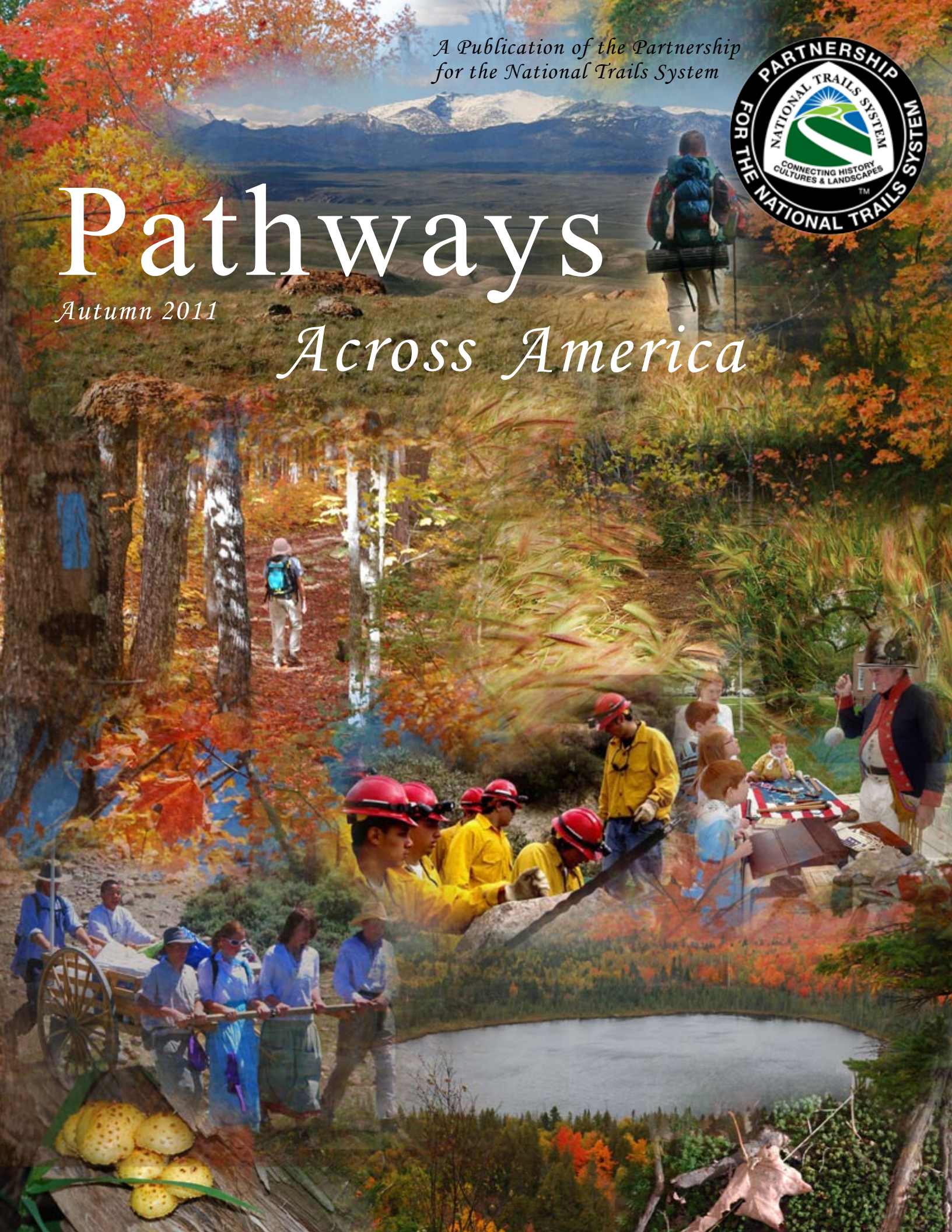

A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Pathways

Autumn 2011

Across America

Pathways
Across America

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:

Department of Agriculture: USDA Forest Service

Department of the Interior: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration

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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 web site at: www.pnts.org.

Unless otherwise indicated, all material in *Pathways Across America* is public domain.

Pathways serves as a communication link for the major partners of the following national trails:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Arizona National Scenic Trail
California National Historic Trail
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail
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 National Historic Trail

Building Community...

The National Trails
Pathways Nationwide for

What is the
National Trails System?

The National Trail System includes 3 main types of national trails: Scenic Trails, Historic Trails, and Recreation Trails.

Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

NSTs and NHTs are designated by Congress (see specific descriptions below). The Partnership for the National Trails System (see left) is the nonprofit dedicated to facilitating stewardship of the Scenic and Historic Trails as a group.

National Recreation Trails

Offer local and regional trail experiences in thousands of locations around the country. The nonprofit American Trails encourages the stewardship of the National Recreation Trails (NRTs). NRTs are designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 National Historic Trails

Ala Kahakai NHT
California NHT
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT
Iditarod NHT
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT
Lewis and Clark NHT
Mormon Pioneer NHT
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT
Old Spanish NHT
Oregon NHT
Overmountain Victory NHT
Pony Express NHT
Santa Fe NHT
Selma to Montgomery NHT
Star-Spangled Banner NHT
Trail of Tears NHT
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

National Historic Trails may be foot or horse paths, travel routes, roadways, or a combination of both designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many National Historic Trails have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they boast wilderness and hiking opportunities as beautiful and diverse as the National Scenic Trails.

Heritage · History · Hiking · Culture · Reenactments

Keeping History Alive...

Preserving Biodiversity

System...
Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening
Communities
through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.

Enhancing
Access to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative intrepretation and community outreach efforts.

Facilitating
Public-Private Partnerships
for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.

11 National Scenic Trails

The National Scenic Trails represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the US is traversed by a National Scenic Trail, from deserts, temperate rainforests, tundra, mountains, prairies, temperate deciduous forests, wetlands, and rivers. The National Scenic Trails offer natural corridors for wildlife preservation and unspoiled viewscapes, and they create fitness and outdoor leadership opportunities for all ages.

Appalachian NST
Arizona NST
Continental Divide NST
Florida NST
Ice Age NST
Natchez Trace NST
New England NST
North Country NST
Pacific Crest NST
Pacific Northwest NST
Potomac Heritage NST

Hiking · Backpacking · Photography · Wilderness · Wildlife

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THE *PATHWAYS* COVER

The Autumn 2011 Pathways cover features a collage of autumn colors, many taken along the North Country NST by Gary Werner, PNTS. Photo of youth with handcart taken by Ken Afinsen, courtesy of the Mormon Trails Association. Hiker at top right by J Zinger, courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. Trail Construction crew from William Hart School, photo courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. Youth learning about Lewis and Clark at dedication ceremony in Frederick, Maryland, photo courtesy of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief of the USDA Forest Service and Long-Time National Trails System Supporter, Retires

Thirty-five years ago, Joel Holtrop embarked on his lifelong dream of serving the U.S. Forest Service, eventually working in a variety of jobs across the United States. The Deputy Chief of the Forest Service embarked on a new chapter of his life after retiring from the agency in early October.

In his position as Deputy Chief, Joel oversaw the strategic and national program leadership for the 193 million-acre National Forest System of forests and grasslands located in 42 states and Puerto Rico. His natural resource management emphasis areas have included ecosystem management, engineering, forest management, rangeland management, lands, minerals, geology management, recreation, heritage, wilderness, wild-scenic rivers management, watersheds, fish, wildlife, air, and rare plants.

Adapted from the US Forest Service press release and the "Faces of the Forest Service" feature of the FS website.

