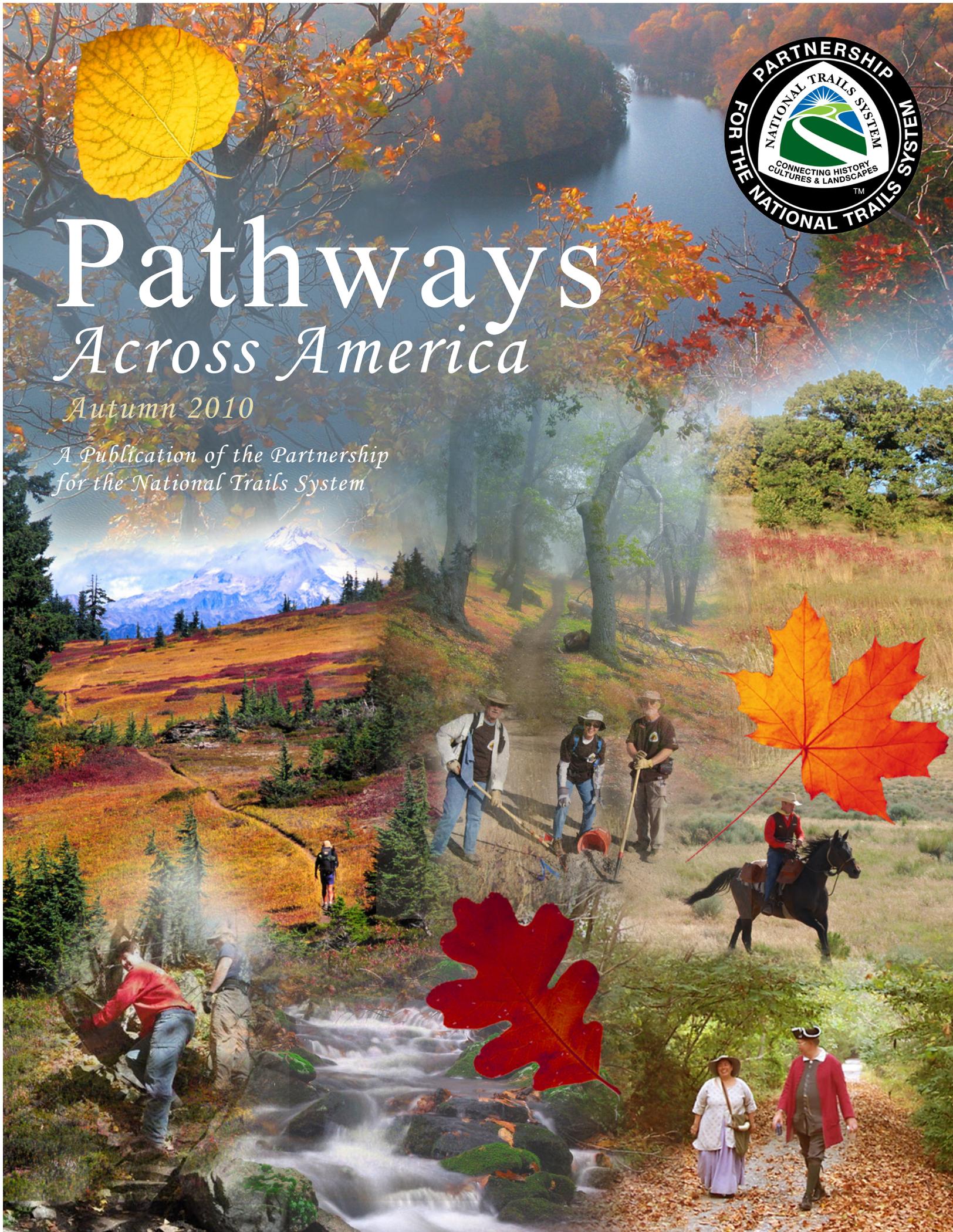




# Pathways *Across America*

*Autumn 2010*

*A Publication of the Partnership  
for the National Trails System*



# Pathways Across America

is the only national publication devoted to the news and issues of America's national scenic and historic trails. It is published by the Partnership for the National Trails System under cooperative agreements with:



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Gary Werner nattrails@aol.com 608-249-7870

Editing and Design: Julia Glad  
PNTSCommunications@gmail.com

Editing Assistance: Laura Stoesz  
Partnership for the National Trails System  
222 S. Hamilton Street - Ste. 13  
Madison, WI 53703

For information about the Partnership for the National Trails System or to learn how to contact any of our partner groups working on behalf of the trails, visit the PNTS website at: [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org).

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Florida National Scenic Trail  
Ice Age National Scenic Trail  
Iditarod National Historic Trail  
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail  
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail  
Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail  
Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail  
New England National Scenic Trail  
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail  
North Country National Scenic Trail  
Old Spanish National Historic Trail  
Oregon National Historic Trail  
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail  
Pony Express National Historic Trail  
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail  
Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail  
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail  
Santa Fe National Historic Trail  
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail  
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail  
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail  
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route  
1 National Historic Trail



## The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

### The Wonder and Joy of Planting Seeds

Under the hot sun of late August some 30 volunteers from several Madison, Wisconsin area businesses helped remove honeysuckle, buckthorn, and other invasive shrubs along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. They were participants in the United Way of Dane County's "Days of Caring" – an annual event to encourage businesses to take on projects for public benefit in the community with employees volunteering their labor and skills. Among the volunteers on the Ice Age Trail this year was a group from a health care organization.

Besides removing tens of thousands of alien seeds from the ecosystem, our project cutting invasive shrubs was the first step in expanding a 25-acre prairie along the Trail. Ice Age Trail volunteers had planted a former agricultural field/meadow in November 2000 with 65 species of native grasses and forbs. By early autumn this year, after a wet, warm spring and summer, Big Bluestem seeds waved in the wind on slender 10 foot stalks while equally tall and much thicker stalks of yellow flowered Cup Plant and the white umbrellas of Indian Plantain poked and tickled the sky. Our-10-year old planting has begun to mature into a rich prairie tapestry with flowers blooming successively from May through October.

This summer we have had many opportunities to sow seeds of a different sort. The nearly three dozen Listening Sessions and website for comments hosted by the **America's Great Outdoors (AGO)** Initiative team of federal agency leaders has provided forums for us to scatter our "thought seeds" encapsulating the benefits, values, and – just like biotic seeds – the promise for blooming into a rich tapestry across the land inherent in the National Trails System (see article on page 10 of this issue.) Many of you took advantage of these opportunities to plant seeds about our trails with the environmental leaders of the Obama Administration, whether by tossing them in the air through spoken comments at Listening Sessions, like prairie seeds broadcast on the wind or tucked neatly into the electronic folds of the website like seeds carefully placed in the soil. Thanks to all of you who participated in this grand initiative.

