- BLM AK is directed to consult with specific entities and governments on the project.

This is the 1<sup>st</sup> NSHT feasibility study the BLM has been assigned to date - nationally - not just AK.



# Progress To Date

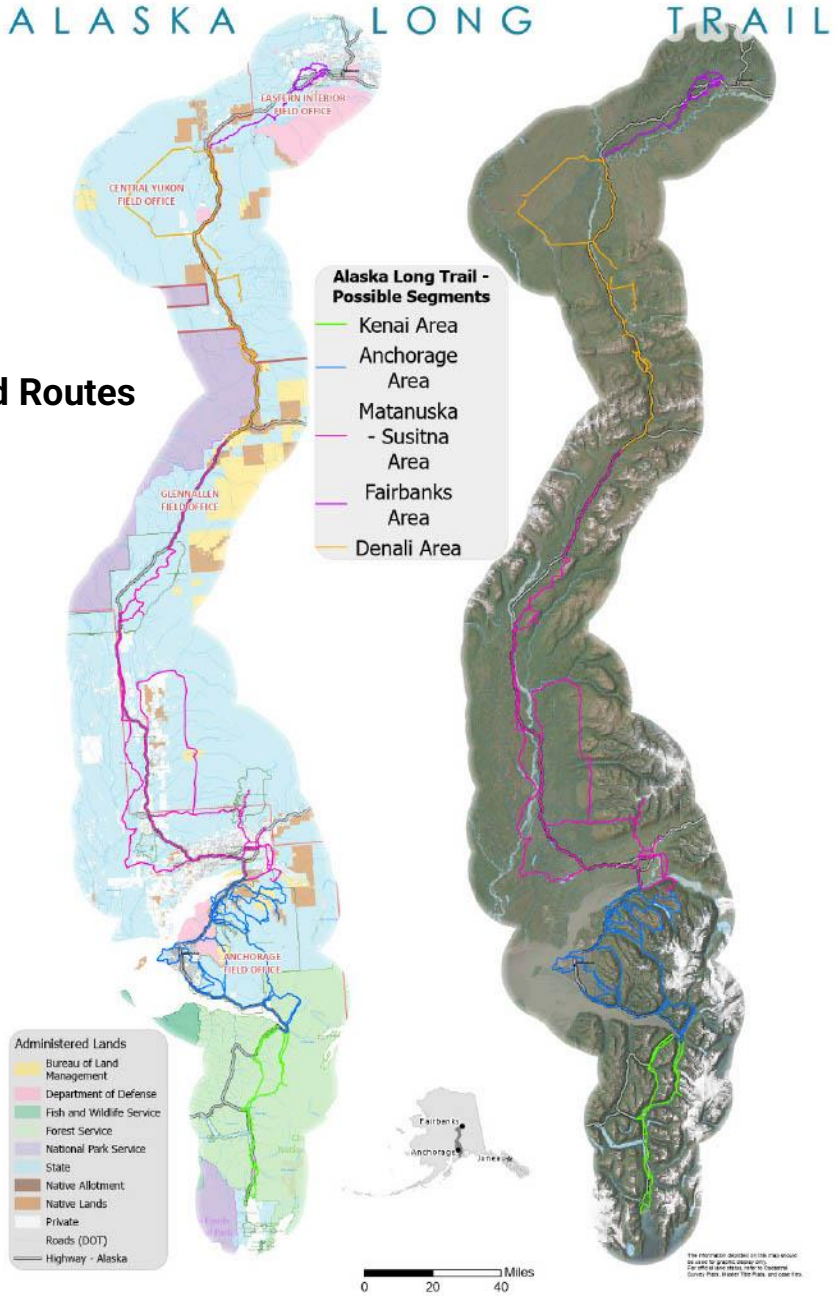
- Preparation of contract package (January - June 2023)
- A contract was awarded in August 2023 to Logan Simpson for assistance with project. Project was solicited and awarded through a BLM contract mechanism for National Scenic and Historic Trail technical assistance work.
- Development of project milestones and stakeholder outreach.
- Outreach to stakeholders, introduction meeting, October - November 2023.





