

Buckeye Trail Association

Federal Shutdown FAQ



Last Updated: September 30th, 2025

Have we experienced shutdowns before?

Yes, and we have weathered them with minimal impact. However, this one may be different in duration and intensity.

How does this impact volunteers?

The normal protections and liability coverages are suspended. This means you will not be covered if injured, and will not be protected against tort claims while the agency is closed. During the shutdown, we request that you ***do not volunteer on National Park Service land*** but you ***can continue volunteerism on US National Forest land***, per conversations with our key partners. You are encouraged to continue tracking and reporting your volunteer hours to the BTA, but please know any time logged during this shutdown will not count toward the hourly milestones tracked/awarded by the NPS.

How will the shutdown affect our partnership communication?

Only critical federal staff are retained during a shutdown, so many staff with federal agencies (e.g. National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Army Corps of Engineers) won't be available to answer questions. Please redirect any questions you may have to Aidan Reagh (aidan.reagh@buckeyetrail.org), Alexys Nolan (volunteer@buckeyetrail.org), and Byron Guy (tmt_chair@buckeyetrail.org) and we will try our best to assist you at this time.

What if I am working on a trail project that is federally funded?

You may not be reimbursed for expenses incurred during this period. Please check with the agency you're working with or the previously mentioned BTA team members if you are unsure how to proceed.

What about trail workdays or hikes planned on non-federal land?

Activities planned with state or local agency partners should be allowed to proceed as planned. Please double check with your partner for any planned events on non-federal land to be safe.

How will a shutdown affect BTA operations?

There will be no immediate change in BTA operations at this time. Should changes or impacts begin to impact the Buckeye Trail Association, we will send out updates.

How will this impact Buckeye Trail users?

Trail users may experience access issues or limited visitor resources (e.g. closed parks, bathrooms, visitor centers). Check websites before you go to find out how that location will be impacted.