"Joel Holtrop has enjoyed hiking trails all his life and has instilled a similar love of the outdoors and trails in his children. In his role as Deputy Chief overseeing stewardship of America's national forests, Joel has been a passionate and outspoken friend of the National Trails System. From welcoming citizen trail stewards like members of the family into his office in Washington, D.C., to going out of his way to attend National Trails System conferences and other events, and to safeguarding the Forest Service's budget for trails, he has translated his love into practical funding and other resources benefitting all Americans who love trails and the outdoors." - *Gary Werner, Executive Director, PNTS*

A Tribute to Jeff Jarvis

Jeffrey Jarvis, recently retired from the Bureau of Land Management, died at home in the company of his wife Donita Cotter, daughter Zoe Linn Soo-Hee, and family on October 13, 2011.

Jeff was a tall man with an impish grin and a twinkle in his eye that usually signaled some wondrous idea that he was about to share. That twinkle also revealed that he had not lost his child's sense of wonder about the natural world. Jeff raised sheep, floated rivers, bred registered Texas Longhorns and learned to sail. His curiosity, generosity, and humor entertained people from all walks of life.

Jeff was born in Marietta, Ohio in 1953, and his Federal service spanned 35 years. He first worked for the USFWS at the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge in Illinois and then with the NPS at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial in St. Louis, Missouri and Kings Canyon National Park in California. Jeff began his career with the BLM in 1978 in Las Cruces, New Mexico, then moved on to positions in Idaho and the California and Arizona State Offices; He spent the last 11 years of his career in Washington, DC helping shape the the BLM's 27 million acre National Landscape Conservation System. His passion, drive, and dedication in promoting science, partnerships, conservation, resource protection, and restoration practices in the BLM are well-known and respected.

Jeff was a stalwart advocate for the conservation, protection, and restoration of National Scenic and Historic Trails and their associated trail corridors. He understood that trail protection could be best achieved by nurturing the relationships and partnerships that support the trails, as well as exercising the Federal agencies' responsibility to act on their behalf.

Jeff was a stalwart advocate for the conservation, protection, and restoration of National Scenic and Historic Trails and their associated trail corridors. He understood that trail protection could be best achieved by nurturing the relationships and partnerships that support the trails, as well as exercising the Federal agencies' responsibility to act on their behalf. Jeff supported the development of the BLM's National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy, signed by the BLM Director in 2006 and guided the work to devise policy to implement consistent protective management of the national trails.

Jeff's programmatic successes, won through encouraging and assisting trail partnerships, and in strongly supporting staff work, stemmed from his unique character, generous spirit, candid advice, tenacity, good humor (even under very difficult circumstances), and the clear passion he demonstrated for the protection of the natural and cultural resources of America's wildlands and rivers. The results of his vision and leadership will protect monument, wilderness, river, and national trail resources on BLM lands for generations to come.

We of the national trails community have lost a dear friend too soon, but the joyous yellow sun shining through compass plants and sun flowers standing tall in a Midwestern prairie will reflect the twinkle in his eye and bear witness to his good work. *By Gary Werner, PNTS.*

Photo at left: Jeff Jarvis giving his acceptance speech for the Extraordinary Trail Partner award at the 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Abingdon, Virginia in May 2011. PNTS Photo by Chelsea Bodamer.

Mormon Pioneer NHT Youth Hand Cart Treks

Submitted by Ron Andersen, Mormon Trails Association

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE MPNHT

When the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail became part of the National Trails System in 1978, only the route followed by Brigham Young from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Winter Quarters (Omaha), Nebraska in 1846 and from there to the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 was recognized as the MPNHT. From 1847 to 1868, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) organized a massive emigration of members, first from the States, and then from Europe. Between 60 and 70,000 persons followed the same basic route, with some exceptions. Efforts to reduce costs led to the suggestion that handcarts would be the most economical and even promote good health. Between 1856 and 1860, ten handcart companies, comprising 3,000 individuals would be organized. Eight of the ten experienced no greater difficulties or loss of life than was the normal for wagon companies. The last two companies in 1856, the Willie and Martin Handcart Companies, had a late start, lost support cattle, were short of rations, and were visited by early and heavy snow storms in Wyoming. Rescue efforts saved the majority, but suffering and loss of life was high. High exuberance was replaced by despair and some finger-pointing, but the experiment continued through 1860.

Photos by Ken Afinsen, courtesy of the MTA.

Except for the annual celebration in Utah of Brigham Young's entrance into the Salt Lake Valley on July 24, 1847, the pioneer trail experience had gone largely unrecognized by the Mormon faith. There was a Centennial celebration in 1947, when descendents of early pioneers drove along the trail from Omaha to Utah in automobiles with oxen cutouts attached to the front of their vehicles or wagon bows attached to the roofs of their vehicles, but otherwise for many years the trail was a relatively uninvolved part of church history for Mormon youth.

In 1997, a wagon company was organized, which included walkers, handcart pullers, and an assortment of wagons. The group traced the Mormon trail as closely as possible, following closely the same calendar that Brigham Young's vanguard company followed. A web page and local newspapers kept readers apprised of events along the way. The company became national news and was visited by 50,000 as it emerged into the Salt Lake Valley. Interest in the trail exploded. Articles and books were written, movies made, and lectures and pioneer interpreters were in demand. All known pioneers and all known accounts of the trail experience, over 2,000 in number, were transcribed and made available online at http://lds.org/churchhistory/library/pioneercompanysearch.

Persons not able to participate on the actual reenactment decided to create mini-treks on their own. Wagons and animals were impractical, but handcarts were not only possible, but desirable.

The trail over Rocky Ridge south of Lander, Wyoming, became the route of choice because of the stories that occurred there, but when over 10,000 persons and support vehicles descended on that spot in 1998, the BLM office in Lander, which had responsibility for that portion of the trail, developed restrictions, which now include a limit of 6,000 trekkers.

Life-changing experiences became common enough to motivate youth leaders throughout the Church to organize trek experiences, if not on the actual trail, then wherever they could. This past summer, 41,193 persons spent up to four days each pulling handcarts along the Sweetwater River. In addition to trekkers, 22,813 persons visited the Martin's Cove and 6th Crossing of the Sweetwater River sites in Wyoming, which are manned by 140 volunteers. The Church also provides organized treks on church-owned property in Australia, California, Florida, Oklahoma, United Kingdom, Utah, and Washington.

For further information, visit:

Handcarts Treks: http://www.handcarttreks.com/

Mormon Trail http://www.mormontrails.org/

Conceptual Sign Plan for El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Raises the Bar for Trail Signs

For the most part, our national historic trails, unlike many national scenic trails, remain invisible to the American public years after their designation and even though there may be spectacular historic sites or segments that are open to the public and may even have thousands or more visitors a year.

It is not uncommon to visit a well known site on a national historic trail and never encounter any indication that one is on or at the site of the national historic trail. The trail logo or name of the national historic trail may be totally unfarmiliar or rarely seen along the trail. The National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region Office, which administers nine national historic trails, is working to make them "visible" to the general public to find, follow, experience, and appreciate. Signing and "branding" trail sites and segments is a far reaching partnership initiative of that office that is having dramatic affect on visibility and awareness at sites and in communities of the national historic trails.

