

Winter 2010-2011

Pathways *Across America*



**Trails
Partner
Highlights
of 2010**

Progress towards Goals of the
Decade for the National Trails



*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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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

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What is the Partnership for the National Trails System?

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) connects member nonprofit trail organizations and federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails within the National Trails System. The PNTS advocates on behalf of the National Trails System as a whole for land preservation and stewardship resources. Other major roles of the PNTS include the collection and dissemination of National Trails News and the development of outreach initiatives and youth programming. The PNTS actively seeks new partnerships and relationships both within and outside the trails community to foster a strong National Trail System well-connected to communities, businesses, and civic groups.



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 interpretation 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 views, 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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About the Pathways Winter 2010-2011 Cover

Photos from upper left to bottom right: windswept snow on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (PNTS photo); a stream in Sequoia National Park along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail by Hans Berg (photo courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association); hiking on the New England National Scenic Trail (photo courtesy of the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association); SKY Job Corps Crew (photo courtesy of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association); Center Bluff, Hawk Hill, and Lodi Marsh State Wildlife Area as seen from the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (PNTS photo); and children along the North Country National Scenic Trail by Matt Davis (photo courtesy of the North Country Trail Association).

Inside Cover (top photos from left to right):

Teachers from the iTREC Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom program (USFS photo); posing with a new interpretive sign on the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (photo courtesy of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation); and Lolo Creek on the Nez Perce National Historic Trail by Roger Peterson (photo courtesy of the US Forest Service).



13th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference

May 14-18, 2011 ~ Abingdon, Virginia

Healthy Trails → Healthy Communities

Uniting trail communities through fun, fitness, education, conservation, and tourism!



Conference Features

- Topic Sessions, Panels
- Open Discussion Sections
- Featured Speakers
- Field trips to:
 - Appalachian NST
 - Overmountain Victory NHT
 - Virginia Creeper NRT
- Overmountain Victory Trail Association Outreach Reenactment Showcase and educational day at the the Muster Grounds
- Performance at Historic Barter Theater
- Local Heritage Folk Music

The 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails will focus on **national trails as recognizable and precious assets benefitting communities.**

More than a mission to build trail tread or preserve historic sites, the national trails offer a wealth of valuable educational, recreational, and outdoor experiences that generate social, civic, and economic capital for communities. Understanding, cultivating, and demonstrating these multi-dimensional values is critical for nurturing the partnerships necessary to develop and sustain the National Trails System.

The 13th NSHT conference will “muster” national trail leaders and experts in community development, health, tourism, and educational fields to explore the ways in which the National Trails community can incorporate and benefit from the needs and interests of surrounding communities to create sustainable legacies. Participants will learn from the inspiring educational and community-building endeavors of our host, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

Why Abingdon?

Abingdon, Virginia captures both the exquisite natural beauty championed by the National Scenic Trails and the living history and heritage embodied by the National Historic Trails. A historic town and model trail community, Abingdon is nestled in the grandeur of the Appalachian Mountains.

History seems to ring from the hills as the story of the Overmountain Men, heroes of the Revolutionary War, is commemorated along the Overmountain Victory NHT and throughout the town. The Virginia Creeper Trail, a national recreation trail, also runs through town, allowing hikers and cyclists to appreciate the lovely natural setting of the town. The Appalachian National Scenic Trail offers breathtaking vistas nearby and hiking experiences for a lifetime.



NEW at the 13th NSHT Conference:

- Outreach participation at **Damascus Trail Days** (see below)
- **À la carte**, improved online registration and family options
- **National Trails Basics track** with short, overview sessions introducing a wide range of National Trails System information including the locations and stories of the Trails, the roles of agencies and partners, history of the NTS, and NTS careers

SPECIAL OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY - SATURDAY, MAY 14: Immediately preceding the conference is **Damascus Trail Days**, a major hiking festival in nearby Damascus, Virginia. For the first time ever, the National Trails System will be represented with a tent and spaces for individual trails. The festival also features interactive sessions and a parade, giving your trail extra creative license to engage trails enthusiasts and capture the enthusiasm and support of long-distance hikers. Represent your trail during this event!

Activities Along the Trails Advance the National Trails Decade Goals

A Greeting from Gary Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System

We are now two years into the “Decade for the National Trails” and we are using this year-end year-beginning issue of Pathways to report on some of the exciting activities underway or completed in 2010 throughout the National Trails System that implement one or more of the three goals for the “Decade.” We have grouped the vignettes by goal, although many of them help fulfill more than one goal. If our placement seems arbitrary, enjoy the delight of what is happening along the trails despite our reporting bent.

Most of this Pathways is devoted to reporting on activities of individual scenic and historic trail organizations and the principal federal agencies administering and managing the trails. Our report of the activities of 2010 would not be complete if we did not also sketch what the Partnership for the National Trails System as a whole has done to implement the three “Decade” goals. Perhaps our most extensive effort was to recruit and encourage leaders from various scenic and historic trail organizations to participate in one or more of the three dozen public Listening Sessions held around the country to gain ideas for President Obama’s “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative. We supplied fact sheets and “talking points” about the values of the National Trails System to our citizen advocates and our staff attended two of the Listening Sessions here in the Great Lakes states that focused on youth and health in the outdoors. This whole series of public meetings provided one busy summer of Outreach (Decade Goal One).

The Partnership’s efforts toward achieving Decade Goal Two: Resource Protection & Trail Completion have involved an ongoing dialogue with leaders of the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service about defining management corridors for the scenic and historic trails across public lands. We have been inspired by the work of the Forest Service administration of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Continental Divide Trail Alliance to incorporate a management corridor for the trail in the revised Comprehensive Management Plan. The BLM’s designation of a protective management zone along the historic trails through Wyoming provides another example to validate that the important physical and visual resources of our trails can and should be protected beyond their tread and ruts.

The Partnership and several of our member organizations have also been deeply involved in a coalition effort to convince Congress to fully fund the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at the authorized level of \$900 million each year. The House of Representatives passed the needed bill last July, but the Senate failed to take action on it. LWCF funding is essential to close gaps in the scenic trails and protect threatened high potential sites and segments along the historic trails.

Decade Goal Three is about Increasing Capacity of the trail organizations and the agencies to adequately develop and sustain the scenic and historic trails. Toward that end Partnership staff has joined with our lead federal agency partners in designing a four element initiative to increase skill training opportunities throughout the National Trails System. A major component of that initiative will be a series of organization building skill training workshops and mentoring opportunities for scenic and historic trail organizations beginning this year.

There is much yet to be done to fully implement these initiatives, and there are several other Actions that we have not yet begun to keep us all busy in 2011. The leaders of the Partnership are committed to carrying out the several focused Actions to help achieve the three Goals of the “Decade for National Trails.” There is plenty of good work for all of us to do. Won’t you join in?

A healthy and happy winter!



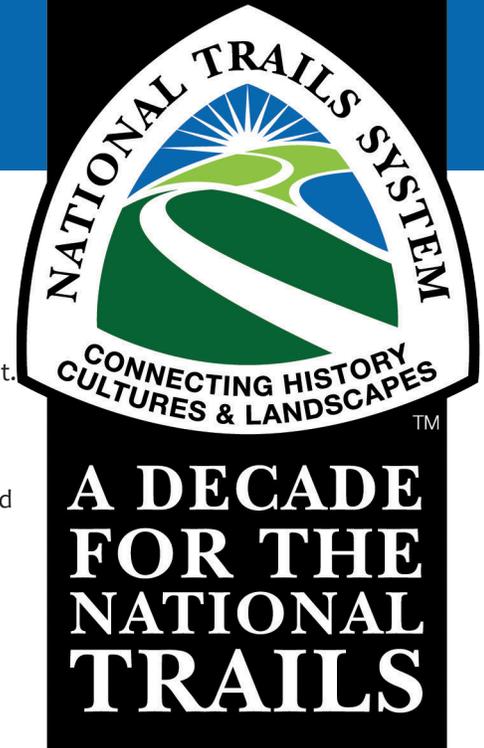
Gary Werner

Executive Director



Background on the Decade Goals for the National Trails System

2008 ~ 2018



During the fall of 2007, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) launched an initiative to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Trails Act. Under the chairmanship of Jere Krakow, the Decade for the National Trails Committee was formed. With representatives from member organizations of the PNTS, and federal agencies directly involved in administration and management of the National Trails System, the Decade Committee undertook a key goal of developing public awareness of the parent act. Passed by Congress in 1968, the National Trails Act established a system of trails across the United States, the criteria for evaluating individual trails through a Suitability and Feasibility Study authorized by Congress, and framework for adding trails to a national system. In that year, Congress authorized the first two national trails, the Appalachian and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails.

