



RICK SCOTT
GOVERNOR

FLORIDA HIKING TRAILS MONTH

WHEREAS, the State of Florida has more than 2,500 miles of hiking trails on public lands; and

WHEREAS, the hiking opportunities in Florida include the 1,500-mile Florida Trail, one of 11 congressionally-designated National Scenic Trails in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Greenways and Trails within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Division of Recreation and Parks is working to establish, expand and promote Florida's Statewide System of Greenways and Trails, and the Division of Recreation and parks currently manages the 110-mile Marjorie Harris Carr Cross Florida Greenway and eleven state trails for the enjoyment of Florida's residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, in addition to their natural beauty, Florida's hiking trails provide a year-round source of pleasure and recreation to Florida's citizens; and

WHEREAS, many of the of the United States, and the citizens of Florida in particular, are becoming more health conscious and are turning to hiking to maintain a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, tourism in Florida is enhanced by the broad variety of hiking experiences available to its visitors; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Trail Association is Florida's volunteer organization for developing and maintaining hiking trails throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, Florida is the leader in recognizing the importance of hiking trails as recreational resources and as environmentally sound components of greenways and local communities; and

WHEREAS, 23 Florida Trail Gateway Communities recognize the importance of the Florida Trail to their economic health and quality of life as nature-based tourism designations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Scott, Governor of the State of Florida, do hereby extend greetings and best wishes to all observing February 2012 as *Florida Hiking Trails Month*, and commend the Florida Trail Association for its work in developing and maintaining Florida's hiking trails and encourage all citizens and organizations in Florida to take advantage of the opportunity to dedicate themselves to the protection and preservation of our hiking trails.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 25th day of January, in the year two thousand twelve.


Governor