As part of this initiative across all of its trails, the National Trails Intermountain Region Office of the National Park Service has invested heavily in developing approaches to trail signage along public roads and highways, resulting in the first-ever conceptual sign plan for a National Historic Trail. The Conceptual Sign Plan for El Camino Real de Los Tejas NHT, first released in 2009, provides a critical first look at a comprehensive system of road signs to mark both Original Trail Routes and to connect specific historic sites to the Original Route, local tour routes, and to identify historic sites and segments with national historic trail site identification or "entrance signs" so the public knows they have arrived at a national historic trail site or segment.

The general framework of this plan is designed to provide visitors a link between the trail and its historic sites and to identify where trail resources and historic events are interpreted. In addition, since the sign plan was developed, a web based tool has been developed that allows trail partners to create their own sign plan for a given area of the trail using a standard family of road signs.

Google Earth aerial imagery was used for the plan due to the ease with which the trail could be navigated and the universality of the format and its interface. A digital KML file (viewable in Google Earth and easily adaptable for future changes) provides details on specific sign placement, particularly route identification signing across long distances of the historic trail route.

When a broad swath of the general public no longer sees national historic trails as a mystery, but rather as accessible, visible, and as valuable a part of their communities and can one day answer the questions, what is a national historic trail?, how can I visit the trail?, or, where can I find it?, something as simple and relatively low cost as standard national historic trail signing will have played a large part in that necessary change.

In a partnership collaborative effort, with trail partners, state and local agencies, other Federal agencies, private land owners, and local communities, the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region has initiated what it hopes will be a far reaching sea change for the national historic trails it administers.

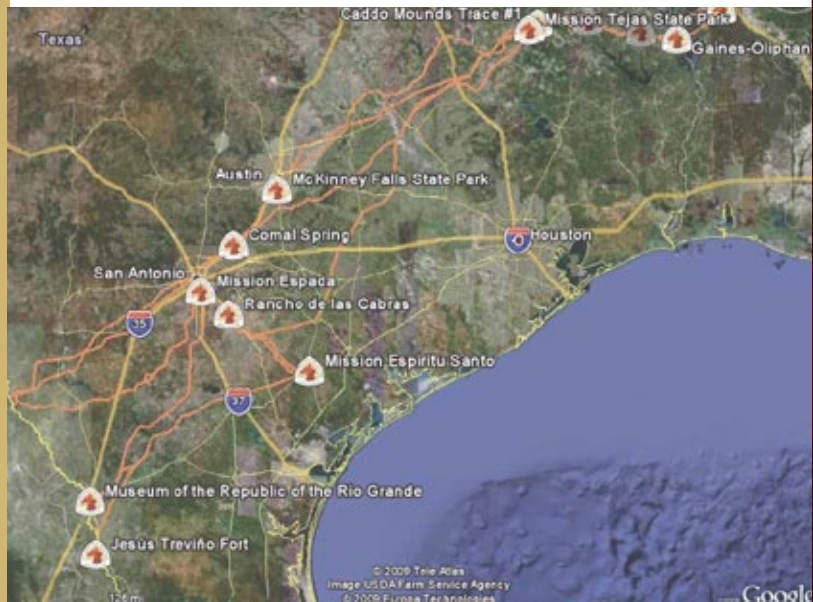
Article content adapted by Julia Glad, PNTS, & Steve Burns-Chavez, NPS, from the original Conceptual Sign Plan.

Sign Plan Features

- Identifies historic trail sites and segments and their corresponding geographic clusters across the length of El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT.
- Connects geographic clusters of sites with Original Routes, roads, or by developing Local Tour Routes.
- Shows regional-level directional signs pointing towards specific historic trail sites within that area.
- Identifies each historic trail site at a regional scale where the site is noted in context with towns, major intersections, and the historic trail itself.
- Links historic sites within an area through directional signage at the outskirts of each site with specific regional maps indicating mileage to other historic sites.
- Delineates maps of historic trail sites or segments at a site-scale level where specific signs and their general locations are identified (see image at right).
- Outlines each sign type and design to demonstrate differences for signs serving as Site identification (ID), Original Route, and Tour Route, or Directional; color codes specific usages of each type on the area maps.
- Proposes sample expense estimates for the sign plan based on varying number of signed areas, itemizes cost categories.

The net result is a comprehensive sign plan which spans the length of the historic trail corridor as well as connects visitors to specific and readily accessible associated trail sites. This is both in the spirit of the National Historic Trails Act of 1968 and the intent, though never quite realized, of the Auto Tour Routes established along other historic trails.

ELTE Sign Plan credits: Landscape Architects Steve Burns-Chavez, of the NPS, and Patrick Johnston, now with RTCA in Los Angeles. Cost estimates developed by Steve Burns-Chavez and NPS GIS Specialist John Cannella.



Trail Signage: A Crucial Step Forward for Trail Support Through Effective Branding

Each National Scenic and Historic Trail offers a unique story and experience. However, clear, strategic branding, centered around the unique qualities of each trail is necessary for long-term public engagement. While the term "branding" is often associated with for-profit entities and product promotion, the philosophy behind effective branding is just as crucial for trails.

Given the importance of volunteers and donors for the support of the National Trails System, being publically visible must be a priority for the trails to garner the appreciation and support of the public needed to sustain them. The National Trails System is fortunate to have a system of trail logo designs conveying trail characteristics. Effective use of these logos as part of consistent branding for the trails would go a long way in raising national awareness for each trail and the system as a whole.

Both National Scenic and National Historic Trails can learn from the NPS Conceptual Sign Plan as well as the web based sign planning initiative of the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region being developed for all nine national historic trails administered by that office. While this first plan clearly caters to the needs of Historic Trails, Scenic Trails can apply these principles to increase use and support of their trails as well.

Adequate Trail Signing Creates Long-Term Value for Sustaining Trails:

- **Community Partnerships and Capacity Building**

  Having a trail identifiable throughout traversed or nearby communities is a crucial first step in gaining community appreciation and support for a trail. Adequate signage alerts community members to the presence of a trail, granting relevance to outreach events held in the town and encouraging local involvement with the trail. Trail organizations working to build community support through local chapters, establishing official trail town steward designations, or partnership agreements with Convention and Visitors Bureaus, town planning commissions, and related nonprofits will find a more receptive audience in communities with a well-signed trail.

- **Tourism - A Major Asset for Small Towns**

  Clear signage and directional markers to trail access points or major sites encourage trail-related tourism and spur economic growth. While a handful of trail enthusiasts may be able to identify a trail from other resources, the vast majority of potential trail users may be deterred if the trail is not clearly marked. Signage identifies a tourist-friendly experience; without it, millions of American history enthusiasts, wildlife watchers, and potential trail supporters pass by the trails without noticing their presence. Clear and easily visible signage represents a major opportunity for small towns to capture the interest and dollars of travelers passing through them. A trail-wide system of signage also encourages trips and tours themed directly to a trail, inviting tourist trail users to use the trail to shape their vacation itineraries.

- **Resource Protection Through Awareness**

  Signs are a crucial tool in the effort for resource and land protection. Defending resources the majority of the public does not "see" is unquestionably an uphill battle; the simple act of installing signage goes a long way in demonstrating the legitimacy of a claim to historical or ecological significance. This concept goes back to the early days of marking property borders with fences--if it's not visible, it's not defensible. Signage reassures a community of the importance of that site and makes the trail harder to ignore by those who might threaten it with alternative development.