Although several historic trails were considered, the study reports determined that none met the criteria of the parent act. Ultimately, advocates for historic trails persuaded congress to amend the act in 1978, to include a category of historic trails. Through December of 2010, 30 national trails have been included in the system that includes congressionally authorized National Scenic and National Historic Trails, and National Recreation Trails established by executive order.

In the months following the establishment of the Decade Committee, numerous conference calls occurred to undertake promotion and celebration of the anniversary in 2008. Elements of promotion and of raising awareness included developing a logo for the 40th anniversary (note above), doing press releases, arranging for a guest editorial by former Interior Secretary Udall that several newspapers published, encouraging member organizations of the PNTS to note the anniversary in newsletters, correspondence, and in graphics at meetings of the organization, at national recreation related conferences and conventions, and banners using the logo widely distributed and used at public and staff meetings, a portable tabletop exhibit with a header logo and map of the national trails system, and a floor exhibit with photo collage of activities and users of national trails.

One key central event in conjunction with Trails Advocacy Week was a banquet hosted by the National Resources Council of America and the PNTS, in Washington, D.C. It celebrated the anniversary, and gave special recognition of the key role of Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, and Secretary Udall in drafting and advocating for the National Trails System Act in 1968. The PNTS developed a multi-media presentation that highlighted the trails system.

During the fall of 2008, the Conservation Fund presented a Kodak Greenways award to the PNTS as the key advocate organization of the trails system. Other national recognition and awards given to the PNTS and the National Trails System in 2008 include the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and recognition at the Girl Scouts National Conference, and the National Trails Symposium, hosted by American Trails.

As 2008 closed, the Decade Committee changed its purpose to developing goals for the national trails leading up to the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018. In 2008 the PNTS began formulating goals, objectives, and actions for the “Decade for the National Trails” to focus the work of trail associations, and government at all levels to hasten development of the National Trails System. Through a long process of comment and review, involving leaders of the member organizations and federal agency trail managers, these goals were chosen:

Goal 1: Increase public awareness of the National Trails System and its component trails so that it becomes well know to every citizen and community in the United States.

Goal 2: Complete and enhance the designated National Trails for public appreciation and enjoyment.

Goal 3: Build the capacity of the organizations and Federal agencies involved to better administer, manage, and sustain National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails.

Under each Goal are objectives and actions that will guide the work of the agencies, the trail organizations, and the PNTS for the National Trails System through the next decade. Critical to all of the efforts will be increasing public awareness of the System. The PNTS will be active in carrying out the “Decade for the National Trails.” To all who served on the Decade Committee, a special thanks!

By Jere Krakow

Decade Goal 1 - Outreach and Public Awareness

In the challenge of protecting land, constructing trail on the ground, mapping the trail, and all the logistical challenges of managing trails, outreach may at first seem like a luxury. Yet there is a reason “Outreach” is listed as the first “Goal” for the Decade for the National Trails and that is because community engagement, education, and public awareness are truly prerequisites for both the protection and the capacity building of the National Trails System.

The demand on our public lands and natural resources will only increase, and trails can play a major part in engaging individuals and communities with public treasures. Relationships to land offer perhaps the greatest potential in preserving resources in light of demand from other interests, because people protect land that carries personal memories, tells stories relevant to them, and facilitates quality time with family and friends. Communities protect lands that offer recreational and fitness value, bring in tourism dollars, and offer practical solutions to transportation and green space needs.

Similarly, the capacity of organizations to build, maintain, and serve as stewards for the trails and their corridors is directly linked to effective outreach. Volunteers and donors assist organizations that have reached out to them and showed them the location and value of the trails. Outreach thus represents an investment in the future capacity of organizations. Perhaps that investment will pay out in a few days, when someone who partakes in an educational event comes back to help with trail-building, or perhaps, in the case of young children, the investment leads to the long term sustainability and public awareness of the trail. Either way, outreach can be viewed not as taxing the resources of an organization, but as a direct effort towards trail stewardship development.

Over the past couple of years, Pathways has examined outreach programs that:

- Empower teachers to spread the stories and lessons of the Trails to students,
- Bring the community together to maintain or build trail,
- Give at-risk students the chance to earn academic credit by learning trail building skills,
- Use interactive digital technologies to let the public monitor and learn about the history and environmental condition of waterways and trails
- Involve community groups in site monitoring
- Engage youth through theater to convey historical events,
- Many, many more!

These kinds of programs support our efforts to be good stewards of the trails and build the future of our National Trails System. The PNTS encourages our Partners to see Outreach as something they can incorporate into their other efforts, be it trail interpretation, tread building and maintenance, or land acquisition. Engaged communities lead to supportive communities. New partnerships and multi-faceted initiatives are a win-win, so keep reaching out! Thanks for all your great work!

Decade Goal 2 – Resource Protection and Trail Completion

In 2008, as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Congress’ passage of the National Trails System Act, our joy was tempered by the knowledge of how unfinished the Trails System is. Although Congress has authorized 11 national scenic and 19 national historic trails in 41 years – only one – the Appalachian National Scenic Trail – is fully open for the use for which it is intended – an off-road footpath for hikers. The other national scenic trail authorized by Congress in 1968 – the Pacific Crest Trail – is also open for public use from end-to-end, but about 300 miles of the trail are still on roads or easements too narrow to properly protect the trail. The 11 national scenic trails are authorized to be over 18,000 miles long, but only about 12,400 miles are now open for public use. To be able to build and open most of those remaining 5,600 miles will require securing rights-of-way – trail corridors – across private land.

The 19 national historic trails are similarly incomplete. For 16 of those trails nearly 2,400 “high potential sites or segments” – the best pieces of these trails still intact – have been documented. Barely 25% of these sites are properly protected to preserve their resources and the setting of the landscapes that can evoke clear images of the historic past for trail visitors.

Decade Goal 2 was devised to focus attention on these critical deficiencies and to accelerate efforts to “complete” the scenic and historic trails by the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System in 2018. Several Objectives and a number of specific Actions lay out a sequence of concerted programs and activities to:

- Conduct natural, cultural, and historic resource inventories of each of the trails;
- Develop land management plans that protect those resources and their landscape settings on all sections of the trails on public lands;
- Develop land protection plans to guide efforts to secure permanent corridors for each of the trails across private land and to secure the funding and staffing to systematically acquire land from willing sellers;
- Develop interpretive plans for the scenic trails as well as the historic trails to guide installation of facilities, systems, and activities to tell the stories of the trails and the resources they feature and protect;
- Build and maintain the tread, structures, and interpretive facilities and manage the adjacent lands to enable the public to fully appreciate and use all national scenic and historic trails.

Although it is unrealistic to expect to complete all of these activities for all of the trails by 2018, some good progress has begun. For instance, the Bureau of Land Management is using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to conduct resource inventories along several of the national historic trails. The Forest Service has begun planning to establish a special management corridor along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Discussions are underway with the leaders of the BLM about applying this management approach to the scenic and historic trails within the National Landscape Conservation System. Land acquisition programs begun in the last decade for the Florida, Ice Age, and Pacific Crest National Scenic Trails continue, but not at the scale necessary. As the brief reports included here from some of the scenic and historic trails show, other work to construct new trail and tell the stories of the trails is underway.

Decade for the National Trails...

A Sampling of Outreach Successes

IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance's big initiative for 2010 was the place-based service-learning teacher training project entitled Iditarod Trail in Every Classroom, (iTREC!) based on the the Appalachian Trail's Trail to Every Classroom (TREC). In 2010, 15 teachers from communities along the Iditarod Trail participated.

The INHT exhibit at the 2010 Alaska State Fair was a safety shelter cabin built by students at Alaska Job Corps. The exhibit highlighted the role of shelter cabins during the gold rush era and their importance today in providing safer travel between communities. The shelter cabin exhibit won an Alaska State Fair first place ribbon for best individual exhibit.



LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The LCTHF created an exhibit for the Boy Scouts of America 100 Anniversary Jamboree that was viewed by over 10,000 Scouts and adult leaders. Hand-out material explained the Lewis & Clark Exploration and their involvement with the Tribal People. A BSA patch program provided by ten LCTHF Chapters was a great success. Volunteers helped and the activity was partially funded by BLM, LCTHF Chapters, and Foundation Members.



ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

E Mau Na Ala Hele and the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, two of the nonprofit partners with the National Park Service, also joined with the NPS to sponsor a National Trails Day event along the Trail in June.



On October 16, Lā Ho'āla Ala Hele ("Trail Revitalization Day") was commemorated by a group of about 20 volunteers who cleaned trash out of a section of the alanui aupuni (government road) where it is located next to the Queens' Marketplace in Waikoloa Beach Resort.

Cigarette butts, broken glass, wind-blown fast-food wrappers and cups, and lots of plastic are no longer snagged in the lava next to the trail, thanks to the volunteers.



E MAU
NA ALA HELE

OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

In January 2010, OCTA and Boston Productions completed all editing for its engaging docudrama, In Pursuit of a Dream. The movie has now won five major awards, including: the Oregon Heritage Excellence Award; Best Experimental Documentary - Oregon Film Awards; Spur Award for Best Documentary; Silver Remi - WorldFest; Finalist - International Family Film Festival. It was also a selection of the Boston International Film Festival, Cheyenne International Film Festival, and the KIDS! First Film Festival. OCTA signed with McLean Media of Seattle, Washington to handle all domestic and international distribution.



It is expected that the movie will be commercially available in the very near future.

EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Bureau of Land Management has created a new El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail website that features a brief history, describes the administrative and collaborative partnerships, and provides maps and visitation/use information. The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association is prominently featured as a partner and point of contact. Please visit www.blm.gov/nm/ElCaminoReal and www.caminorealcarta.org for information.



NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION

In June, the NPNHT staff released a new map of the NPNHT. The map sells at USFS and NPS offices and online through the National Forest Store and the USGS Store. Ray Backstrom, Supervisory Cartographer, highlighted the map's emphasis on historic accuracy, stating, "We wanted to make sure that this map would not only give visitors to the Trail a view of this region in 1877, but that it could also serve as an educational tool for those studying this significant event in western history."

In August, the NPTF hosted its second Yellowstone Teachers Project. There were 16 teachers this year from California, Idaho, and Montana. The lead instructor was NPTF board member Stan Hoggett. Stan started the session off with an overview of the many routes that the Nez Perce took through Yellowstone Park. Teachers take what they learn during this week-long session around Yellowstone National Park back to their classrooms to provide instruction to their students on the story of the NPNHT.



Goal #1 OUTREACH

~ NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

Increase public awareness of the National Trails System and its component trails so that it becomes well known to every citizen and community in the United States.

2008 ~ 2018



A DECADE FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In a Partnership with Hyundai, the National Park Service Interpretive Center hosted a Drive the Trail event with over 700 vehicles on the trail. The driving event brought visitors to various sites along the trail and into the Interpretive Center.



Trail enthusiasts and NPS Staff members also conducted a two day Storytelling Festival (one day for children and one day for adults) in February. (Photo below right)

Trail enthusiasts also participated in the annual Selma to Montgomery Jubilee an annual event partnership between many private groups and the city of Selma. The event draws crowds of up to 30,000 people, to commemorating the march (photo below).

In addition, staff members of the National Park Service Interpretive Center presented a special program for 4th-12th grade students, called "My Life as X" about the life of Malcolm X.



OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

2010 marked the 230th Anniversary of the Battle of Kings Mountain Campaign, commemorated by the Overmountain Victory NHT, and the 5th Anniversary of the Town's "A Call to Arms" Colonial Education Program. Over 1,100 students, teachers and parents attended the 3-day interactive educational program from September 21-23.



The Overmountain Men of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association assisted with the educational event and departed the following day for their annual reenactment march to Kings Mountain, South Carolina.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Friends of Chesapeake Gateways launched the Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail, a network of over 35 historic places with a War of 1812 connection. The geotrail received enthusiastic press and glowing feedback from users. There have been over 5,000 visits, and coins were awarded for visits to 20 or more sites.

On National Trails Day, the Trail, City of Alexandria, local bicycle groups, and Oxon Hill and Fort Washington National Parks hosted 100 bicyclists on a family-friendly history tour, using the new Woodrow Wilson Bridge multi-use trail to connect the Potomac River's Virginia and Maryland shores.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network awarded over \$200,000 in grants to Chesapeake Bay Gateways in Havre de Grace, Baltimore's Fells Point, Baltimore National Heritage Area, and the Friends of Fort McHenry, for education, planning, and interpretation projects that will build awareness of the Trail and improve virtual and physical visits by Trail users.



NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION

2010 was the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express, and the National Pony Express Association celebrated with festivities, a demonstration on the mall of the Nation's Capital, and an enhanced annual ride that drew strong enthusiasm of communities along the Trail.



CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT ASSOCIATION

Late in 2010, the Association teamed up with the Texas Education Agency to conduct a statewide video-conference on El Camino Real. Students in the 4th and 7th grades provided ten minute video commentaries on the history of the National Historic Trail, and professors from local universities participated as well. Everyone was thrilled with the outcome and the video-conference is scheduled to be an annual event.



Decade for the National Trails... A Sampling of Outreach Successes

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) launched Flat Stanley on the Continental Divide Trail (CDT) Adventure educational program based on teacher Dale Hubert's Flat Stanley project phenomenon. Students can send the easily-mailed Flat Stanley to other students and classes around the country and around the world. Those hosting Flat Stanley may journal and/or photograph his adventures so the students back home may learn from afar.



Students photograph CDTA's Flat Stanley and Billy the Goat along the CDT to record their adventures and learn about the geography, and history of the CDT and its nearby communities.

In 2010 CDTA continued its Youth on the Divide Program, a two or three day learning experience focused on outdoor education and caring for our public lands. On the first day, youth learn about the natural environment along the CDT and other outdoor-related topics chosen by their group. The second day, youth learn about trail design and volunteer on the Trail, gaining valuable hands-on volunteer experience.

CDTA also continued to offer its Family Volunteer Adventures Program, which includes trail work days aimed specifically at families with children. Families get to have a shared experience in nature and camp, hike, and work together.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL
ALLIANCE



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Volunteers from the Florida Trail Association led over 450 trail related public events throughout the state. Young adults volunteered over 10,000 hours to the Florida Trail through partnerships with the Student Conservation Association and an Alternative Spring Break program. The alternative Spring Break program brought volunteers from two universities to help build trail on the Florida Trail.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY



In 2010, nine communities were accepted into the Appalachian Trail Community program during its first year, and momentum is growing rapidly. The idea is to more formally engage Trailside communities in promoting and protecting the Trail.

Fifty new teachers were trained during 2010 in the Trail To Every Classroom program, which focuses on service learning for K-12 teachers to expand use of the A.T. for place-based education, taking the total training above 200 in all 14 Trail states. Staff from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail also provided significant technical support to the Iditarod National Historic Trail to initiate its own iTREC program based the on ATC's Trail To Every Classroom program.



ATC and the National Park Service's A.T. Park Office hosted an A.T. Youth Summit in N.H. attended by two dozen club leaders and ATC and agency staff members and 30 urban teen-agers. The year 2011 will be spent developing ways to engage youth more effectively as A.T. volunteers.

The route of the A.T. and location of A.T. shelters were made available on ATC's Web site as KML files for use on GoogleEarth.

NATCHEZ TRACE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL



An educational project funded by a "Connect Trails to Parks" grant enabled 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 the Natchez Trace NST. 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.

Groups of teachers then hit the Trail to do science (see photo above). They studied diversity and learned how to closely observe subtleties in the natural world.



Goal #1 OUTREACH ~ NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

Increase public awareness of the National Trails System and its component trails so that it becomes well known to every citizen and community in the United States.



A DECADE FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS

ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Arizona Trail Association hosted the Superior, Arizona school kids K-6 on April 22nd. Over 261 kids and teachers plus many parents attended and were treated to interactive outdoor exhibits and guided hikes from the Picket Post Trailhead.



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and the Workforce Development office of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs collaborated on a grant that was fully funded by the Oregon Youth Employment Initiative. The grant funded an eight week, ten person Native American trail crew tasked to reconstruct and restore proper drainage on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) where it passes through the Warm Springs reservation. The eight crew members and two crew leaders were trained in first aid, food handling, Leave No Trace wilderness ethics, and trail skills. By the end of the eight weeks, work accomplished included careful maintenance and tread reconstruction on five miles of the PCT through the reservation. For many crew members, it was their first job, and they learned important life and job skills.



NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

As a new National Scenic Trail, New England National Scenic Trail enthusiasts have been working hard to gain public awareness and enthusiasm for the Trail. A new trail logo designed for the trail and an online interactive map was also developed. Staff and volunteers of the NPS, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, and the Appalachian Mountain Club have been collaborating for the initial installation of trailhead signs and informational kiosks, the preparation of outreach media for Trail users and communities, and in 2010, 12 National Trails Day events were held on the NET to build public interest in the NET.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association SKY Programs were very successful in 2010, with 82 students providing over 19,000 hours of labor on the Pacific Northwest Trail and its feeder trails.

The PNTA also engaged the efforts of international exchange students from the Dominican Republic in working on trail maintenance projects.



Thanks to funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), four crews from the Northwest Service Academy's (NWSA) AmeriCorps program were dedicated to performing maintenance on the PCT in 2010. The PCTA provided training to all 14 of the NWSA crew leaders. During the training, crew leaders participated in work projects on the San Bernardino National Forest and Cleveland National Forest. The training culminated in a project on the Angeles National Forest, where NWSA leaders ran projects for 22 students from the Environmental Charter High School of Lawndale, California and volunteers doing an Eagle Scout project.



Decade for the National Trails...

A Sampling of PRESERVATION Successes

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The combined efforts of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association and the Town of Abingdon, Virginia created the first interpretive center for the Overmountain Victory Trail at the Abingdon Muster Grounds, the northern trailhead of the Overmountain Victory NHT. The new W. Blair Keller, Jr. Interpretive Center was named for the man who has personally kept the story alive since 1978, walking or riding by horseback the entire 330 miles of the Trail annually for 32 years. The interpretive center, beautifully remodeled from an existing structure on the muster grounds, features historical displays on the Revolutionary War, a store, and a multi-purpose loft for administrative or educational needs.



Outside the new interpretive center.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In July, the National Park Service initiated an 18-month comprehensive management planning process, which will result in one plan for both the Star-Spangled Banner NHT and Maryland Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway, enabling the state to seek a National Scenic Byway designation. Maryland received \$1.8 million in 2010 for education and interpretive media projects that will benefit the Trail and the Byway. Seven public and partner meetings were co-hosted with Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia partners in early November.

The Trail completed an interpretation and visitor experience plan to be distributed in early 2011 to state and local agencies and trail partners and implemented through technical assistance, workshops, and online tools. Agency partners in Maryland created a water trails plan for improving access to and interpretation of the Trail, and to identify short-term infrastructure and interpretation investments for the Maryland War of 1812 Commission and partners to implement through 2015.



TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION

The Trail of Tears Association (TOTA) had many achievements along the trail, including 31 directional signs along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in five states (Alabama, Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, and Missouri). A wayside exhibit project was started for dispersal sites in Oklahoma with eight total waysides to be finished in 2011. These are the first exhibits that tell the story of the Cherokee arrival and dispersal in Indian Territory. Nine historic sites were certified by National Park Service in 2010 in four states (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, and Illinois), bringing the total number of certified sites to 55.



There were several Challenge Cost Share Projects completed in 2010, including two research trips to the National Archives by the Oklahoma chapter of TOTA in 2009 & 2010, research & documentation of the Ridge property by Jeff Bishop of the Georgia chapter and Chieftains Museum, a remote sensing investigation at Campground Church Cemetery by Harvey Henson of the Illinois chapter and Southern Illinois University. A new project was initiated by the Alabama TOTA Chapter, "The Transportation Experience of the Cherokee Removal" with the Southeastern Anthropological Institute.

SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Through a cooperative agreement with the NPS, Santa Fe Trail Association is implementing a signage plan for the Trail and completed the placement of six more informational kiosks strategically placed along the Trail.



LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

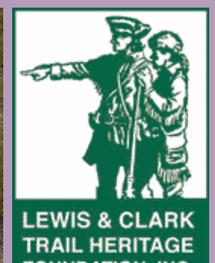
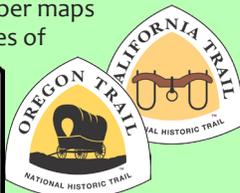
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) member Lorna Hainesworth discovered the Lewis-Linnard Letter while doing research in Maryland, another of the eastern states traversed by Lewis & Clark during the preparation and reporting phase of their expedition. This previously unknown letter has now been documented and reported to hundreds of Foundation members and Lewis & Clark scholars through out the Nation.



The Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail Eastern Legacy Study mandated by Congress has moved forward this past year. This is the result of a successful lobby effort by the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation and many partners. While Congress has the final decision, there is great confidence that this effort of the past 10 years will result in a Sea to Shining Sea Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail.

OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

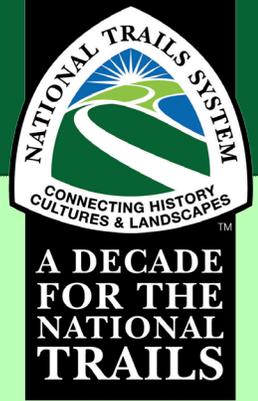
The passage of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 authorized the National Park Service to begin feasibility studies for 64 additional routes of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails. To that end, OCTA has engaged Jere Krakow as coordinator for mapping and documentation of use of the routes. Many OCTA members have volunteered to assist and provide key information. The National Park Service staff determined that copies of paper maps at 1:100,000 scale should be used to draw in lines of the routes. The lines will be scanned and digitized for the database.



Goal #2 PRESERVATION

~ NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

Complete and enhance the designated National Trails for public appreciation and enjoyment.



NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION

During this year's anniversary re-ride, in Sydney, NE, an incredible monument was unveiled and dedicated in a horseshoe-shaped field outside a Cabela's, with granite markers and flags representing each Trail state. At the head or the display are three large granite interpretive markers, and the U.S. flag on a 60 foot flag pole.



ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

One highlight of 2010 along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail was the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the National Park Service, the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the County of Hawaii to work together to guide the management of the Trail. E Mau Na Ala Hele efforts working with NPS to officially open a section of the Ala Kahakai as a National Historic Trail continue.



CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Ongoing field inventories of trail settings and visual resources along critical segments of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro in New Mexico continue as part of the Bureau of Land Management's Historic Trails Inventory project. The nationwide inventory is funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). CARTA's federal BLM partner, Sarah Schlanger, serves as the national lead for this exciting and proactive endeavor. A contractor for the New Mexico effort completed a review of key observation points along El Camino Real and coordinated with a research team to complete a Multiple Properties Nomination Form and individual National Register of Historic Places nominations for 11 segments of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT. The ARRA undertaking will also include cultural resource inventories, trail condition assessments, and inventories for nearly 20 miles of the Old Spanish Trail located on public lands in New Mexico.



IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

Work continues on the adjudication of rights-of-way on state and other land for the Iditarod National Historic Trail. At the end of 2010, 1,714 miles of the 2,104 miles of the Iditarod NHT had easements or rights of way, or were located on state navigable water. Of the remaining 390 miles without easements, there are over 10 landowners. The State of Alaska is taking the lead on working with the landowners to locate the trail and work on securing easements. The state moved quickly this winter to save the historic Skwentna Roadhouse from eroding into the river during spring breakup by moving the building away from the shoreline to higher ground. Critical to the success of the project was the participation of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff with historic cabin restoration expertise.

Four safety shelter cabins were built along remote stretches of the Iditarod NHT, three permitted on state land and one on BLM land. Cooperating on the project are the BLM, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, cities of Ruby and Takotna, the Youth Restoration Corps, and Alaska Job Corps. The project hired youth from nearby rural communities and Alaska Job Corps.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance provided a grant to the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), which sponsors the annual Iditarod Dog Sled Race, for trail maintenance and repair on a remote section of the trail that was devastated by wildfire.



Above: A crowd gathers at the Yost Escarpment in the Jornada de Muerto to view the new interpretive exhibit.

October marked the unveiling of federal wayside exhibits in the Jornada del Muerto. Working in partnership with the National Park Service, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Sierra County, Doña Ana County, and with support from CARTA and Human Systems Research, Inc., the Bureau of Land Management installed a signed, two-mile loop trail at Point of Rocks, and a narrow spur trail to a pristine El Camino Real segment that also includes several display panels.



Decade for the National Trails...

A Sampling of PRESERVATION Successes

NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

It has been a banner inaugural year on the New England Trail (NET). The primary nonprofit partners (Connecticut Forest & Park Association and the Appalachian Mountain Club) have committed staff to the protection and improvement of the NET and the National Park Service has assigned Charlie Tracy as the trail's project manager. The three entities are working in close concert to advance the protection and promotion of the NET.