# ALASKA LONG TRAIL

## Alaska Long Trail Proposed Routes





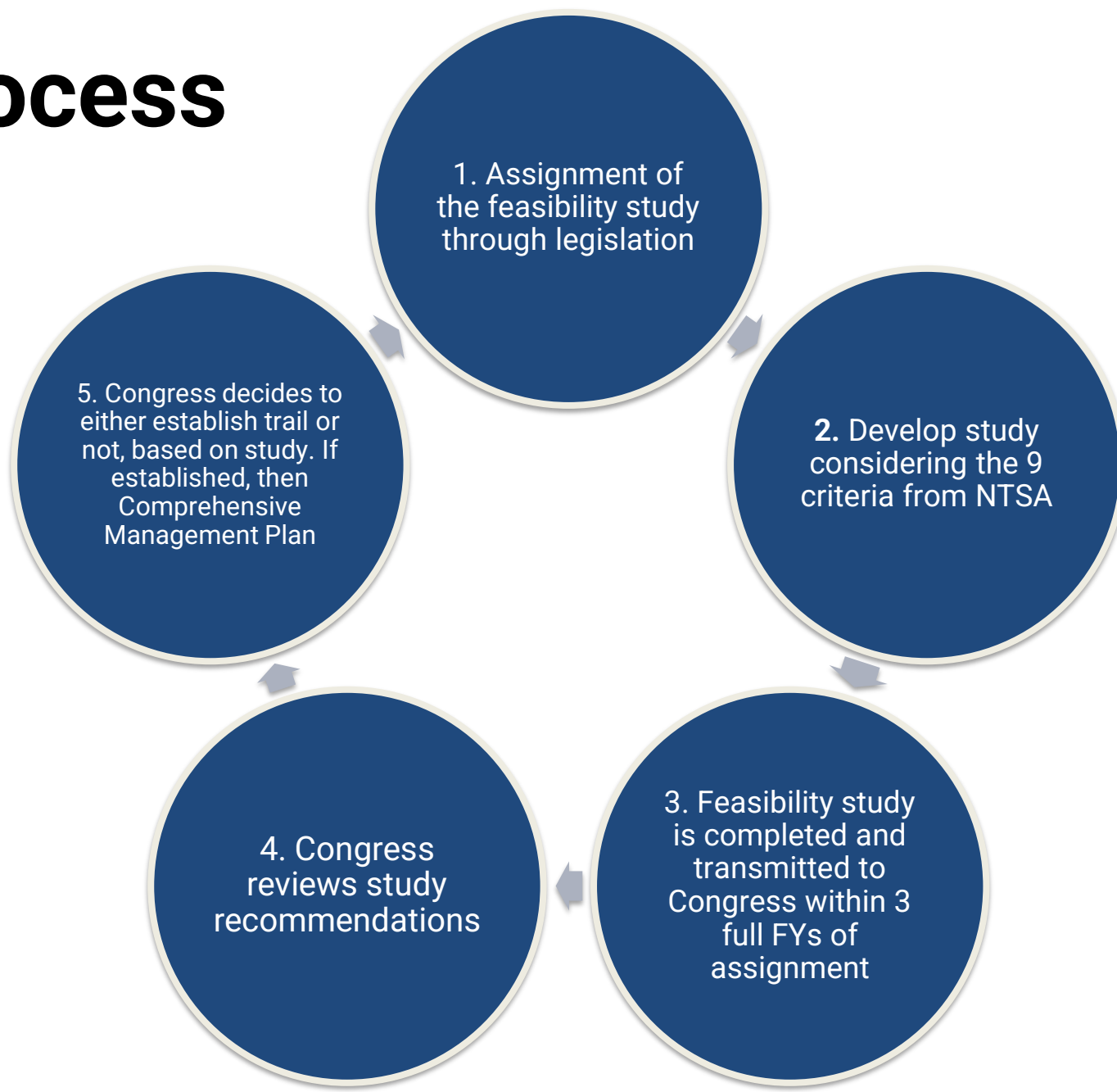
# Required Stakeholders in Omnibus

- Secretary of Agriculture, through the USFS
- State of Alaska
- Units of local government in Alaska
- Alaska Native Corporations
- Representatives of the private sector\*

In addition, BLM Alaska has contacted Tribal governments who are within 10 miles either side of proposed routes



# Process





# What Is A Feasibility Study?



National scenic trail studies provide findings to Congress on the feasibility, suitability, and desirability of designating a route as a national scenic trail.



They are an official fact-finding assignment to provide Congress with sufficient information to designate, or not designate, a proposed trail as a National Scenic or Historic Trail.



They are an official review of the proposed route. The study finds gaps and identifies easements/authorizations that will be potentially needed for trail establishment.





# Required Study Criteria for Feasibility Studies

1

The proposed route of such trail (including maps and illustrations).

2

The areas adjacent to such trails, to be utilized for scenic, historic, natural, cultural, or developmental purposes.

3

The characteristics which, in the judgment of the appropriate Secretary, make the proposed trail worthy of designation as a national scenic trail.

4

The current status of land ownership and current and potential use along the designated route

5

The estimated cost of acquisition of lands or interest in lands, if any

6

The plans for developing and maintaining the trail and the cost thereof

7

The proposed Federal administering agency

8

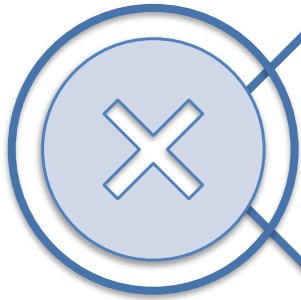
The extent to which a State or its political subdivisions and public and private organizations, might reasonably be expected to participate in acquiring the necessary lands and in the administration thereof.

