

trails that we expect you to contribute to the keeping of the trails, just as we expect park people to contribute, through the permit fees, to the keeping of the parks. Opponents of trails have oft said to me, well, why don't they help pay for their own trails? And in previous years, not so many years ago, I had to say, well, there are no trails upon which to charge any user fees, it's the beginning of the process, it's a chicken and the egg thing, and the trails people themselves have always said that they're willing to make...to pay reasonable user fees to establish this form of recreation. And so I fully expect that they will carry their load. In other areas, in Wisconsin they raise half a million dollars a year with trail user fees, charging modest fees on their trail system. And I think you can expect that there will be a very substantial contribution and a very large portion of any maintenance fees will be paid out of users fees if you allow this bill to pass and allow the entities to start charging those user fees. So even if you're an opponent of trails, I think not wasting available federal money and getting the user fee in place makes a whole lot of sense for the whole trails picture. Finally, the last item in this bill is to establish a trails coordinator within the Game and Parks Commission. This trails coordinator is not being paid for by new money. There is a federal program that Game and Parks currently administers that is no longer in effect, and the administrator of that program is going to switch over and be the trails coordinator. So, yes, there will be a state level person who's doing trails coordinator...the trails coordination job, but it is a person...it's not new money, it's a person switching over from another part of Game and Parks. I want to point out to you that as between private and federal funds, in this state, in different areas, approximately, or at least over 12 to \$13 million has been spent to establish good trail systems. And we are really at the point now that we need somebody to coordinate. It doesn't make sense to have programs developing and no coordination whatsoever. This is a good size program in the state of Nebraska now, and in order to do it as efficiently as possible and to make as much sense as possible in the use and coordination of our funding, to have a person who's prepared to do coordination. The Cowboy Trail itself, which is already in operation and we're already working on, needs considerable coordination. But one of the functions of a coordinator, as far as I'm concerned, is helping raise private funds and helping raise money so that the expenses of the trails can be paid for as much as possible by private funding. That's what the bill is