The America's Great Outdoors Initiative, with its three broad themes of public land preservation, private land protection, and connecting Americans, especially youth, to the land and its emphasis on partnerships seems to fit the National Trails System like a finely tailored glove. Or, rather, as we from the Partnership for the National Trails System have stressed in all our communications to this Initiative – the National Trails System seems to be a perfect fit for what the Administration leaders seem to be seeking: bold, visionary projects that can involve people of all ages, engage communities, connect existing public lands together, and preserve more public and private lands. The 30 long-distance trails of the National Trails System are a blueprint, a building plan, for a system of conservation corridors criss-crossing America to which many local and regional trails and corridors can connect.

Already our scenic and historic trails link together 80 national park areas, over 300 state parks, 67 national wildlife refuges, and 92 wilderness areas. Just as importantly, they link 100 of the metropolitan areas of 50,000 people or more. How many local parks, preserves, and local trails link to our national trails has

# Keeping History Alive...



# Preserving Biodiversity

## System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

never been catalogued. Our trail conservation corridors are travelways for people and wildlife and seeds, both biotic and cultural. We need to let all of those native seeds germinate and bloom.

The three themes of the America's Great Outdoors Initiative also mirror two of our three Goals for the **Decade for the National Trails** – outreach to all Americans to engage them in using and sustaining our trails and preserving the lands and resources along them to make our trails fully available for public benefit.

The Partnership and American Hiking Society joined a coalition of organizations led by Derrick Crandall of the American Recreation Coalition to convince the AGO leadership team to focus a Listening Session on the theme of "Health and the Great Outdoors." We participated in that Listening Session at the end of August in Chicago, which drew the Department of Health and Human Services into the Initiative. We helped explore the many fruitful opportunities to match the nation's health care, especially preventive medicine and healthy living patterns and activities, with the nation's efforts to preserve our natural and cultural resources. Once again our trails are a perfect fit providing many places for Americans to regularly get health-inducing exercise. Doctors in many areas are beginning to prescribe "Take a hike" to their patients, but they often do not know where the trails are to send them to take that hike. The seeds have been sown for many new fruitful alliances with a whole new constituency for our trails – America's health care industry.

Prairie seeds come in a great variety of shapes and sizes, some large and some almost microscopically tiny. Some have parachutes to carry them away on the slightest breeze while others stick like Velcro to any animal that passes. So too the cultural "idea seeds" associated with the National Trails System come in a variety of shapes and sizes and are articulated by a splendid diversity of people and traditions. Tossing prairie seeds onto the wind is a profound act of faith, as is projecting the idea seeds of our trails onto the air of public discourse. The wonder of the prairie seeds is that they manage to take root and grow into great plants scraping the sky. The wonder of our trail seeds is the great variety of the stories they carry and the connections they can foster. It is with great joy that I return again and again to watch the prairie I helped sow as it grows, plant by plant and matures into a landscape of delight – a community of interdependent plants and animals. We should find similar joy in watching the seeds we have sown about our trails germinate and grow into strong webs of partnership, mutual assistance, and community.

Through this changing season we should especially watch the seeds we have sown in the America's Great Outdoors Initiative while we realize that, just as there are many more prairies to plant, we have many more seeds to sow before our National Trails System will have matured into its own landscape of delight. Autumn is the season for gathering and sowing prairie seeds. I have more prairie to plant this autumn and trail seeds to gather and sow. Won't you join in?

-- Gary Werner, Executive Director, PNTS

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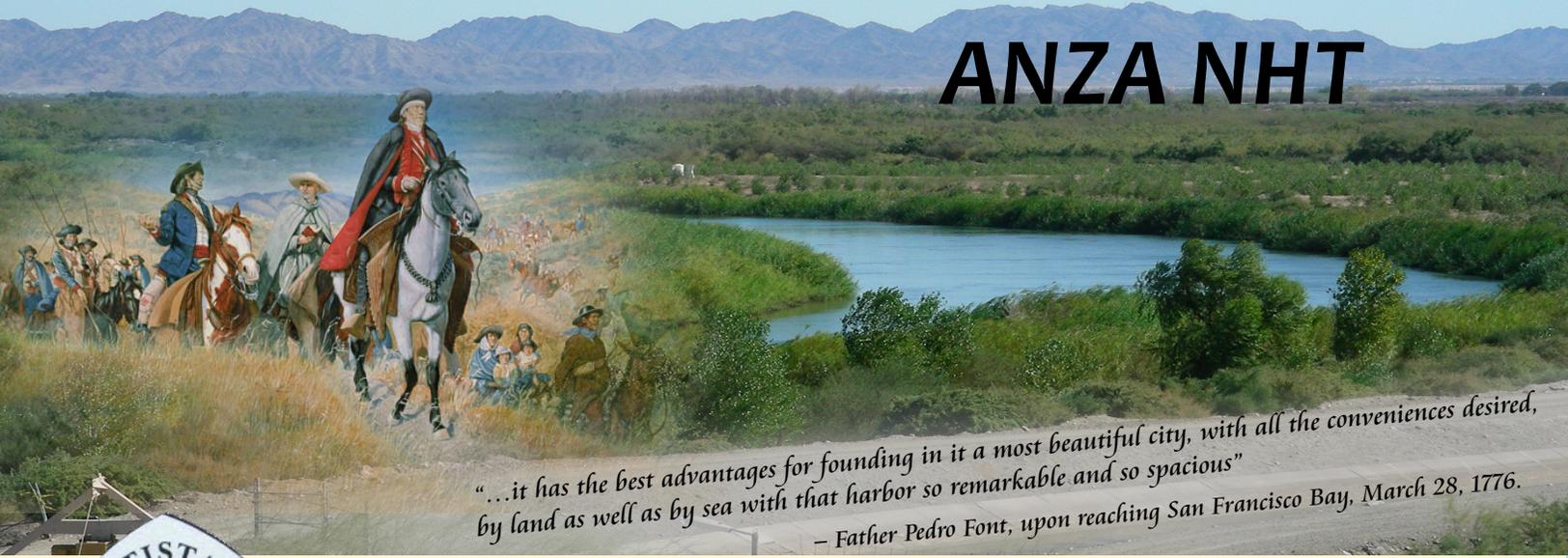
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### THE PATHWAYS COVER

The Summer 2010 Pathways Cover features trail workers from the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT (photo courtesy of NPS); scenic panorama of Merrimere and mossy rocks at Gorge Cascade from the New England NST (photos by Bob Pagini, courtesy of Connecticut Forest & Park Association); fall colors on the Ice Age NST (PNTS Photo); reenactors on the Overmountain Victory NHT (courtesy of Overmountain Victory Trail Association); autumn in Glacier Park on the Pacific Crest NST by Tyson Fisher and autumn trail by Linda Rostad (courtesy of the PCTA); and a re-rider on the Pony Express NHT, courtesy of the National Pony Express Association.