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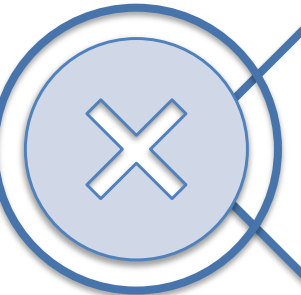
The relative uses of the lands involved, including: the number of anticipated visitor-days for the entire length of, as well as for segments of, such trail; the number of months which such trail, or segments thereof, will be open for recreation purposes; the economic and social benefits which might accrue from alternate land uses; and the estimated labor-years of civilian employment and expenditures expected for the purposes of maintenance, supervision, and regulation of such trail



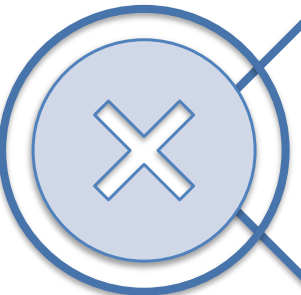
# What Isn't In A Study?



Feasibility studies are not decisions or authorizations to carry out any trail building or any other implementation actions. The study does not approve the trail, only Congress can do that.



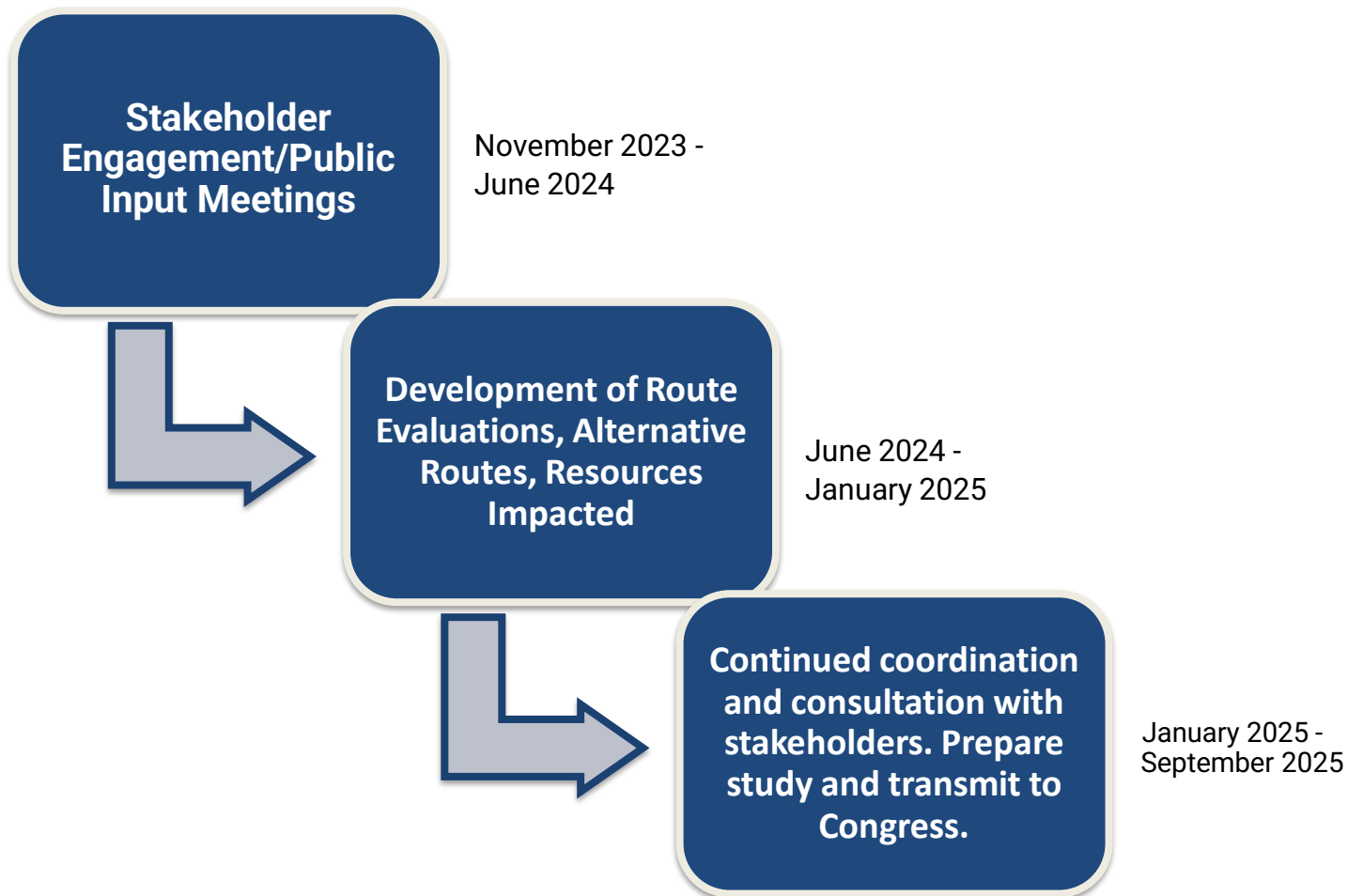
Studies are not management plans and should not be alluded to any authorizations.