NPS Launches Online Resource for Sign Plan Development

Useful for any national scenic or historic trail looking to initiate a signage plan, a template developed by the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region Office is available on each of the trail home pages administered by that office. An example for one of the trails is available online at: **http://www.nps.gov/elte/parkmgmt/how-to-create-your-sign-plan.htm**

The sign plan template addresses the use of road signs. It is not for interpretive exhibits or pedestrian signs, though a version for pedestrian signing for the national historic trails is underway for launch in the near future. The sign plan development resource is an interactive online resource that takes trail managers and/or town planners step-by step through the process of determing sign design and placement along public roads for identifying significant sites or segments, providing directional information to sites or segments, or identifying the original trail route.

The online resource uses Google Earth and a user-friendly interface to help you select appropriate signage for each desired area. It also outlines considerations for signage cost and suggests approaches for funding trail signage projects. Forms for getting approval from local and state entities for signage are included on the webpage, and instructions for how to proceed with following signage regulations are outlined. Each Federal agency also has a sign plan that dictates signage requirements, and sign initiaves must comply.

The online resource offers assistance with the first step of public road signage-- developing your trail sign plan. Since it is necessary to get approval from each road jurisdiction for all roads to be signed before any elements of a plan can be implemented, the website outlines the approval process (first through the NTIR and then each road jurisdiction) and includes links to necessary forms.

For more information, contact:
Steve Burns
Landscape Architect, NPS
National Trails Intermountain Region
(505) 988-6737
Steve_Burns@nps.gov

WHAT IS the Partnership for the National Trails System?

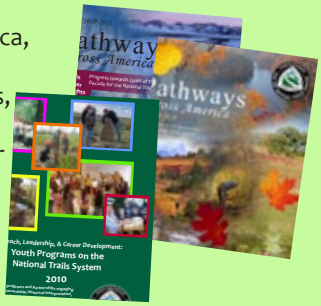
A nonprofit 501(c)3 tax exempt federation of 36 nonprofit organizations that work in partnership with Federal and state agencies to help sustain and manage America's 30 national scenic and historic trails.

WHAT DOES the PNTS DO?

- *Fosters information exchange among trail organizations.*
- *Provides skill-building training for partner volunteers and staff.*
- *Coordinates public policy advocacy efforts of partners.*
- *Advises Federal agency managers about issues related to the National Trails System.*

SERVICES FOR TRAIL STEWARDSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

Print Communications Services including Pathways Across America, the Quarterly Magazine of the National Scenic and Historic Trails, the "Youth Programs on the National Trails System" and other reports applicable for internal capacity growth and public outreach.



Digital Communications Services, including a PNTS website with partner organization listings/links, E-Newsletters and emailed Action Alerts.

Bi-annual conferences and alternating workshops for training, networking, and idea sharing between the public and private partners of the National Trails System.

Legislative & Public Policy Advocacy on behalf of the National Trails System as a whole to maintain and increase public funding and policy support for national scenic and historic trails and the cultural, natural, and historic resources along them.

WHO are involved with the PNTS?

1.) Federal Partners

Trail administrators, managers, and supporters from the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration. Federal staff involved with the National Trails in any way are welcome participants in PNTS events and activities.

2.) Organizational Partners

Trail Stewardship Organizations, each sustaining a specific national scenic or historic trail, are the core of the PNTS. Representatives from each of these Partnership member organizations serve on the Leadership Council to direct the activities to best support each trail as well as the system as a whole. National organizations such as American Hiking Society and Back Country Horsemen of America that support the National Trails System are Affiliate Members.

3.) PNTS Staff

Gary Werner, Executive Director
Gary is the founding executive director of the PNTS, and has years of work with the Ice Age NST at trail-level projects and with national advocacy. In his free time, he continues work with the Ice Age NST, specializing in trail protection and ecosystem restoration.

Julia Glad, Communications Coordinator
Julia began with the PNTS in 2009 and manages communications and assists with workshop and conference development. Also an MBA student, Julia is particularly interested in promoting the collection and leverage of economic and trail user data for securing additional support for the NTS.

Liz Wessel, Administrative and Event Support
Liz Wessel, who has a background in nonprofit leadership and ecotourism, assists with PNTS events and manages many of the administrative processes of the PNTS. She works part time with the Partnership, balancing her involvement with her own eco-conscious travel agency.

Mission

To recognize the roles and strengthen the capability of public and private partners to preserve, develop, commemorate, and promote the National Trails System for the enjoyment, education, and appreciation of all Americans and their international visitors.

Purpose

The Partnership works to secure better public and private funding for the important work of both its nonprofit trail organizations and their volunteers and the Federal agencies that administer the National Trails System.

Please help us celebrate and continue our 20-year tradition of working together for the national scenic and historic trails by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Partnership for the National Trails System.

The PNTS: A History

1991
- 17 National Scenic & Historic Trails
- Federal Budget for NSHTs: $2 Million
- 29 NPS staff for National Trails System
- 2nd NSHTs Conference - Portland, OR
- "Committee of 17" Trail Organization Leaders formed, determines Federal support goals
- Gary Werner, Ice Age PTF, begins coordinating efforts of trail organizations

1992
- Trails Community approaches Congress for additional funding for the NTS for the first time

1993
- 3rd Trails Conference in Kansas City, KS
- Successful collaboration for conference and advocacy prompts suggestions for a formalized organization to continue efforts

1995
- Collective goals and principles developed at 4th National Trails Conference to guide advocacy

1997
- Mission, Vision Statement, and Bylaws written
- Executive Committee established at 5th Trails Conference in Florida

1999
- Trails community votes to officially incorporate at 6th Trails Conference in Lake Tahoe

2001
- PNTS Officially Incorporates as a nonprofit

2003
- PNTS granted 501(c)3 tax-exempt status by IRS

2004
- Strategic Plan for PNTS developed, later revised

2005
- 9th Trails Conference in Las Vegas, NV leads to development of workshops specific to scenic or historic trails on even-numbered years

2007
- Decade for the National Trails launched at 11th NSHT Trails Conference in Duluth, MN to celebrate 40th Anniversary of the NTS in 2008

2008
- 3 Goals developed for the "Decade":
  - Make all Americans Aware of the NTS,
  - Complete the Existing NSHTs on the Ground
  - Increase Capacity of Trail Organizations and Federal Agencies to Sustain the Trails

2009
- Omnibus Public Lands Act passes, fulfilling 10-year PNTS struggle to secure willing seller land acquisition authority for 9 NSHTs
- Julia Glad joins PNTS as Communications Coordinator
- Revised website debuts at www.pnts.org
- PNST sends first E-news and online *Action Alerts*
- Youth *"Trails Apprentices"* attend 12th Conference courtesy of Federal partners

2010
- 1st Youth Programs on the National Trails Report
- Youth *Trails Apprentices* attend NST & NHT Workshops
- Liz Wessel joins the PNTS staff to assist with adminstration and event development

2011
- 30 National Scenic & Historic Trails
- Federal Budget for NHSTs: $28 million
- Total of 95+ full-time staff across NPS, BLM, & FS

Although our capacity as a community has grown significantly over the past 20 years of collaborative effort we still have a long path to follow to fulfill the dream of a fully functioning National Trails System.

The Partnership for the National Trails System: *Guiding 20 Years of Successful Collaboration by the National Trails System Community*

By Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director

November 2011 marks 20 years of consistent collaborative work by national scenic and historic trail organizations. In November 1991, during the 2nd Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails, leaders of the organizations supporting the then 17 national scenic and historic trails decided to work together for increased Federal funding for these trails. The idea of working together had first been suggested during the 1st Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails held three years earlier in Wisconsin. The organization leaders formed "The Committee of 17" to guide this collaborative effort and as an employee of the Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation I was authorized to help coordinate it. In April 1992, I presented the Committee's requests to increase support for each national trail to at least $250,000 per year and one full-time Federal staff person to the House of Representatives Interior Appropriations Hearing.