# An Introduction to the Juan Bautista de

# ANZA NHT



*"...it has the best advantages for founding in it a most beautiful city, with all the conveniences desired, by land as well as by sea with that harbor so remarkable and so spacious"*  
– Father Pedro Font, upon reaching San Francisco Bay, March 28, 1776.



Prior to the Anza expedition, Spain's territorial claim on what is now California was tentative. The Portola expedition of 1769, in partnership with Father Junipero Serra, resulted in the establishment of five missions and two presidios from San Diego to Monterey. The expedition also arrived at the San Francisco Bay and immediately understood its strategic significance. However, due to prevailing winds and currents along the California coast, supplying the struggling settlements by sea was a long and hazardous undertaking. By 1774 fewer than 170 Spaniards called Alta California home. To ensure the success of their new settlements and fend off challenges to their territory by the English and Russians, the Spanish had concluded that an overland route through what is now northern Mexico was needed to colonize and supply the California settlements.

Juan Bautista de Anza was the commander of the Presidio of Tubac at the edge of the Spanish frontier, when he proposed to find an overland route to California. Following the Viceroy's approval in 1773, he quickly set his plan in motion. Setting out in 1774 with a small group of soldiers, talented explorer-priest Francisco Garcés, and the Indian guide Sebastian Tarabal, Anza confirmed that an overland route was feasible during a challenging expedition in 1774. Following this success, his proposal was endorsed by the King of Spain and he immediately began organizing the colonizing expedition to San Francisco in 1775-76. On this journey, Anza was accompanied by Father Pedro Font, Lt. José Joaquín Moraga, a multi-ethnic group of 240 soldiers and colonists, and 1000 livestock. Anza's successful expedition led to the establishment of the San Francisco Presidio and Mission in 1776 and exploration of the San Francisco Bay area. The overland route pioneered by Anza was later used to establish Los Angeles in 1781 and Santa Barbara in 1782. In recognition of his success, Anza was later appointed governor of New Mexico, where he served until 1786.



## History of the trail

Interest in the creation of a national historic trail to commemorate the Anza expedition began during America's 1976 Bicentennial celebration, when residents of Arizona and California recognized that Spanish colonizing efforts occurred at the same time as the American Revolution. In 1976 George Cardinet, considered by many to be the father of the California trail system and a key advocate for the National Trails System, organized a group of equestrians, historians, and recreation advocates to reenact the 1776 journey on horseback along the historic route. Some of the original reenactors are still active supporters with the trail today. Following completion of a study to determine the feasibility of the trail, the Anza Trail officially became part of the National Trails System in 1992.

The National Park Service has the lead role in administering the Anza Trail and partners with federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private landowners to manage the trail. Bureau of Land Management staff based in Arizona and California also work with NPS to manage the trail on lands within their jurisdiction.



## Partnerships

The Anza Trail has several partner organizations that work collaboratively to develop and manage the recreational trail and interpret its history to the public. The Anza Trail Foundation was recently incorporated as a nonprofit fundraising and advocacy entity. The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) is active in acquiring trail easements and building trail segments, as well as interpreting its history within Arizona. The trail is also dramatically represented at events such as the Rose Parade by the young women who ride with Amigos de Anza equestrian drill team. In the San Luis Obispo area, Amigos de Anza SLO is active in building the trail and interpreting its history at public events. Los Californianos, an organization of descendants of early Hispanic settlers of California, also supports our efforts through living history and research publications. The Anza Society promotes and studies the life and times of Anza and organizes annual conferences in the Southwest and Mexico.



Amigos de Anza drill team. Photo courtesy of Anne Wheeler, Amigos de Anza.

## Film

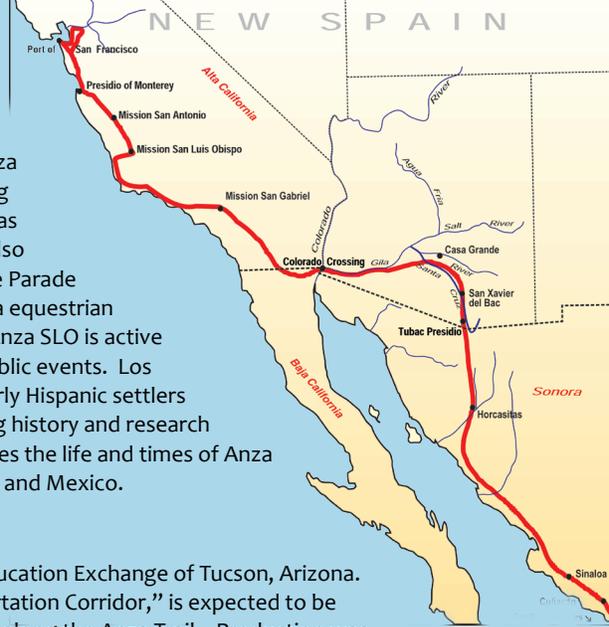
A documentary film about the Anza Expedition is currently in production by Environmental Education Exchange of Tucson, Arizona. The movie, titled "Legacy of a Journey: the 1775-1776 Anza Expedition, Arizona's First Transportation Corridor," is expected to be released early in 2011. Copies of the film will also be shown at visitor centers and historic sites along the Anza Trail. Production was financed through an NPS Challenge Cost Share Grant with a match from the Arizona Department of Transportation. The filmings have inspired volunteers and reenactors to come together to participate in the production and to celebrate the trail.

## Staff Increase

This summer the Anza Trail staff swelled with the addition of seasonal Teacher-Ranger-Teachers (TRTs) stationed at parks and historic sites along the trail. TRTs were stationed at San Juan Bautista State Park, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, and the Peralta Hacienda in Oakland. The TRT program links National Parks with teachers from local schools. During the summer months the teachers become rangers performing various duties depending on site needs and interests. Developing and presenting interpretive programs, leading hikes, staffing Visitor Centers, developing curriculum-based materials tailored to the site, and taking on special projects are examples of TRT accomplishments. When they return to teach classes in the fall, TRTs bring interpretation back into the classroom with lessons and activities drawn from their summer experiences.



Article by Steve Ross, National Park Service. Photos courtesy of the NPS.



## Trails & Rails

Passengers riding Amtrak's Coast Starlight train between Santa Barbara and Oakland, California also have the opportunity to learn about the Anza Expedition. During the peak travel season, dedicated docents from the South Coast Railroad Museum in Goleta, CA, serve as Volunteers in Parks and interpret the Anza Expedition and other cultural and natural history while traveling the beautiful route along the California coastline.

## New Interactive Anza Trail Exhibit a First for the Anza National Historic Trail

The Anza Trail's first full-scale permanent exhibit will be unveiled at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California on September 25th, 2010. The exhibit occupies over 500 square feet on the first floor of the Vicente Martinez Adobe, built by a descendant of the Anza expedition. The installation delves into the Anza Expedition, the people, and the legacy of the voyage over hundreds of miles. This multi-sensory experience will engage visitors through evocative images and an ambient soundscape, a detailed diorama portraying the vast scope of the expedition party, and interactive displays. The exhibit encompasses perspectives representing the diversity of people whose lives were changed by this significant journey.