While not a decision, this study will be conducted through the use of a DOI Categorical Exclusion (43 CFR 46.210) which covers analytical studies. This allows the BLM to use eplanning and capture public input.

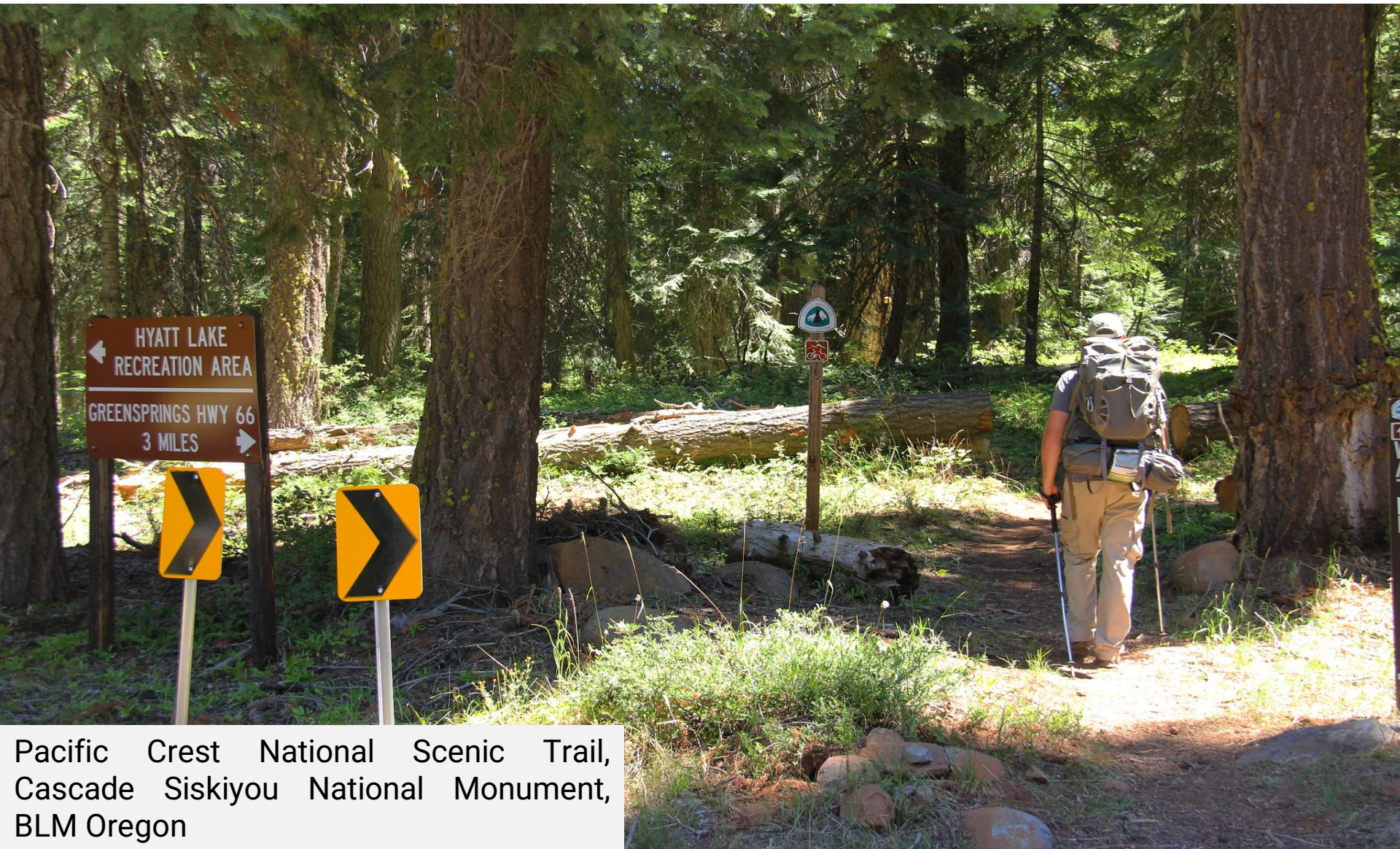


# Timeline for Study





# Questions/Clarifications?



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail,  
Cascade Siskiyou National Monument,  
BLM Oregon