The National Trails System community has been advocating every year since then for adequate funding and authority for the trails, and for over a decade the PNTS has joined the American Hiking Society's "Hike the Hill" "Trails Advocacy Week" event each February in Washington, DC. The successful advocacy work and the planning done together to organize biennial trails conferences prompted several of the trail organization leaders to suggest that the community should more formally organize to carry out these efforts. Over the next 10 years, in steps taken during subsequent trails conferences, this idea grew into the Partnership for the National Trails System as an incorporated nonprofit organization.

Since 1991, The National Trails System has grown from 17 to 30 national scenic and historic trails. Through persistant advocacy organized by the PNTS, annual Federal funding for operation of the National Trails System grew from $2 Million to $28 Million.

To better focus our collective efforts the PNTS developed a Strategic Plan in 2004. This plan has been revised once and continues to guide our work. The information and skill exchange component of that work expanded to include workshops for the scenic and historic trails through a decision made during the 9th Trails Conference in 2005. Two of these workshops have been organized by the PNTS in each of the alternating years to the conferences starting in 2006. Planning is underway for two workshops in 2012.

Mirroring the increasing organization of the National Trails System community through the PNTS, PATHWAYS Across America has become a significant communication method for trail leaders and Federal trail managers, evolving from a simple black and white newsletter to a full-color quarterly magazine. Unwavering funding and enthusiastic support from PNTS's Federal partners have enabled the PNTS to improve PATHWAYS and to provide it free of charge to the national trails community.

The successful advocacy guided by the PNTS and the increased quality of services provided to both the public and private components of the National Trails System community has greatly increased its stature and respect among the leaders of the Federal land managing agencies. Consequently, PNTS staff and leaders of member organizations have been invited to participate in major conferences of the land managing agencies over the past decade.

In turn, the PNTS was able to engage the larger National Trails System community in celebrating the 40th Anniversary of the National Trails System in 2008 through a series of events, including the launch of "A Decade for National Trails." "The Decade" has three major goals: 1) Make all Americans Aware of the National Trails System, 2) Complete the Existing Scenic and Historic Trails on the Ground, 3) Significantly Increase the Capacity of the Trail Organizations and Federal Agencies to Sustain the Trails. A major initiative of Goal 3 is to increase the funding – both public and private – necessary to sustain the National Trails System.

LANDER Resource Management Plan (RMP) Draft Released - Open for Comments through December 7, 2011

On September 9, 2011, the Bureau of Land Management's Lander Field Office released a new draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the 2.5 million acres of Public Land it manages in south central Wyoming. The draft RMP is open for public review and comment until December 7, 2011.

The BLM Lander Field Office manages 92 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). According to the draft RMP "This zone contains some of the most wide-open and undeveloped landscapes available on the entire CDNST." The Lander Field Office also manages about 100 miles of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails, which mostly follow each other closely through the Sweetwater River Valley to South Pass. This section of these trails is recognized in the draft RMP as "a route considered to be one of the most pristine segments of these trails in the entire nation. The overall good-to-excellent condition of the trail corridor is due to a lack of effects on the trails themselves, and to the mostly intact historic setting around the trails."

This long section of the four national historic trails is referred to as the Greater South Pass Historic Landscape. This landscape includes or is nearby to such iconic trail landmarks as Independence Rock, Devil's Gate, Split Rock, Ice Slough, and South Pass. South Pass is a designated National and Wyoming Historic Landmark. Besides the high density of cultural and historic resources in this area the western half of the national historic trails corridor and most of the CDNST corridor fall within a major habitat for the prairie sage grouse. Protection of this habitat for the sage grouse is a major objective of the draft RMP.

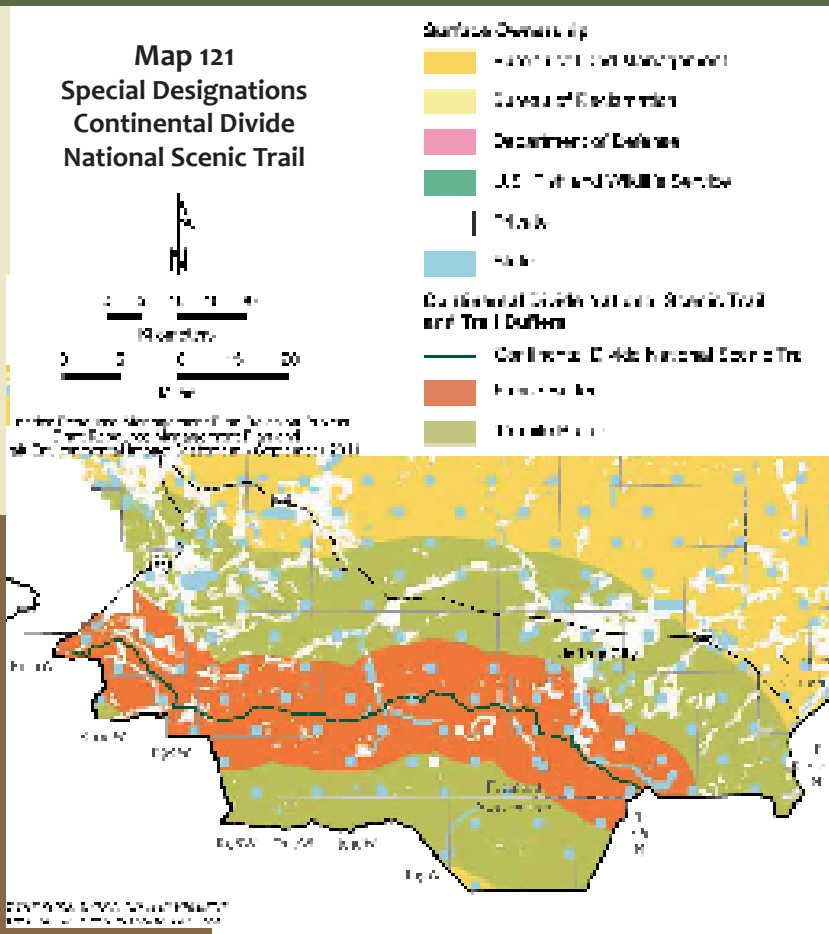
For more information contact Kristin Yannone, P.O. Box 589, Lander, WY 82520-0589 Phone: 307-332-8400 Email: LRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

Independence Rock from Across Historic Trails Swale
Photos by Gary Werner, PNTS

Looking west along Oregon, California NHTs toward Devil's Gate; OCTA trail marker in foreground.

PNTS believes that the Lander RMP, if approved as Alternative B or an improved Alternative D, could serve as a model to revise the RMPs along other sections of the scenic and historic trails throughout the West.