With the fantastic support of volunteers, trail towns, and partner organizations, several important achievements were accomplished this year. Major preservation and trail building highlights on the NET this year included the construction of 200 feet of boardwalk in Guilford, CT, preservation of half a mile of trail in Southwick, MA, and the reopening of a 1.5 mile NET connector trail at Ragged Mountain Preserve in Berlin, CT. There was also one mile of trail repair on Mt. Tom in western MA, a 10-mile extension of the NET in Guilford, CT; and the development of three land protection priorities along the trail.



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Florida Trail Association (FTA) built two miles of new trail in the St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge with the help of college students on their Alternative Spring Break Program. The FTA was also responsible for the construction of 1.5 miles of new trail in Keystone Airpark and the US Forest Service's Keystone Tract, 400 feet of puncheon boardwalk in the USFS's Mills Creek Tract, and 100 feet of boardwalk and new trail to protect the rare savanna plant *scutellaria floridana* in the Apalachicola National Forest. Southwest Airlines employees pitched in to construct three small boardwalks on a new section of trail in Pine Log State Forest.

In 2010, nearly 70 miles of existing trail were inventoried. The US Forest Service completed posting the boundaries of its FNST lands and has initiated a longleaf pine and wiregrass restoration of a 320 acre tract near Econfina Creek in the Panhandle.



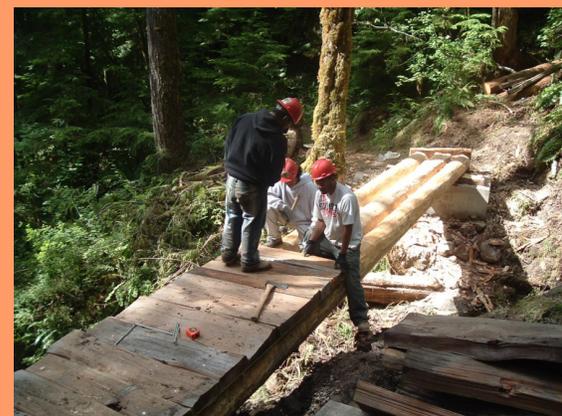
POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2010, the PHTA worked with other partner organizations and government agencies to bridge a gap in the PHNST by constructing a 90-foot bridge at Clarks Run where it empties into the Potomac at Riverbend Park, Fairfax County, VA (photo at right). Collaboration also resulted in the establishment of a new park, 275 acres of undeveloped land on the Potomac, at White's Ford in Loudoun County, VA, where the Confederate Army crossed the river prior to the Battle of Antietam. PHTA members worked on a plan for a PHNST route in northern Prince William County, VA, including scenic routes across Featherstone and Occoquan National Wildlife Refuges and strategized methods for to gain trail easements on private land at critical locations. Working closely with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission and the National Park Service, the PHTA facilitated completion of a key segment of the PHNST along the north shore of Piscataway Creek near Fort Washington Marina. Another major project is the endeavor to create a scenic route for three miles of the PHNST at Fort Belvoir, in Fairfax County, VA.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

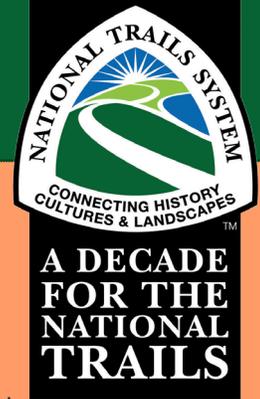
2010 was a successful year on the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, with over 180-miles of trail brushed out, reopened, or repaired during the year through the five regions. In the Olympic Region, work was done on both the Pacific and Hood Canal Ranger Districts, as well as in Jefferson County. Total hours by students and volunteers amounted to over 7,000. In the Cascade West Region, trail work took place in Deception Pass State Park, on Department of Natural Resource lands, Sierra Pacific, and the Mt. Baker/Snoqualmie National Forest. Total hours by students and volunteers amounted to over 14,000; almost all on the Pacific Northwest Trail. In the Pasayten Region, work took place on the Methow Valley, Tonasket Ranger Districts on the Okanogan National Forest, and in Okanogan County. Total hours by students and volunteers amounted to over 4,000. Volunteers accounted for all the work done in the Colville Region, Colville and Idaho Panhandle National Forests, in most part thanks to the Okanogan Valley and Ferry County Chapters of the Backcountry Horseman. Over 1,500 hours were done by these groups on the Pacific Northwest Trail. Volunteers from the Tobacco Valley High Country Horseman and Montana Conservation Corps accounted for over 2,000 hours on the Pacific Northwest Trail in the Rocky Mountain Region, all on the Flathead National Forest.



Goal #2 PRESERVATION

~ NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

Complete and enhance the designated National Trails for public appreciation and enjoyment.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

2010 brought many trail completion and protection developments for the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST). In collaboration with USFS Region 2 Staff, the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) provided data for a map of the official corridor of the CDNST, priority areas to finalize the route, and identification of the Trail Corridor consistent with the 2009 Comprehensive Plan for the Official Route of the CDNST.

In collaboration with USFS Region 2 GIS managers, 1,132 miles of CDNST data were collected by the CDTA in New Mexico, Montana, and Wyoming. The data is for use in a trails inventory database being created by the USFS and CDTA and for public trail map and data books.

CDTA has been working diligently to resolve private land issues along the Trail. Most notably, CDTA staff has been instrumental in developing a partnership with the Prickly Pear Land Trust to aid in the acquisition of critical lands near Cadott Pass in Montana, working with Summit County to secure access across newly acquired mining claims in the Argentine Pass Area, identifying the final route and access in the Mineral Basin area of Colorado, and the ongoing development of the trail route across private lands in the Pie Town, NM area.

In 2010, CDTA hosted or partnered for 54 volunteer projects resulting in the construction of 8.25 miles of new trail and 1,398 feet of rock wall, the reconstruction of 3,431 feet of Trail and a bridge, completion of over 63 miles of deferred Trail maintenance, the installation of installed 47 signs, 3 new kiosks, and 61 drainage structures. CDTA hosted a NCCC crew on the Winfield Project site and 11 NCCC youth specifically provided 176 hours of labor toward our volunteer construction goals in the Winfield project area of Colorado.

CDTA installed and dedicated the new southern terminus monument with a commemorative ceremony at one of the new Trailheads in the Boot Heel of New Mexico, just outside Hachita, New Mexico.



APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail saw significant advances in trail protection in 2010.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), the National Park Service's AT Park Office, and Pennsylvania's Department of Conservation and Natural Resources made great progress toward protection of 840 acres in the White Rocks area of southern Pennsylvania.

Significant progress continued toward completion of the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork tract in northeastern Tennessee, now mostly in Cherokee National Forest ownership.

The ATC purchased the 4,700-acre Success Township tract in October 2010 as part of Phase 1 to protect a 20,000-acre conservation area in New Hampshire. This tract is adjacent to the AT and will become part of the White Mountain National Forest. As with Rocky Fork, The Conservation Fund played a lead role in making this happen.

Pennsylvania Act 24 (the "Pennsylvania AT Act") implementation continued to present a challenging path: helping myriad local-government entities in Pennsylvania provide improved protections for the AT into their planning efforts.

ATC's boundary-monitoring program was fully staffed in 2010 and assisted by three interns; volunteer boundary marking and monitoring was reinvigorated. Approximately 550 acres of (generally) ridgecrest open areas and 660 acres of farmed corridor lands were actively managed by ATC in cooperation with AT club volunteers and NPS and USFS staff in 2010. The National Park Service's AT Park Office received Recovery Act funding to stabilize loose rock in the A.T. corridor above PA 248 in Lehigh Gap.

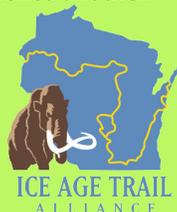
ATC has been working with AT club and agency partners to analyze and mitigate wind-energy projects in Maine, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania and proposed large-scale electric-transmission lines in West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey. ATC volunteers and staff participated in at least four of the Interior Department's America's Great Outdoors listening sessions.

Two of the three sections of the Bear Mountain AT relocation were opened in 2010, renovating parts of the route of the original 1922 segment of the AT. All of the AT shelters in the Smokies have been reconstructed, concluding a 14-year project by the Smoky Mountains Hiking Club, ATC, and NPS.



ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

In 2010 The Ice Age Trail Alliance added or improved 17 miles of Trail (9.5 miles of trail newly acquired) and protected 1,318 acres through partnerships. "Partnerships continue to be one of our greatest assets," says Executive Director Mike Wollmer. "With our partners we secured one key easement and strengthened another."



NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) established new trail protection partnerships with the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy and the National Park Service's Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. New partner and affiliate agreements with the Finger Lakes Trail Conference, Buckeye Trail Association, and Superior Hiking Trail Association were also developed in 2010.



Decade for the National Trails...

A Sampling of CAPACITY BUILDING Successes

CAPACITY BUILDING

by Steve Elkinton, Program Leader, National Park Service, Washington, DC

How can charitable foundations help struggling groups build their capacity and become more self-sufficient? I had the privilege to hear some perspectives on this question on September 30, 2010, when the Institute for Conservation Leadership (ICL) celebrated its 20th anniversary with a program called "Growing Green Impact -- Future Directions in Capacity Building for Strong Leaders, Sound Organizations, and Vibrant Networks." ICL's Executive Director, Dianne Russell, pointed out that "capacity building" is a term of art just in use during the past 20 years. She defined it as "increasing a group's (or network's) ability and resources (people, money, time, and things) to have greater impact."

Staff from five regional foundations -- the Chesapeake Bay Trust (Annapolis, MD), the George Gund Foundation (Cleveland, OH), the William Penn Foundation (Philadelphia, PA), the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation (Flint, MI), and the Grand Victoria Foundation (Chicago, IL) -- each offered their perspectives. Common themes included defining core mission, carefully defining existing strengths, enhancing enduring collaboration, increasing racial and generational diversity, determining when general operating support can be funded, when to use (or not use) outside consultants, and measuring performance.

Each panelist also highlighted changing trends that are occurring in the world of charitable giving. One is the changing technologies of communications and how it is becoming harder to reach certain audiences with old or even new media. Another is that the general public may not understand and identify with terms such as "landscape" or "watershed" that may have several meanings. It is increasingly tough to reach individual large donors with complex ideas. Each of us has to balance how many new partners we can link with effectively. The most effective collaborations are those that build capacity along the way without losing sight of the core mission of the organization.

Following the panel, the audience divided into small groups and discussed both trends and capacity needs. Additional current trends include national and regional demographic shifts, growing distrust of institutions (such as government and corporations), cross-cutting (multi-objective) coalitions and communications, triage of the urgent ("do more with less"), and lack of clarity about certain terms and concepts. What do people need to build capacity? More people, more diversity, better communications, being more strategic, more local allegiance, and lifting up positive stories of success and accomplishment.

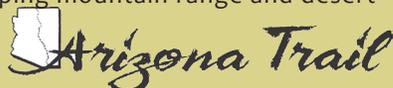
Some guiding principles emerged:

- Build capacity by doing.
- Be aware of and plan for leadership succession. Avoid "leadership by default;" seek "leadership by design."
- Listen deeply to the next generation(s), they are tomorrow's leaders.
- Listen better and learn to think "in other peoples' shoes."

A few other trends were important: Most foundations just give to projects, so nonprofits become very project-driven, perhaps distracting them from their original core mission. Within organizations, collaborative "shared leadership" is replacing one individual's "heroic leadership." In this era of so many urgencies, remember to breathe and have fun. Keep asking "How can I/we do this work better?" In the answers to that question will be the best ways to build your capacity.

ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Through a tremendous effort to engage the full voting capacity of the Arizona Trail Association, Redwood Creek Wines announced that the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) was named the winning environmental organization by Redwood Creek Wines after a summer-long, nationwide vote at RedwoodCreekWine.com. Arizona residents and Arizona Trail friends from across the USA rallied behind the ATA, helping the organization to reach nearly 27,000 votes and winning the grand prize of \$50,000. With the \$50,000 grant money from Redwood Creek Wines in place, the ATA will install signage and construct a new, 11-mile trail in the lush, central Arizona Sonoran desert to replace nine miles that are now on a rocky, eroded road. The new, sustainably constructed trail will follow a ridgeline that offers a sweeping mountain range and desert valley views.



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Florida Trail Association, the USDA Forest Service, and the trail's other partners initiated a collaborative planning and management process so we can more effectively work together to improve the trail users' experience. The Forest Service has increased its capacity to manage the FNST and trail lands through partnerships and two additional staff. The Forest Service and the Florida Trail Association will be working collaboratively to implement a pilot Crew Leader Training Program for FNST volunteers. This program will tie in the various elements of safety and tool training necessary in the field with crew management skills and the general knowledge necessary to work with volunteers on the National Scenic Trail.



Goal #3 CAPACITY

~ NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

Build the capacity of the organizations and Federal agencies involved to better administer, manage, and sustain National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails.

2008 ~ 2018



A DECADE FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

CDTA's 503 volunteer trail maintainers (formerly called Adopters) contributed over 1,360 hours of labor to maintain over 470 miles of Trail. CDTA increased the number of maintainers on the Trail in 2010 by six, including two new trail maintainer groups, the Montana High Divide Trail Group and Colorado Native Plant Society, and are looking toward further development of this program.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL ALLIANCE

NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The New England National Scenic trail, through partnerships with the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Connecticut Forest & Park Association, expanded the organizational capacity of the Trail through the establishment of state Trail Stewardship Councils and the hiring of a trail planner.



ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) had another year full of creating high-quality Trail and protecting the land on which it lies. The IATA had a successful trail building season, with six statewide trail building events and an average attendance of 150 volunteers. The IATA logged 22,677 of its yearly hours at these events. IATA local leadership also handled countless hours of work.



NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The North Country Trails Association's biggest 2010 accomplishment was a 14% increase in volunteer hours, worth an estimated \$1.4 million. NCTA's volunteer chapters not only grew in their dedicated maintenance and trail building but hosted four, week-long Volunteer Adventures, two American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacations, and a new and exciting event called "24 hours of the Chip" (mowing and maintaining 35 miles of trail in the Chippewa National Forest in one weekend). NCTA initiated an Extended Outings program, the first of which a week-long hike on the Superior Hiking Trail in Minnesota, soon to be part of the NCNST. NCTA volunteers' continued dedication was recognized by the 2009 National Park Service's Hartzog Award for the Midwest region.



NCTA's Board of Directors developed a 5-year strategic plan focused on growing membership and chapter capacity to build, maintain, and promote the NCNST. Two key staff positions were added in 2010-- Director of Trail Development and Director of Development. The 2010 Annual Conference in Ashland, WI was our biggest yet with more than 200 members and volunteers in attendance.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2010, Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) held four volunteer training events, called the "Trail Skills College." These events took place in Cascade Locks, Westfir, and Allingham, OR; and in Lake Tahoe, CA. PCTA has been developing a professional and comprehensive curriculum to use at these volunteer training events. The curriculum for the Trail Skills College will eventually include about 25 separate courses in trail maintenance skills, working with all types of materials and at all skill levels. Each class is designed as an 8-hour block, and comes with a syllabus, lesson plan, diagrams and student handouts. To date, 11 of the training courses have been developed. Some of the classes taught included tool maintenance, tread and drainage, brushing and scouting, waterbars and check dams, and crew leadership. Over 300 volunteers participated in the four training events.



In August 2010, Teresa Fieth, PCTA Finance and Human Resources Director, received a certificate in Federal Grants Management from Management Concepts' Grants Management Certificate Program. The training comes at a good time for the PCTA. This year, Teresa is overseeing the administration of six federal grants from two separate government agencies (the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management), as well as heading up the PCTA's first three-year budgeting process. To earn the certificate, she completed 20 days of training over the past three years, taking nine courses in which she learned about topics such as Managing Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements; Financial Administration of Federal Grants for Recipients; and Procuring Goods and Services Under Federal Grants.

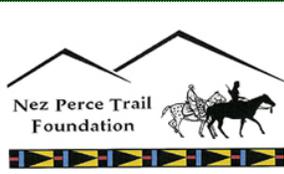


Decade for the National Trails

A Sampling of CAPACITY BUILDING Successes

NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION

The Foundation's spring meeting in Nespelem, WA, was highlighted by a dedication of the Chief Joseph rest area. An interpretive kiosk at the Birch Creek site was dedicated in June, the product of a partnership between the NPTF Lemhi Chapter (who took the lead in construction of the site), the NPNHT, the BLM, the Sacajawea Byway, and the Salmon Valley Business, and Innovation center.



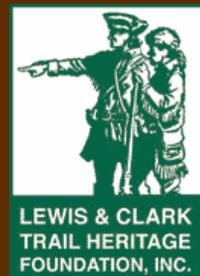
LEWIS & CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation proudly contributed volunteer hours to the National Park Service that equalled over \$2,250,000 in value during the past year. The Foundation members rolled up their sleeves and carried out projects that preserve the trail, shared the story, and promoted Lewis & Clark history all across America.