# Pony Express National Historic Trail Celebrates 150th Anniversary

by Pat Hearty, National Pony Express Association

In 2010, we set out to commemorate the sesquicentennial, the 150th Anniversary, of the historic mail service we remember as the Pony Express. As we began on our preparations, we thought, "We'll only get one shot at this; we'd better do it right." - Pat Hearty, National Pony Express Association.



## Related Festivities

April 3 marked the actual anniversary of the day the Ponies started running, and a variety of celebrations were held in nearly all of the eight Pony Trail states. But the big kick-off came in mid-April, in Washington, DC. Since an appreciable share of the mail carried by the Express was government correspondence originating in Washington, it seemed appropriate to make a splash there. On April 14, we were invited to participate in the Noon Lecture Series at the National Postal Museum (photo at left). We talked to a lot of people and gave a formal presentation, with streaming video distribution, discussing the history of the Pony Express of 1860, and the history of our own organization.



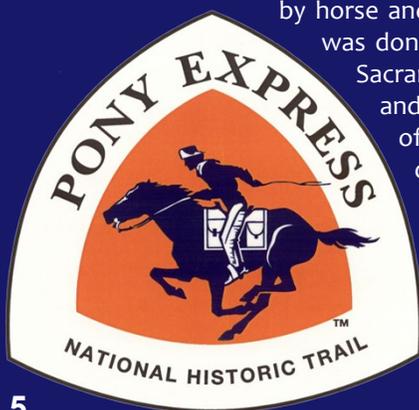
April 15 was our day to "Carry a Message to Congress." The message, by the way, was one of gratitude for Congressional support for the trails through our federal partners, and the request that they stay firmly behind us in the future. With the help of the Capitol Police and the American Horse Council, we secured a breathtaking location near the Senate Terrace Fountain, with the north wing of the U.S. Capitol building looming right above us. Flag bearers holding the flags of the eight Trail states, plus the American Flag and the banner of the 150th Anniversary, stood in an arc, as the public listened to speeches from NPEA members and representatives of the Park Service, BLM, and Congressional offices. Our National President, Les Bennington, rode in on horseback carrying the mochila, the mail pouch carrying the letters for our Senators and Representatives.

## 150th Anniversary Re-ride

The year's big event was the annual Re-ride of the Trail. On a regular year, we have over 500 horses and riders taking part, carrying the mochila day and night for 10 days between Sacramento, CA, and St. Joseph, MO. This year the number of riders swelled, and we decided to run the mail primarily during daylight hours, to let cities and towns along the way plan parties, and to make sure the public knew we were coming through.

*On a stormy night, the western Utah village of Callao saw probably the first traffic jam in its history, as people drove hundreds of miles to remember our history.*

The Re-ride began on Sunday, April 6, in San Francisco, with the mail being carried there by horse and rider, then brought across the bay on a boat as it was done in 1860. The actual horseback relay began in Old Sacramento the next day. We galloped across California and Nevada, horse after horse. At Schellbourne, north of Ely, NV, a beautiful silhouette of horse and rider was dedicated on the trail. On a stormy night, the western Utah village of Callao saw probably the first traffic jam in its history, as people drove hundreds of miles to remember our history. In Wyoming, a symphonic piece composed for the occasion by Dr. Marden Pond was performed at the Historic Trails Center in



Jeremy and Buck Bennington arriving at the Patee House Museum - part of the 8 state flag carriers that accompanied the two mochilas at the final destination of the 150th anniversary re-ride.

Photo at right: New monument in Sydney, NE.

Casper. The celebration continued in western Nebraska and Colorado. In Sydney, NE, an incredible monument was unveiled and dedicated (photo at right). A horseshoe-shaped field, with granite markers and flags representing each Trail state, and at the head, three large granite interpretive markers, and the flag of our nation, the Stars and Stripes on a 60 foot flag pole. A bronze Pony Rider statue sculpted by Peter Fillerup will complete the venue. We are indebted to Cabela's and local businesses and the Chamber of Commerce for making it possible.



Some accounts say that the Pony Express came out of Atchison, KS for a few runs toward the end of its tenure in 1861. We made a horseback mail run into Atchison for the first time in 149 years. Then, finally, on Saturday, June 26, we wrapped up the 150th Anniversary Re-ride, with about 15 mounted and flag-bearing riders riding into St. Joseph, MO, and ending at Patee House Museum, with a celebration highlighted by the Governor Jay Nixon of Missouri. Events were also held at the Pony Express Stables and St. Joe Museum.

And as big an event as we've had, we are not done. We have produced a beautiful commemorative art poster with a painting done by Utah artist Bill Kohler and an impressive map of the trail put together by Chuck Milliken, and all kinds of 2010 memorabilia. Still to come is a full color collectible magazine documenting 150 years of Pony Express History.



Above: NPEA laying a wreath at the Kickapoo Indian Veterans Memorial near Horton, KS.

## Celebrating History with Spirit: About the NPEA

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to establishing, marking, and re-riding the Pony Express National Historic Trail. Incorporated in California in 1978, NPEA has conducted a horseback re-ride of the Pony Express Trail every year since 1980. We are the primary volunteer group working with the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management (not to forget the Partnership for the National Trails System) on matters regarding the Pony Express NHT. We have been involved in production and placement of world-class sculptures, impressive horse-and-rider silhouettes, and interpretive signs and markers in numerous locations. We have carried the Olympic Torch on horseback, participated in an International Ride for Peace and Unity with Pony Express riders from Germany and the Czech Republic, strutted our stuff at the Tournament of Roses Parade in California and "We The People" Constitutional Celebration in Philadelphia, and thrilled thousands of school children with stories of the history of our American West.



Photo above: A spirited rider on the Pony Express National Historic Trail during a re-ride.

Photo at left: Pony Express re-ride mail arriving at Ft. Kearney, Nebraska.

Article photographs courtesy of Susan Bennington, NPEA, and Chuck Milliken, NPS Intermountain Region National Trails System Office, Salt Lake City, Utah.



## A Thanks to All Those Involved...

Without the vision, energy, and dedication of Ken and Arleta Martin, chairs of the 150th Anniversary Committee, we wouldn't have much to show. Les Bennington, our national president, has provided admirable leadership. And our federal Partners, the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management, have been more than generous with funding and other assistance. Most of all, we owe our success to the dedication of our members and their trusted mounts. It has been quite a ride.



# TRACING HISTORY ON THE NATCHEZ TRACE NST

In 2009, an educational project funded by a “Connect Trails to Parks” grant provided the opportunity for the Natchez Trace Parkway and its National Scenic Trail to reach into classrooms surrounding its 444-mile-long corridor.

Teachers from Mississippi, Tennessee, and Alabama were invited to attend the very first teacher workshops put on by NATR. These workshops showcased the newly developed curriculum that addresses the Trace’s rich cultural and natural history. Teachers joined in and helped tweak the lessons.