Map 121
Special Designations
Continental Divide
National Scenic Trail



To review the complete text and many maps included in the Lander Field Office RMP, go to:

http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html

Comment Period Open through December 7, 2011

Please submit comments urging the strongest protection possible for the national scenic and historic trails to:

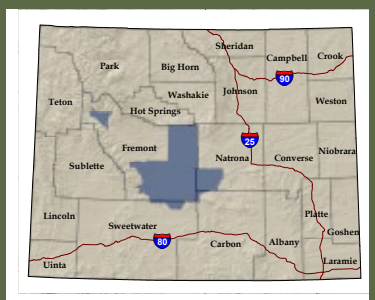
LRMP_WYMail@blm.gov

The draft RMP describes four options for management of the Lander Area Public Lands:

- **"Alternative A" is essentially a continuation of the current management practices.**
- **"Alternative B", the second option, emphasizes preservation and conservation of the natural, cultural, and historic resources and maximum recreational use of the area.**
- **"Alternative C" the third option, emphasizes increased use of the oil, gas, and mineral resources of the area and would increase cattle grazing.**
- **The fourth option, listed as the "Preferred Alternative" in the draft RMP is a blending of approaches from the other three.**

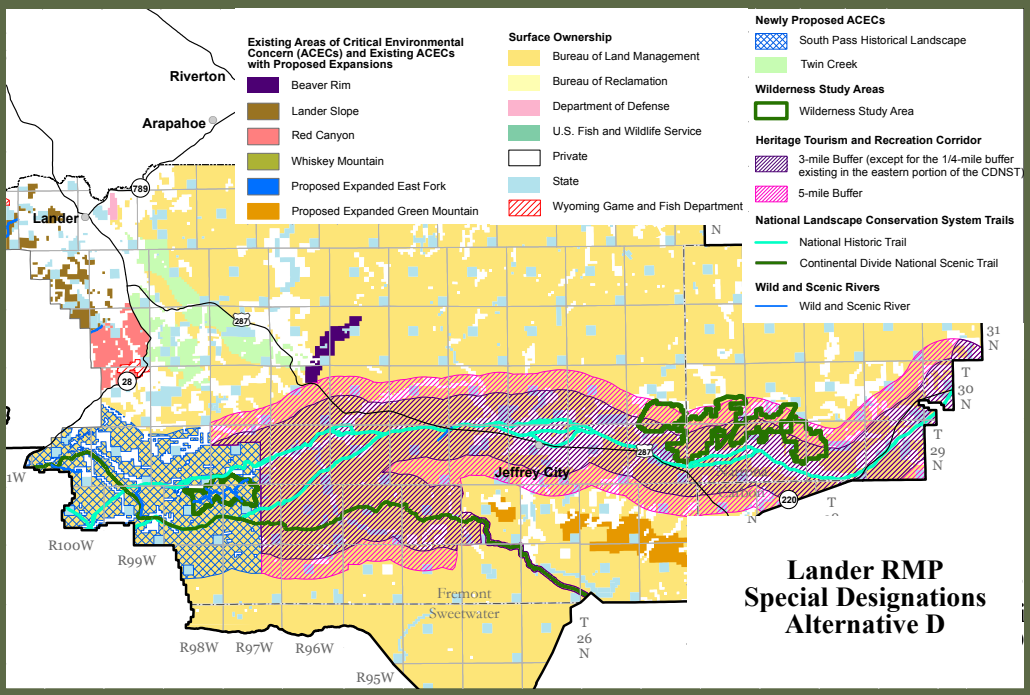
There are many additional important management details in the draft RMP than those summarized here. The Lander draft RMP sets a much higher and stronger standard for the protection of the national scenic and historic trails and the setting of the landscapes around them than the good protection afforded them in the past.

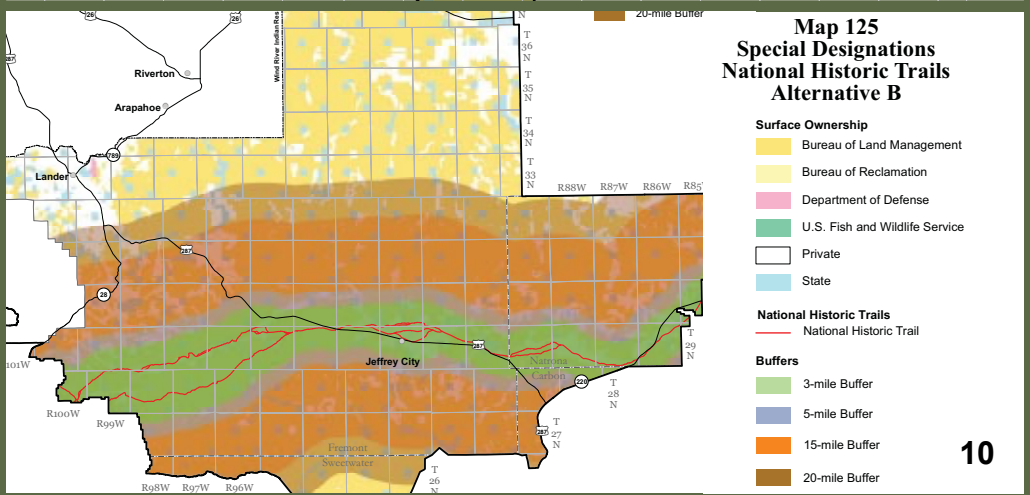
When accomplished, this practice will be a major step forward toward achieving consistency in trail management.



ABOUT THE "PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE"

The draft RMP's "Preferred Alternative" proposes to accord the highest protection to the national scenic and historic trails through a series of special designations and concentric management zones surrounding them. Since the RMP recognizes the special historic quality of the vast landscape surrounding the trails, it recommends management practices to either preserve or retain the existing character of that landscape (BLM Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes I and II). This management prescription would apply to a corridor five miles wide on either side of each national scenic and historic trail. (Current BLM management practice prescribes this level of preservation for a ¼ mile wide corridor on each side of these trails.) These corridors for the national trails are designated as Heritage Tourism and Recreation Management corridors – a new title. Outside of the 10 mile wide corridors "highly visible projects are authorized only if the project causes no more than a weak contrast" to the landscape.





International Visitation, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, & Our National Historic Trails

Each year, millions of visitors from around the globe travel throughout the western United States. For most, their travels will have involved at least one stop focused on the history, cultural, and/or natural resources of the region in which they are vacationing. In Montana, known for its plethora of historic sites, areas tied to the Lewis and Clark expedition are a major draw. In south central Montana, the Yellowstone River, navigated by Captain William Clark in 1806, and today part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LCNHT), sees thousands of visitors annually.

Many of the visitors who come to south central Montana end up at Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM), located about thirty miles east of Billings. On July 25th, 1806, Captain Clark traversed the northeast side of Pompeys Pillar and signed his name in the sandstone, leaving the only remaining physical evidence visible of the Lewis and Clark Expedition's actual route. PPNM has about 50,000 visitors annually, including local residents, tourists passing through, and travelers doing "Lewis and Clark" vacations. A small percentage are from international locales, with Canadians making up the highest percentage of international visitors, and other visitors coming from throughout Asia, Germany, the Netherlands, United Kingdom, Mexico, Australia, and a myriad of other countries.

Regardless of where visitors are from, they all have seem to have heard of Captain Meriwether Lewis, Captain William Clark, and their amazing expedition of the early 1800s. Despite this familiarity, few of the visitors who come to PPNM have any idea that they are also visiting a NHT, one that includes many of the other Lewis and Clark sites they may visit during their travels. To me this sends a clear message. I, and others who are a part of the management of sites along NHTs, can and should do a better job advertising their significance. A NHT is not just a designation, but a tie that binds multiple features and events in our Nation's history. To share this message at PPNM is doubly important as we have international visitors who could learn about the U.S model of nationally-significant historic and scenic trails. By highlighting NHTs, and their significance in US history, and their potential as frameworks for history-themed vacations, we can create more opportunities for both national and international recognition.