The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation's 42nd Annual Meeting was held in Lewiston, ID. The meeting theme centered on the Nez Perce Tribe and the time the Lewis & Clark expedition spent with the Nez Perce. Presentations were shared equally with the Nez Perce and Foundation Speakers. Appropriate gifts were presented to tribal speakers and exhibitors.

Two regional LCTHF meetings were held during the year, one in Chicago, planned and managed by the Illini Chapter featuring trade and transportation between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. While Lewis & Clark were never in Chicago, both captains impacted the city's later development through trade influenced by their exploration.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

In August, OCTA held its 28th annual convention in Elko, NV. The event drew 404 attendees from across the nation, the best attended convention since 2003. Building on the success of its January 2009 symposium in Yuma, AZ, OCTA held its second-ever national symposium in Marysville, Kansas in October 2010. OCTA plans to hold a March symposium on the grounds of Southern Utah University in Cedar City next March and then plans to partner with the Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association and Heritage Trails, Inc. to hold a symposium in Fayetteville, AR next June. And of course, plans for the 29th annual convention are already well underway. It will be staged at the Western Wyoming College in Rock Springs next August.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In July the National Park Service (NPS) initiated an 18-month comprehensive management planning process, which will result in one plan for both the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Maryland Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway, enabling the state to seek a National Scenic Byway designation. Maryland received \$1.8 million in 2010 for education and interpretive media projects that will benefit the Trail in addition to the Byway. Seven public and partner meetings were co-hosted with Maryland, Virginia and District of Columbia partners in early November; a workshop newsletter is available at www.nps.gov/stsp



The Trail completed an interpretation and visitor experience plan to be distributed in early 2011 to state and local agencies and trail partners and implemented through technical assistance, workshops, and online tools.

Agency partners in Maryland created a water trails plan for improving access to and interpretation of the Trail, with the purpose of identifying short-term infrastructure and interpretation investments for the Maryland War of 1812 Commission and partners to implement through 2015.



JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The two stewardship organizations, the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) and the newly-created Anza Trail Foundation (ATF), contributed an estimated 12,573 volunteer hours (combined).

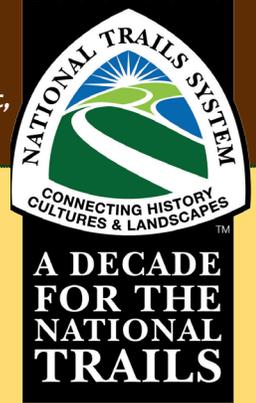


Goal #3 CAPACITY

~ NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

Build the capacity of the organizations and Federal agencies involved to better administer, manage, and sustain National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails.

2008 ~ 2018



SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Our chapters continue to present fine programs on the Santa Fe Trail and area sites. Through our cooperative agreement with the NPS, SFTA is implementing a signage plan for the Trail; the placement of six more informational kiosks strategically placed along the Trail; continued discussions with Tribes native to the Santa Fe Trail; prepared table-top displays to be used by the Chapter to provide information and encourage membership; provided education grants to Chapters to educate the public about the Trail in their areas; reprinted the popular Santa Fe Trail placemat and distributed them along the Trail; continued to work on our educational outreach program; and initiated an effort to strengthen our partnership with museums along the SFNHT.

A highlight of the year was our “Rendezvous” held in September at Larned, KS. This year’s theme was “Communication on the Santa Fe Trail” and much of the conference focused on the evolution of the U.S. Mail Service between Missouri and Santa Fe. It included talks on the irregular mail expresses prior to 1850, the development of contract mail service, the rise of trading establishments in Kansas which hosted mail stations, military protection of the mails, and presentations on letters written from the Santa Fe Trail. A presentation was

given on the archeological study of the mail station located near Fort Larned, KS. Also presented at Fort Larned were examples of a “mud wagon” and a “freight wagon” by Doug Hansen, Letcher, SD and a “box wagon” and “spring wagon” by Greg VanCoevern, Salina, KS.



EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION



El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association is making significant progress towards developing its strategic plan and vision. At this time, a

second draft of the strategic plan is complete and the final plan will be developed in conjunction with the National Park Service in January 2011, exactly one year after the process began. The association also updated its bylaws and held elections for board positions, electing as president a veteran of the US Armed Forces, Colonel James Duke Lyons, who has worked on promoting El Camino Real and its history for many years. The Association also developed a bimonthly newsletter for members and the general public. Titled El Correo, Spanish for “the mail,” the newsletter has been a huge success.

In May, the association co-hosted a Partnership for the National Trails System National Historic Trails Workshop in San Antonio, Texas. The event brought together trail enthusiasts and experts from across the country.



NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Nez Perce National Historic Trail will have a busy and exciting time in 2011 as the process for the revision of the NPNHT’s Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) begins. The CMP needs to be revised to meet future management challenges, address changed conditions, and embrace new opportunities to lead the management of the Trail into the 21st Century.



CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In a unique effort to combine preservation, young people, and the arts, the National Park Service has funded CARTA’s request to work with students through the art facility Mikey’s Place to document the Jornada del Muerto through film. This partnership significantly increases CARTA’s capacity to record the trail and expands CARTA’s relationship with local students.

Concerns about commercial Spaceport development and other proposed changes within view of the pristine El Camino Real National Historic Trail corridor in the Jornada prompted the successful grant application. Filmmaker Jason VanCamp (Las Vegas, NV) will teach the weekend classes.

In addition to instruction in basic and intermediate filmmaking techniques, a series of guest lecturers will provide additional instruction in site stewardship, history, geography, the desert night sky, wildlife, and the environment. Six Saturday–Sunday workshops will be held the last weekend of each month from January through June 2011. Saturdays will be spent at Mikey’s Place in the classroom and studio, and Sundays will be spent filming onsite in the Jornada del Muerto. Transportation will be provided and each class will be limited to a maximum of ten middle or high school students.



US Forest Service Accomplishments on National Scenic and Historic Trails



The **US Forest Service** is responsible for administrating the following six national scenic and historic trails: the Arizona National Scenic Trail; the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail; the Florida National Scenic Trail; the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail; the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail; and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. The Forest Service also works with the BLM in the administration of the Iditarod National Historic Trail. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act enacted in 2009 provided over \$22 million to the Forest Service for national scenic and historic trails.

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (Forest Service segments)

Using ARRA funding, the George Washington & Jefferson National Forests were able to make some much-needed improvements to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in southwest Virginia. The funding also enabled the design and contract construction of a three-span 70-foot bridge over Laurel Creek on the AT and the removal of 18 built structures (cabins, sheds, barns) and four unauthorized dumpsites, and site restoration on eight tracts of land acquired for the protection of the Appalachian Trail over the past 20 years.



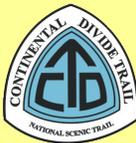
Arizona National Scenic Trail

The Forest Service is pleased to announce the selection of Laura White as the new Arizona Trail administrator. As a third generation Arizonan, Laura White has deep roots in Arizona and the Coronado National Forest, where she has worked for over 21 years. She was the project leader for the Coronado's wilderness and zone trails programs for several years and for the past four years has focused on implementation of the Travel Management Rule. Laura is also a member of the Forest Plan Revision Team and sometimes works as an information officer on fires.



Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

Youth Programs: Over 40 Youth Corps members from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, and Montana Conservation Corps worked along the Trail in six locations across New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado and provided 1,342 days of labor toward the development of the CDNST. Student Conservation Association crews provided 480 days of labor along the CDNST in Idaho.



Florida National Scenic Trail

National Forests in Florida, in partnership with the University of Oregon, worked in FY 2010 towards the development of a catalogue of interpretive kiosk and trailhead design plans aimed at creating both urban and remote sites physically and intellectually accessible to the public. The site components themselves will be orchestrated to reach the broadest audience possible and will support Forest Service efforts to diversify and sustainably increase use on the Florida National Scenic Trail. National Forests in Florida will continue to support the establishment of the Florida National Scenic Trail Coalition and its efforts in FY 2011 to complete a Strategic Plan for the trail.