The morning workshop covered Language Arts, History, Mapping Skills, Math, US Government, Community Studies, and Leadership Skills. Lessons ranged from simple—with kindergarteners learning about the



One of the teacher workshops.

Post Rider symbol and then coloring it—to the complex and creative with high schoolers scrutinizing their local communities and researching unrecognized icons that might be in jeopardy.

Groups of teachers then hit the Trail to do science (see photo at bottom right). They studied diversity and learned how to closely observe subtleties in the natural world. Lessons were related across curriculum. For example, one lesson presented students with five Natchez Trace maps ranging from 1816 to 2009 and in another they learned about the struggles of the spotted salamander living in one of those mapped areas.

The lesson plans were designed to ignite student interest in using the trails. If there is no knowledge, there is no interest. If there is no interest, there is no relationship. With no relationship, there is no reason to preserve and protect this valuable resource.

The project also addressed public usage of the Trail. We established relationships with local children’s museums, Let’s Move Outdoors, and Recreation.gov.

We hope to have additional publicly attended Natchez Trace activities in the future, but the truth is that the students and their parents are the public. It is encouraging to know that through this grant we were able to provide teachers with materials that reach students. There was tremendous satisfaction in seeing how well the teachers liked the lesson plans. One comment made by a teacher put the exclamation point on our work. She said, “Now, I am excited about going back to the classroom!”

Article and photos submitted by Jane Farmer, Education Specialist, Natchez Trace Parkway, NPS



## NATCHEZ TRACE BACKGROUND

The Old Trace was a critical element in the founding of the southeastern United States. Prior to Hernando deSoto’s arrival on the Trace, it was a long-used travel route for American Indian tribes such as the Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Natchez. Later during the Indian removal, it was crossed by the Trail of Tears. It was a federal postal route and was used by military giants such as Andrew Jackson and U.S. Grant. It is where Meriwether Lewis took his final steps on this earth. It is chockfull of history.

In the 1700s, traders nicknamed “Kaintucks” floated down local rivers that emptied into the Mississippi. They were on their way to sell their goods in the thriving port city of Natchez, the capital of the Old Southwest. Useless for travel back upriver, the flatboats were sold and the Kaintucks walked home hundreds of miles on the Old Trace. Winding through Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee, the historic Natchez Trace Parkway was established in 1938 to commemorate this historic travel route. The roadway was completed in 2005.



# Spotlight on Trails Apprentices

**DANNY NGUYEN, AGE 20**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY**



Born and raised in Oakland, California, all I knew growing up were cars, streetlights, and buildings. Rarely had I ever been exposed to camping, parks, or nature. Fortunately, the Student Conservation Association found me in high school and introduced me to its program, where I met other teenagers that came from similar urban settings. During the program we visited parks near the San Francisco Bay Area each month to do trail work, camp, and

enjoy nature. While we were out there having fun, we quickly began to develop an appreciation for parks and the outdoors.

I spent last summer at Hopewell Furnace NHS in southeastern Pennsylvania, where I lived with seven strangers in the middle of the woods. It didn't take us long to become a family after we built trails together by day and socialized at night! My experience in Pennsylvania was eye-opening, because the environment was the complete opposite from home; never in my life had I seen stars the way I did out there as the light pollution at home seemed to make it impossible.

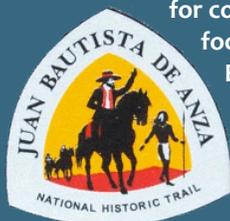
Now I am currently working with the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail staff as the Trails Planning Intern. I am stationed at the National Park Service Pacific West Regional Office in Oakland.

I spend my time exploring/hiking different segments of the trail and documenting their characteristics with photos to supplement the geographical information system we are developing specifically for the Anza Trail. We have a lot of ground to cover since our trail spans from Nogales, Arizona all the way up to San Francisco, California. Working with the Anza Trail is amazing because I am learning a lot about trails and history, while doing what I love.



Every day, I am discovering beautiful locations and important historic sites very close to home that I never knew existed prior to working with the National Park Service. Working with the SCA and the NPS has been a wonderful experience that has and will only continue to strengthen my enthusiasm for conservation and the outdoors. As I begin

focusing on my studies in Environmental Economics & Policy, I hope to be able to apply the knowledge and experiences I have gained through my internships with the SCA and NPS.



**KATIE WEBER AGE 24**  
**GRAFTON, WISCONSIN**

I graduated in December 2008 from the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire with a Bachelor of Science degree in biology with a focus in environmental sciences. Shortly after graduation, I moved to Portland, Oregon for an 11-month AmeriCorps position with the Northwest Service Academy. The position



entailed a variety of tasks related to habitat restoration,

trail building, and environmental education.

It was the work that I completed while in the Pacific Northwest that sparked my interest in working with the Ice Age Trail Alliance. I was thrilled to see that a local organization was offering



a position that related to the work I was doing in the Pacific Northwest. My role as a land management and stewardship intern is to assist in the management of our properties and easements throughout the state. This involves monitoring, GPS mapping, restoration, and developing management plans. Other tasks include participating in our Mobile Skills Crew trail building events and leading work parties.



One of my favorite things about the Ice Age Trail is that it is helping to protect the beauty and diversity of



Wisconsin. The majority of the land that the trail crosses is protected in perpetuity and can now be enjoyed by future generations. I also really appreciate the opportunity to work with our volunteers; their dedication to the trail is truly inspiring.



# America's Great Outdoors Listening Sessions: Forums Nationwide for Sharing Ideas

The America's Great Outdoors Initiative is an order from President Obama for developing a national conservation agenda. The information-gathering phase of this Initiative has taken the form of Listening Sessions. This first phase is now winding down, and the information gathered is to be distilled into a report to President Obama by November 15th.

The Listening Sessions have been an opportunity for Americans of all ages and affiliations nationwide to share their thoughts and opinions on their successes and the challenges they face in getting outdoors and improving and protecting the environment where they live. Three major themes frame the focus: preserving public lands, preserving private lands, and connecting with the outdoors.

The Listening Sessions have been conducted by the White House officials charged with President Obama's America's Great Outdoors Initiative. These officials are: Lisa Jackson, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency; Nancy Sutley, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality; Tom Vilsack, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture; and Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Department of the Interior. Not all of them have been present for every listening session, but other Federal officials have gotten involved, including Will Shaforth, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, DOI; Harris Sherman, Undersecretary of Natural Resources and the Environment, DOA; and Jon Jarvis, Director of the National Park Service.

Listening Sessions have happened in 20 states, from the Pacific Northwest to the Florida peninsula. Representative Mike Thompson (D-1st CA) hosted one at the University of California-Davis.

At least 16 of the Listening Sessions have been specifically geared to youth ages 16-26. The nonprofit youth outreach organization Outdoor Nation hosted a Listening Session at its multi-day Youth Summit in New York City's Central Park. As many as 500 youth of diverse backgrounds and ethnicities from all 50 states were present. At the Listening Session, youth refined their ideas by discussing topics assigned to them at their tables, and then voting to determine priorities.