Article and photos submitted by Jeff Kitchens, Bureau of Land Management

Pompeys PIllar National Monument, famous for the inscriptions (see photo at top) made by William Clark as the party passed the iconic rock, is a major landmark along the Lewis and Clark NHT. It is marked by an interpretive center managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Launches "Family Hiking Day" on National Public Lands Day

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) launched its inaugural Family Hiking Day in coordination with National Public Lands Day on September 24th. Families up and down the Appalachian Trail (A.T.) put their boots on for a day of adventure outside.

Left to Right: Russell, Cade, and Mirella Savee, and Rebecca Pomponio, with "Coral" at Family Hiking Day. Photos by H. Dean Clark.

The ATC provided online resources, games, activities, and a list of hikes for families to explore the A.T. in a fun, safe, and engaging way. Families chose from a variety of self-guided hikes or participated in hikes led by local volunteers. The day gave people of all ages and hiking abilities the opportunity to get outside and experience the Appalachian Trail.

ATC hosted a guided hike in Harpers Ferry, and energetic local volunteers, like Kweli Kitwana (at left) worked with staff to create activities inside the center including a station for making your own gorp (trail mix); materials for an A.T. treasure hunt; temporary tattoos; and all the information and tips needed for a fun, safe, family hike.

The day of events gave families and volunteers the chance to explore the Trail and its historical significance around the Harpers Ferry area. "As an African American, I feel a strong connection to the A.T. historically and culturally because of the relevant history along the Trail," Kweli stated. "It is important for the Trail to be accessible to families of color, and the first step for getting them to use the Trail is access and awareness that it's there."

ATC Volunteer Wendy Pacek was "happy to give those coming to Harpers Ferry National Historical Park a taste of the Appalachian Trail. We sauntered through woods and viewed historic sites including Jefferson Rock, which overlooks the confluence of the Shenendoah and Potomac Rivers, and the campus of the former Storer College (the first college in the country to accept African Americans)."

It isn't too early to start planning for next year's Family Hiking Day, which will once again coincide with National Public Lands Day on Sept. 29th, held each year on the last Saturday of September. Check our website at **www.appalachiantrail.org/familyhike** for more information about Family Hiking Day and family hiking resources.

Updates from the Lewis and Clark NHT

Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment Funds Chapter Project Grants

During the 2003-2006 Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, the U.S. Mint produced and sold 500,000 Lewis & Clark Bicentennial Silver Dollars. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the coins was presented to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, with the assistance of the Missouri Historical Society, to establish the Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment: A National Council of the Lewis & Clark Expedition Bicentennial Legacy Project.

In September 2011, the Board of Directors of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation approved the awarding of $50,000 in grants to chapters of the Foundation for trail stewardship projects. The funds awarded come from income from the endowment; the corpus of the endowment will continue to earn income for awards in future years. Awards were approved for 20 projects by 16 chapters in 12 states. Examples of projects are installation of a monument and plaque noting Lewis' visits to Frederick, MD (see at right); preparation of a survey, video, and booklet of Lewis and Clark sites near Kansas City, MO; and planting of native trees and bushes at an important Lewis and Clark site on the Columbia River, WA. A number of the projects will focus on repairing damage caused by the recent flooding of the Missouri River.

Submitted by Bob Gatten, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Memorial Dedicated at Frederick, MD

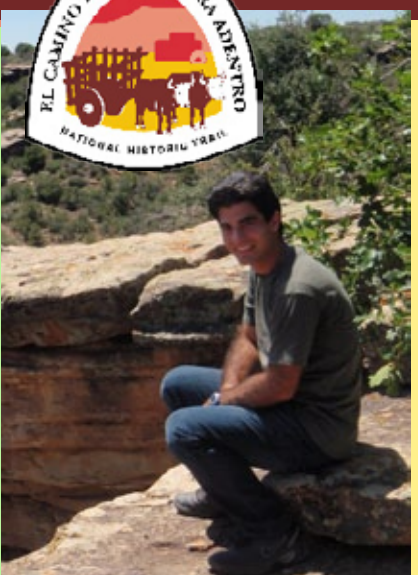
The Lewis & Clark event in Frederick, Maryland on September 24, 2011, traces its roots back to March 2006, when in the Historical Society of Frederick County archives, Lorna Hainesworth, a LCTHF board member, found a previously unpublished letter written by Meriwether Lewis as he was preparing for the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803-1806. The culmination of the find by Lorna was a true partnership with the Frederick Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (FCDAR), the Maryland School of the Deaf (MSD), and the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

Through the principals and local firms such as Morgan Keller Construction, Thomas, Bennett & Hunter Concrete, and the Maryland Society of Surveyors, a twelve-inch National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Lewis and Clark Commemorative Monument and FCDAR plaque were placed in the walk at the MSD in front of the Bjorlee Museum. Preparations generated interest to the point that the MSD is assembling a Lewis & Clark exhibit to be part of the renovated Hessian Barracks museum located on the MSD campus. Mr. Chad Baker, Director of Museums, felt that the markers are a fitting introduction to the museum and will benefit geocaching programs in Historic Frederick. The marker will be entered in the NOAA National Spatial Reference System with latitude and longitude as well as the elevation above sea level.

U. S. Congressman Roscoe Bartlett, 6th Dist. MD and representatives of the state, including U. S. Senator Barbara Mikulski and Governor Martin O'Malley's Office as well as Frederick Mayor Randy McClement, attended the dedication. MSD Superintendent James E. Tucker gave an inspiring speech on preserving and cherishing historic sites. Linda Mistler, MD DAR State Vice Regent and City Alderman Karen Young also gave greetings and presentations. Special recognition must go to MD State Senator Jennie Forehand, 17th Dist of MD. Jennie is a strong supporter of the Lewis & Clark Story and the future Lewis & Clark NHT in Maryland.

Submitted by Jim Mallory and Lorna Hainesworth, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. Photos by Elaine Presholdt.

CARTA Announces New Executive Director, Raffi Andonian



El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA) is pleased to announce the hiring of Raffi Andonian for the position of Executive Director. Raffi will be involved in shaping the development of the organization and in facilitating the 2012 National Historic Trails Workshop.

"My new position as Executive Director of CARTA is the fulfillment of a long-time aspiration to lead a historical nonprofit organization. It allows me to put together many aspects of what I have enjoyed from past experiences, and it provides me the opportunity to do so for a historic resource that is significant locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally.

I hold a master's degree in Nonprofit Organizations, and I am currently working on two masters programs at the University of Georgia, one in History and the other in Historic Preservation. In the past, I worked as a historical interpreter for the National Park Service from 2004 to 2010, including the Gettysburg battlefield and the Martin Luther King Jr. birth home. I spent last summer at The Archaeological Conservancy, a nonprofit organization based in Albuquerque that protects more than 400 archaeological sites distributed throughout more than 40 states." - Raffi Andonian

Bill Filed to Close Trail Gaps

Submitted by Kent Wimmer, Florida Trail Association

The Complete America's Great Trails Act (HR 481) needs additional co-sponsors in the House and a companion bill filed in the Senate. This Act would provide a tax credit to private landowners who grant conservation easements to National Scenic Trails.

Many private landowners graciously allow hikers access across their lands on National Scenic Trails – but each of these properties represents a potential break in the continuity of our trails. The Complete America's Great Trails Act creates a new incentive to allow hikers to pass through their property, and national scenic trails get a guaranteed corridor that protects the connectivity and continuity of the hiking experience for years to come!

This tax credit is an important tool that provides a fiscally responsible incentive for private landowners to allow access for hikers. During these challenging financial times, it is important to consider that HR 481 requires no direct spending from the federal government, provides a significant tax break to hard-working landowners, and helps ensure that America continues to benefit from our incredible trail resources.

WASHINGTON – National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis marked the agency's birthday on August 25 with the release of "A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement."

"On our 95th anniversary, we take the first step to prepare ourselves for our second century of stewardship," Jarvis told employees during a national town hall meeting at Fords Theater in Washington, DC. "The critical work we have been doing since 1916 is as important as it ever was and must continue. "A Call to Action" is a rededication – to our traditional stewardship role but with an expanded and strategic focus that addresses our relevance in a changing world."

"A Call to Action" lays out 36 actions that National Park Service employees, partners and friends will do to integrate National Park Service community programs with 397 national parks units and the agency's mission to preserve the country's cultural, historic and natural resources for the enjoyment of this and future generations. It does not call for any new Federal funding. Jarvis said, "There will not be much – if any – new money in our future, so we have concentrated on what can get done within current budgets and in some cases, with the assistance of our incredible partners."

Jarvis said that "A Call to Action" also points out how different today's world is compared with August of 1916 when President Wilson signed the law that created the National Park Service and pulled 38 mostly natural landscape parks and monuments together under unified Federal management. He said, "There are many things that seem to divide us as a nation: socio-economic status, political leanings, religion, ethnicity, or income, but the idea behind the National Park Service can unite Americans in a sense of wonder and pride in our country." "One of our most important responsibilities is to use the power and place of the National Park Service to ensure that everyone knows what it means to be an American. To accomplish this, we must invite our 307 million fellow citizens to get to know these places that they own, and discover the services the National Park Service performs in communities. That will help them experience their America and join us in stewardship."

When the word "parks" is used in "A Call to Action" it means all of the areas administered or managed by NPS, including the NPS-administered components of the National Trails System.

All told, the NPS-administered components of the National Trails System may be able to contribute to and participate in 22 of the 36 actions outlined in this announcement.

The full document, "A Call to Action: Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement" is available at: **www.nps.gov/calltoaction.**

Some of the actions in "A Call to Action" that connect people to America's special places and may involve the national trails include:

- ***Step by Step: creating a pathway to youth employment in the agency to connect new generations to conservation.***
- ***Eat well and Prosper: contribute to better health and healing with connections between people, parks and the medical community.***
- ***Go Digital: reach new audiences and engage in conversations with all Americans.***
- ***Ticket to Ride: provide transportation support for 100,000 students to visit national parks each year.***
- ***Scholarly Pursuits: promote science education through the Science Scholars program.***
- ***Next Generation Stewards: create a new generation of citizen scientists and future stewards with fun and educational biodiversity discovery activities in at least 100 parks.***
- ***What's Old is New: show, with modern historic preservation techniques and technologies, how historic structures can be sustainable and part of the economic vitality of rural and urban communities.***
- ***Posterity Partners: fund a $1 billion second century endowment with the National Park Foundation and other National Park Service partners.***

National Landscape Conservation System Releases 15-Year Management Strategy

WASHINGTON – October 4, 2011 - The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a 15-year strategy to guide National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) land management efforts in coming years.

"By continuing to collaborate and successfully develop new partnerships, the BLM can ensure that future generations of Americans have the chance to use and experience these incredible lands just as we do today," said BLM Director Bob Abbey.

The NLCS, which includes some of the most spectacular and special lands in America, is part of the more than 245 million acres administered by the BLM. Managed for multiple uses, America's resource-rich public lands provide the nation with vital commodities and host remarkable landscapes, ecosystems, and natural and cultural resources.

The new NLCS strategy supports the BLM's multiple-use mission by ensuring that NLCS management efforts will focus on conservation, while still allowing for other compatible uses, consistent with the designating legislation or presidential proclamation. In addition to conservation, the strategy emphasizes continued collaboration, public involvement, and youth engagement.

Created in June 2000 to conserve, protect, and restore the BLM's nationally significant resources for future generations, the NLCS now has nearly 900 units encompassing 27 million areas of conservation lands, trails, and waterways — each designated by congressional act or presidential proclamation.

The BLM recognizes that the special lands comprising the NLCS must be managed in the context of the surrounding landscape. To this end, the NLCS strategy is integrated and interdisciplinary. It incorporates ideas offered by the public and BLM employees, as well as state and local governments, partner groups, and other stakeholders.

The BLM plays an important role in protecting the special places where Americans hike and explore, hunt and fish, or simply get away from it all.

"We recognize that the best ideas for conservation come from folks on the ground, and the NLCS strategy provides Americans with enhanced opportunities to share in the stewardship of the lands they treasure," Abbey said.

Outdoor recreational opportunities are vital to the quality of life enjoyed by Americans, as well as international visitors. In 2010, BLM lands had 58 million visits and BLM management of public resources contributed more than $100 billion to the national economy and supported more than 500,000 American jobs.

To read the NLCS 15-Year Strategy visit **http://on.doi.gov/pttikY.**

Excerpted from the OCtober 4th, 2011 BLM press release.

Transportation Authorization Extended to March 31, 2012

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), which authorized Federal surface transportation programs, expired on September 30, 2009. Extension #8 extended SAFETEA-LU through March 31, 2012, keeping the current program structure intact. See **www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-112publ30/pdf/PLAW-112publ30.pdf.**

The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) released a plan for surface transportation authorization with its Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Budget. See **www.dot.gov/about.html#perfbudgplan**. Relevant documents include:

* U.S. Department of Transportation Budget Invests $129 Billion in Restoring America's Economic Competitiveness
* DOT FY 2012 Budget Highlights
* DOT FY 2012 Budget Justifications
* Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

A proposed Livability Program would combine several current DOT programs, including the Transportation Enhancement Activities and Recreational Trails Program. In the Federal Highway Administration section, see pages III-51 through III-57 (pages 73 – 79 of the PDF).

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee released a plan for surface transportation authorization on July 7, 2011, see **http://transportation.house.gov/news/PRArticle.aspx?NewsID=1337**, which would reduce spending to the amount of revenue received through the Federal Highway Trust fund. Discussions in September and October 2011 indicate that there may be flexibility to keep spending similar to current levels if a revenue source can be found, perhaps through oil and gas leases.

The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee released a transportation proposal on November 10, 2011. See **http://epw.senate.gov**.

Several advocacy organizations have posted concerns about how proposals would treat TE and the RTP, including America Bikes, American Trails, League of American Bicyclists, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, and National Wildlife Federation.

Submitted by Christopher Douwes, FHWA.

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 Winter 2011 - Spring 2012

November 2011

November 7-9	World Trails Conference	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Jeju, South Korea	http://www.worldtrail.org/conference/conference.php
November 14-15	Wildlife Habitat Council Symposium: People, Partnerships, & Pathways	Wildlife Habitat Council	Baltimore, MD	http://www.wildlifehc.org/whcevents/annual-symposium/

February 2012

February 4	"Celebrating the Arizona Trail - A Dream Come True" Trail Completion Celebration	Arizona Trail Association	Phoenix, AR	www.aztrail.org
February 11-16	**Trails Advocacy Week *Hike the Hill* 2012**	American Hiking Society, PNTS	Washington, DC	www.americanhiking.org

March 2012

March 30-April 1	Florida Trail Annual Conference	Florida Trail Assocation	Jupiter, FL	www.floridatrail.org

May 2012

May 22-25	**National Historic Trails Workshop**	PNTS	Socorro, NM	www.pnts.org