Representatives of the Partnership for the National Trails System were in attendance at the Chicago and Minneapolis Listening Sessions. We know representatives of the American Hiking Society, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Florida Trail Association, Continental Divide Trail

Association have participated, and possibly others have as well. Kevin Thusius, IATA Director of Land Conservation, said, "The AGO was beneficial for the Ice Age Trail Alliance because we were able to speak directly to the Director of the National Park Service and other Federal officials."

Federal officials seemed to be as optimistic about the Initiative as many of the participants in the Listening Sessions. One trail representative said of the Federal officials at one Listening Session, "They emphasized how this hasn't happened before (a 'dream team' to put the needs of the environment and outdoors at the forefront) and how happy they were to be a part of it."

Reported by Laura Stoesz, PNTS

*The Alliance's goals were quite different from the myriads of organizations present at the Chicago listening session for the AGO, as most others were supporting urban-based, regional recreation and land protection. We were one of the few promoting a nation-wide program."*  
-Kevin Thusius,  
Director of Land Conservation,  
Ice Age Trail Alliance

## AGO Listening Sessions:

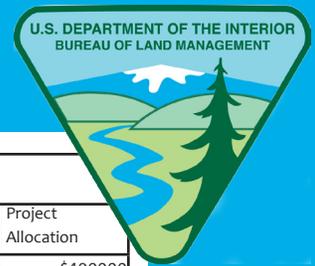
### Locations and Dates

June 2	Bozeman, MT Helena, MT Missoula, MT
June 20	New York City Youth Session (Hosted by Outdoor Nation)
June 25	Annapolis, MD (With Youth Session)
June 28	Charleston, SC
July 1	Seattle, WA (With Youth Session)
July 7	UC Davis, CA San Gabriel Mountains, CA
July 8	Los Angeles, CA
July 12	Grand Island, NE (With Youth Session)
July 15	Asheville, NC (With Youth Session)
July 16	Denver, CO (With Youth Session) Grand Junction, CO
July 17	Albuquerque, NM (With Youth Session)
July 23	San Francisco, CA (Youth Session only)
July 27	Philadelphia, PA (Special focus on historic preservation) (With Youth Session)
July 29	Hudson River, NY (With Youth Session)
August 3	Salt Lake City, UT (With Youth Session)
August 4	Minneapolis, MN (with Youth Session)
August 5	Hyde Park, NY (Youth Session only)
August 6	Poughkeepsie, NY
August 9	Concord, NH
August 20	Godfrey, IL (With Youth Session)
August 26	Kissimmee, FL Orlando, FL (Youth Session)
August 27	Nashville, TN
August 31	Chicago, Illinois (Special Focus on Health and the Outdoors) (With Youth Session)
September 1	Fort Pierre, SD
September 2	Bangor, ME (Special focus: Rivers)
September 9	Memphis, TN (Special Focus: Rivers)

*"The Listening Sessions give us an opportunity to refine and define the place of the National Scenic and Historic Trails in the larger landscape of conservation in America, and to help a broader community understand the many ways that our trails connect people and the outdoors and important conservation lands together."*

-Gary Werner,  
Executive Director, PNTS

# ARRA National Trails Projects - BLM



BLM ARRA Projects - National Scenic and Historic Trails

State	Project Type	Project Title/Description	Project Allocation
Alaska	Construction	Iditarod Trail Safety Shelters (Youth Component)	\$400,000
Arizona	Trail Maintenance and Repair	Juan Bautista De Anza Historic Trail Repairs (Youth Component)	\$55,000
Arizona	Trail Condition Assessment	Trail Condition Assessments (part of OST Multi-State)- AZ Strip	\$50,000
Arizona	Repair and Construction	Arizona (National Scenic) Trail Repairs and Construction	\$121,000
California	Trail Viewshed Analysis	Viewshed Analysis Old Spanish NHT (part of the OST Multi-State)	\$42,000
California	Trail Condition Assessment	Trail Condition Assessments (part of OST Multi-State)	\$133,000
California	Trail Maintenance	Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance Team (Youth Component - SCA)	\$303,000
California	Trail Inventory Assessment and Plan	Nobles Trail Inventory	\$153,000
Colorado	Trail Viewshed Analysis	CO Viewshed Analysis Old Spanish NHT (part of the OST Multi-State)	\$105,000
Idaho	Trail Condition Assessment/Map	National Historic Trails Map and Monitor - Twin Falls	\$196,000
Idaho	Trail Condition Assessment	Inventory Oregon/California Historic Trail - Pocatello	\$59,000
Idaho	Recreation Site Improvements	Lewis and Clark Interpretation/Education	\$44,000
Montana	Recreation Site Improvements	Recreation Site Improvements	\$1,084,000
New Mexico	Trail Viewshed Analysis	Trail Condition Assessments (part of OST Multi-State) - Farmington	\$135,000
New Mexico	Trail Condition Assessment	Old Spanish and Camino Real NHT (part of OST Multi-State)	\$135,000
Nevada	Viewshed Analysis/Condition Assessment	Historic Trails VRM	\$950,000
Oregon/Washington	Planning/Maintenance/Trailhead Improvements	Washington Trails Maintenance (Includes Pacific Northwest Trail)	\$25,000
Oregon/Washington	Maintenance	Heavy Trail Maintenance 40 miles PCT - Medford	\$30,000
Oregon/Washington	Paving	NHOTIC - Re-pave existing asphalt trail along Oregon Trail	\$150,000
Wyoming	Trail Viewshed Analysis/Condition Assessment	NSHT Landscape Analysis - Wind Development (Youth Component)	\$725,000
Wyoming	Maintenance	Continental Divide NST - Safety Structures	\$275,000
Wyoming	Maintenance	National Historic Trail Interpretive Site Upgrade	\$220,000
Wyoming	Renewable Energy - Visual Resources Inventory	Rawlins VRM Inventory (VRI) (Covers CDT)	\$11,000
Wyoming	Renewable Energy - Mitigation	Wyoming Cultural Impact Mitigation - Wind	\$50,000
Wyoming	Renewable Energy - Testing	Camouflage Testing (Mitigation)	\$50,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$5,501,000</b>

## ARRA Funding Builds Shelters on Iditarod NHT



The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office is constructing the last of four new public safety shelters that will make travel along remote segments of the Iditarod National Historic Trail safer.

The new safety shelters are a partnership project of the BLM, the nonprofit Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and local communities. The project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and is part of a multi-year Centennial commemorating the opening of the Gold Rush trail in 1910-1911.

The project creates temporary jobs in rural communities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail, enhances public safety, and provides hands-on training for rural Alaskan youth. BLM worked with the nonprofit Youth Restoration Corps to hire youth ages 16-19 from villages within the region to work with Alaska Job Corps carpenter trainees in building the shelters. Four youth from area villages were hired for each of the four shelters constructed.

Materials for the 16x16-foot log safety shelters were airlifted to each site by helicopter. Each shelter includes a wood stove and bunk space for up to six travelers.



Each shelter takes the crew approximately one week to build. All of the safety shelters will be maintained by local communities. Three of the shelters were constructed on state lands through an agreement with the State of Alaska. The safety shelters are open year round but are accessible by land primarily during winter months. The project provides a modern-day version of the roadhouse and safety cabins developed during the heyday of the Seward to Nome trail one hundred years ago, providing a place of refuge during travel between villages.

ARRA Update submitted by Teresa McPherson, BLM Anchorage Office.



# ARRA National Trails Projects - USFS



State	Project Category/Title	Project Description	
Alaska	Iditarod National Historic Trail Improvements for Visitor Safety	Improve 26 miles of trails, replace 7 interpretive information kiosks, and construct 2 priority trail segments.	\$2,630,000
California	Non-Motor / Non-Wilderness Trails	Repair and reconstruct heavily used, non-motorized trails on forests throughout California to improve visitor access and mitigate stream sedimentation.	\$9,673,000
California	Trail Bridges	Reconstruct trail bridges on National Forests throughout California.	\$1,000,000
Colorado	San Juan National Forest Trails and Bridges Maintenance	Repair hundreds of trail miles and numerous trail bridges to ensure resource protection and visitor safety, and preserve access for management and fire suppression.	\$2,200,000
Idaho	Nez Perce National Historic Trail Trails Work	Improve over 100 miles of trail by clearing downed timber and other vegetation, replacing structures for erosion control, and restoring trail bridges to improve visitor safety, resource protection, and accessibility.	\$240,000
New Mexico	Trail Maintenance on the Continental Divide	Construct 34 miles of trail and reduce the backlog of deferred maintenance on 17.5 miles of trail to enhance visitor safety, provide administrative access, and improve resource conditions.	\$197,000
New Mexico	Identify, Locate and Interpret CRTA & OSNHT	Conduct archival research and fieldwork to validate the location of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and provide interpretive features for visitors.	\$100,000
Oregon; Washington	Pacific Crest Trail Maintenance	Employ youth crews on multiple projects to clear and maintain the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.	\$1,860,000
Pennsylvania	Forest-wide Trail Maintenance, including North Country, Appalachian, Potomac Heritage	Engage in tread and water crossing maintenance to enhance public safety, watershed protection, and hiker satisfaction in wilderness and non-wilderness areas.	\$2,900,000
Virginia	George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Trail and Trail Bridge Maintenance	Reconstruct, relocate, and maintain trails and trail bridges for a variety of use types.	\$1,890,000
Virginia	Bridge Replacements to Make Trails Safer and Accessible	Replace trail bridges to improve public safety and to make trails more accessible, and mitigate resource impacts.	\$275,000
		Subtotal for NSH Trails	\$22,065,000

## 500 Miles of Field Work: BLM's Historic Trails Inventory By Sarah Schlanger, BLM

In May, 2010, BLM and AECOM, an architecture, engineering, and environmental consulting firm, launched a \$2.2M field program that will develop baseline resource data on nearly 500 miles of high potential route segments along the California, Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, Pony Express, Old Spanish, and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trails. AECOM and their subcontractors (Statistical Research, Inc., Alpine Archaeological Consultants, and Metcalf Archaeological Consultants) are now fielding crews in Wyoming and will begin field work in New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, and California later this fall. The field work is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The seven BLM states and AECOM are coordinating field programs to analyze historic resources, inventory and assess historic trail resources, analyze trail condition, and document current trail settings and cultural landscapes. AECOM's crews will be addressing nine specific tasks: conducting records and literature review to support field inventory; developing a GIS record of archival and historic resources using the new Federal Trail Data Standards; carrying out pedestrian field inventory focused on trail and trail period resources; recording and documenting trail resources; verifying high potential route segments and sites with BLM and other subject matter experts; conducting a condition inventory of historic trail sites and segments; identifying key observation points for setting inventory; conducting setting inventories; and creating visibility models (viewsheds) for several trail segments. AECOM and their subcontractors will be working closely with BLM staff and local trail experts to identify trail resources and key observation points for the setting inventories.

The field program targets 58 high-potential route segments, including South Pass and the Lander and Sublette Cutoffs in Wyoming; the San Rafael Swell and Book Cliffs in Utah; Hidden Valley and the Halfway Wash-Virgin Hill-Mormon Mesa trail segments in Nevada; New Mexico's Jornada del Muerto, and northern Rio Grande, Fool's Hill, Cross Canyon; and segments near Great Sand Dunes National Park in Colorado, California's Emigrant Pass, Spanish Canyon, and Fork of Roads segments; and the Old Spanish Trail along the Virgin River and the Beaver Wash area in Arizona.

*BLM State Task Leads Sarah Schlanger, New Mexico; Jude Carino, Wyoming; Diana Hawks, Arizona; Rolla Queen, California; Jeffrey Kitchens, Colorado; Bryan Hockett, Nevada; Rob Sweeten, Utah.*



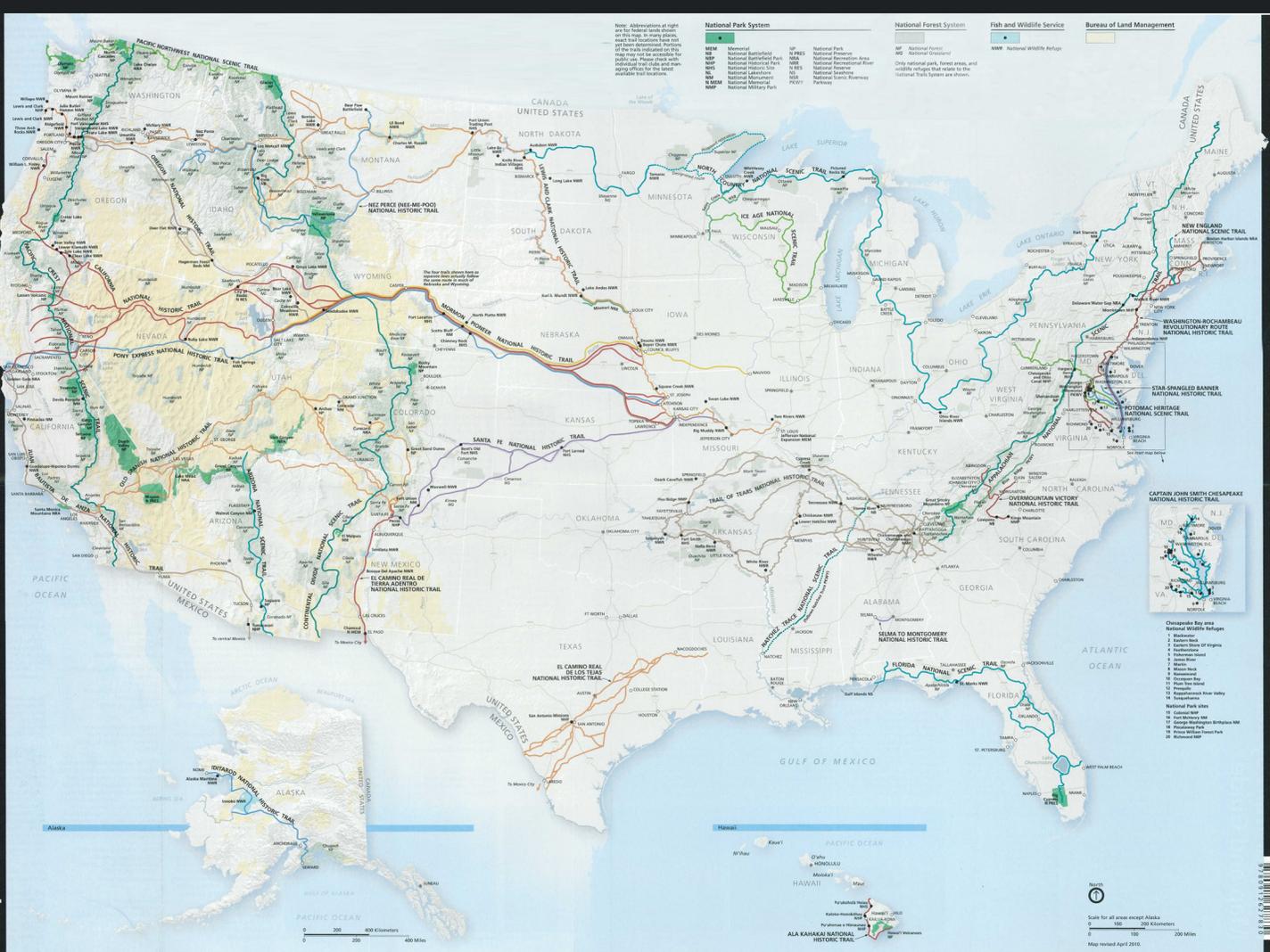


# National Trails System Map and Guide

Bureau of Land Management  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Fish and Wildlife Service  
 U.S. Department of Defense

National Park Service  
 U.S. Department of the Interior  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Department of Defense

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 U.S. Department of Defense



## Department of Justice Issues Final Rule Including Direction on Wheelchairs and Other Power Driven Mobility Devices

Excerpted from the original three-page summary on the DOJ ruling written by Janet Zeller, National Accessibility Program Manager, USFS. The complete summary is available online at [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)

On July 26, 2010, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) posted a final rule under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The rule was published in the Federal Register on September 15 and it will go into effect on March 15, 2011. This rule includes a slightly revised definition of a wheelchair and a new category, "other power-driven mobility devices" (OPDMD) for people who have mobility related disabilities. The definition of an OPDMD includes any motorized device, powered by batteries, fuel or other engines that is used by a person with a mobility disability and that does not meet the definition of a wheelchair.

This DOJ rule does not change the criteria for the wheelchairs or other mobility devices that are allowed to be used in Federal wilderness areas. It also does not change the regulations and policies of the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) for such use of devices that meet the Forest Service definitions of a wheelchair within the National Forest System. Despite the DOJ rule, those laws, regulations and policies remain in place.

The DOJ rule, which implements the ADA, applies to state and local governments and to businesses that are open to the public and therefore are public entities. The ADA does not apply to federal agencies with the exception of wheelchair use in federally designated wilderness as detailed in ADA, Title V Section 508 (c). The Federal agencies are under the 1968 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) and Section 504 of the 1973 Rehabilitation Act. However this rule sets legal precedents the Federal agencies must watch.

The DOJ rule requires a public entity to make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of OPDMDs by individuals with mobility disabilities, UNLESS the public entity can demonstrate that the assessment of the facility trail, route or area the entity had completed before the person requesting use of the device arrived onsite, documented the following. That class of OPDMD the person who has a mobility limitation is seeking to use cannot be operated there "without a substantial risk of significant harm" based on safety, due to actual risks and not on speculation regarding the device or how it will be operated per § 35.130(h), substantial risk based on any of the other assessment factors DOJ has provided in § 35.137(c) and § 35.137(b)(2). Those are the only factors a public entity is to use in determining whether a particular OPDMD can be allowed in a specific location. In addition the information must be posted where the public can easily access it before going to that location. The posted information must include the various classes of motor vehicles may be used, and rules related to that use and who to contact for more information

If a prior assessment has not been completed that documents within the criteria why certain classes of OPDMDs may not be used and/or the information is not publicly posted, the entity must allow the person who has a mobility limitation to use the OPDMD, if they show their state issued parking placard, or say they are using that device due to a mobility disability. No person may be asked if they have a disability or anything about their disability.

To read the DOJ final rule go to <http://www.pnts.org/pnts-archives>. If you have any questions about this issue, please contact Janet Zeller, U.S. Forest Service National Accessibility Program Manager by email at [jjzeller@fs.fed.us](mailto:jjzeller@fs.fed.us).



Pathways Across America  
 Partnership for the National Trails System  
 222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13  
 Madison, WI 53703

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## Trails Events Calendar Autumn-Winter 2010

### September 2010

September 13-17	ProWalk / ProBike	National Center for Bicycling and Walking	Chattanooga, TN	<a href="http://www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/">www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/</a>
September 14-16	SFTA Annual Rendezvous	Santa Fe Trail Association	Larned, KS	<a href="http://www.santafetrail.org/symposium.php">http://www.santafetrail.org/symposium.php</a>
September 20-23	15th Annual Conference & Symposium	Trail of Tears Association	Metropolis, IL	<a href="http://www.nationaltota.org/">http://www.nationaltota.org/</a>
September 23-October 7	Annual March to Kings Mountain Reenactment	Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Abingdon, VA - Kings Mountain Ntl. Military Park, SC	<a href="http://www.ovta.org">www.ovta.org</a>

### October 2010

October 2-5	Land Trust Alliance Rally	Land Trust Alliance	Hartford, CT	<a href="http://www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally">http://www.landtrustalliance.org/learning/rally</a>
October 5-9	Tri-State Parks, Recreation, and Trails Conference (MT, WY, ID)	Montana Recreation and Park Association	West Yellowstone, MT	<a href="http://www.mtrpa.info/">http://www.mtrpa.info/</a>
October 19-22	National Scenic Trails Workshop	Partnership for the National Trails System	Reisterstown, MD	<a href="http://www.pnts.org">www.pnts.org</a>
October 27-30	2010 National Preservation Conference	National Trust for Historic Preservation	Austin, TX	<a href="http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/">www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc/</a>

### November 2010

November 14-18	National Trails Symposium	American Trails	Chattanooga, TN	<a href="http://www.americantrails.org/2010/index.html">www.americantrails.org/2010/index.html</a>
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