Nez Perce National Historic Trail

During 2011, USFS managers along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) will host a number of workshops and ask for public input on a variety of topics related to the administration of the Trail. Information gathered at these workshops, as well as written public comment, will be used to help managers develop the purpose and need for action for the CMP revision.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

In 2010 the USFS continued planning and discussions with Tejon Ranch to relocate 37 miles of the PCT from the desert floor onto the Sierra Crest. An interagency law enforcement team addressed OHV trespass in Kern County using Kern County Sheriff's office, CA State Parks, BLM, and USFS law enforcement resources. Furthermore, USFS staff work continued on trail map publication. Maps 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 (California) and 7, 8, 9, and 10 (Oregon/Washington) are available for purchase. Maps 6 (California) is in progress and expected to be available for purchase the summer of 2011.



Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

The PNT Leadership Council will be developing the Comprehensive Management Plan and providing consistent policy for the PNT across all managing agencies providing for consistent direction for Trail development and management.



The agencies are working together with PNTA to use the Interagency Trail Data Standards and GIS to document the status of the PNT and to estimate the cost to complete the Trail. The State of Washington, through using grants through the Federal Highways Administration's Recreational Trails Program, has contributed a total of over \$700,000 since FY04 towards maintenance projects on the PNT. The agencies, PNTA, and other partners continue to increase the involvement of volunteers and our SKY Youth Programs in the development and maintenance of the Trail. PNTA needs to have sufficient funding to employee full-time Regional Coordinators in all five of the PNTA Regions.

Iditarod National Historic Trail

The Chugach National Forest is planning to complete several priority INHT projects in 2011. Over 20 miles of trail restoration/construction and the installation of five major trail bridges initiated with ARRA funded contracts in 2010 are scheduled for completion in 2011. The second year of iTREC! will engage a new group of up to 25 teachers in place-based service learning, generating citizen stewards along the INHT, throughout Alaskan communities, and across public lands.



BLM Makes 2010 Progress with Trail Partners, Youth, and ARRA Funding

By Deb Salt, BLM National Trails Program Lead

Greetings from the Department of the Interior U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)! We ring in the New Year with an updated logo, featuring the National System of Public Lands. The new modified-triangle emblem will be used for everything except administrative and area signs, which will continue to use the trapezoid emblem.



The BLM continues to administer and manage sixteen Congressionally-designated trails as part of the National Landscape Conservation System. The program derives its focus from the 10-year National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy created through public involvement and signed by the BLM Director in 2006. This year marks the mid-way point in strategy implementation.

Provisions in the strategy called for development of a manual series for the program. In 2010, the BLM hired Outdoor Recreation Planner, Britta Nelson, to complete that job. The manuals, as developed through an internal process, will guide the BLM in implementing the National Trails System Act in inventory, planning, and day-to-day management.

The BLM continues to implement a number of American Recover and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) projects, such as the \$2.2M multi-state National Historic Trails projects and support for the Secretary's youth initiative, as well as the PNTS internship program which employs a number of youth in a variety of capacities. Read on for a few more samples of progress as we move into 2011, and continue BLM support for A Decade for the National Trails!

Alaska

BLM Alaska and trail partners employed 19 rural Alaska teenagers in summer 2010 to construct 4 new winter safety cabins on the Iditarod National Historic Trail bringing a total of 6 new safety cabins brought 'on-line' in the past 2 years. The project provided meaningful work, income, and job skills training for underemployed rural Alaskan youth living in villages along the Trail. The sturdy 16-by-16-foot log shelters provide refuge to over-snow travelers who rely on the trail as the only overland travel option between rural Alaskan villages. The new shelters will be maintained by 4 nearby communities under agreement with the State of Alaska or BLM.

designed and built by Frederick Lander in 1858.

Staffers of the BLM Lander Field Office, the Wind River/Bighorn Basin District Office, and the Wyoming State Office coordinated a \$275,000 ARRA improvement project on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. The project was focused on improving safety and recreational experiences on the CDNST, including building 5 new aesthetically pleasing water sources for hikers involving 4 spring protection fences, 3 spring boxes, installation of equipment necessary to use water from an existing water well, and 3 and trailhead kiosks.

Idaho

Jerry Eichhorst, OCTA Chapter President reports that the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway began to take shape in southwestern Idaho as many of the byway signs were installed in 2010, along with concrete markers and



Volunteers Phyllis Martinez and Anna Ward installing concrete markers along the Oregon NHT
Photo by Gary Fujino

a map board. With a length of 102 miles, the Byway follows the route of the Oregon Trail from Three Island Crossing of the Snake River at Glenns Ferry, to Bonneville Point, a few miles southeast of Boise. A partnership between the BLM and the Idaho chapter Oregon-California Trails Association, the Byway is Idaho's newest and makes the Oregon Trail accessible to many people while helping to educate, share, and protect the remnants of this historic trail across Southwestern Idaho. An updated booklet is available to guide the traveler and provide historical information and emigrant diary quotes for the trip. For more information, visit the Idaho Byways website at <http://www.idahobyways.gov/>.

Washington State

High above the lakes and rivers in the heart of the Okanogan highlands of northern Washington, the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail meanders through 12 miles of lands administered by the Spokane District BLM. These areas are rich in Native American and pioneer history and offer sweeping views of spectacular river canyons and valleys nestled deep in the mountains along the US-Canada border.

Diane Priebe reports that on the Mt. Hull/Whistler Canyon segment, Okanogan County has acquired a potential trailhead location and is in negotiations with BLM to purchase the location and construct a trailhead. It would connect to existing trails on the BLM before crossing onto USFS lands.

ARRA funds were used in 2010 for PNT trail maintenance along BLM-administered lands, and to help fund cultural inventories in the Mt. Hull/Whistler Canyon area, and along the Similkameen railroad grade.

Wyoming

Sherry Roche reports that archaeologists in the Pinedale Field Office (PFO) discovered and evaluated the "Wagner Variant" of the Lander Road, a 7-mile long segment of the California Trail that had been lost for more than a century. Historic documentation has proven this segment is the original route of the Lander Road as



NPS and Its Trail Partners Continue to Find Innovative Ways to Build the National Trails System

by Steve Elkinton, National Park Service



To enhance community outreach, the Appalachian Trail Communities Program, lead by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), has designated nine communities so far. Meanwhile along the Star-Spangled Banner NHT, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network awarded more than \$200,000 in grants to Chesapeake Bay Gateway communities in Maryland at Havre de Grace, Fells Point in Baltimore, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, and the Friends of Fort McHenry, for education, planning, and interpretation projects that will build awareness of the Trail and improve virtual and physical visits by Trail users.

To foster cutting edge interpretation and information services, the Long-Range Interpretive Plan for the California NHT and the overlapping Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express NHTs was completed this year. The Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide for Utah was also completed and sent to be printed. For the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, a “Boater’s Guide to the Trail” is underway and will be available for download from the Trail website. NPS is also partnering with the Chesapeake Conservancy and the Maryland Geocaching Society to develop a “geotrail” that will link partner sites through a series of geocaches. On September 25 the first permanent Juan Bautista de Anza Trail NHT exhibit opened in the Martinez Adobe at the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez, California. A Connect-Trails-to-Parks project with Five Rivers MetroParks and Dayton Aviation Heritage NHP, Ohio Fort Stanwix National Monument in New York, and Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan provided wayside interpretive panels along the North Country NST. This panel system uses a “state” panel with a map and information on the Trail statewide on one side and then is paired with a panel of local maps and information. And along the Star-Spangled Banner NHT, eight partner workshops were co-hosted with Maryland, Virginia, and District of Columbia partners to identify the places, stories, and visitor experiences that the Trail should include. Also, the Friends of Chesapeake Gateways launched the Star-Spangled Banner Geotrail, a network of over 35 historic places with War of 1812 connections. There have been over 5,000 visits, and coins were awarded already for visits at more than 20 sites. An e-newsletter about the Trail and related Bicentennial activities was begun in the spring and is now distributed quarterly to almost 2,000 addresses.

Many mapping and data management initiatives are underway. For the Ala Kahakai NHT, staff are coordinating a Cooperative Ecological Study Unit (CESU) agreement with the University of Redlands, in California, to develop a GIS-based Knowledge Management System for the Trail. Similarly, a CESU agreement with the University of Hawaii will develop a land use permitting tracking tool in partnership with the County and State of Hawaii. For the Appalachian NST, the University of Rhode Island is designing an Ecological Decision Support System (DSS) to improve decision-making among trail partners. For the New England NST staff have established an on-line interactive trail map with Google at www.newenglandtrail.org/Map/InteractiveMap.aspx.

Several NPS-administered trails are still largely in the planning stage, and trying various new approaches. Comprehensive management planning for the Star-Spangled Banner NHT last July also includes Maryland’s Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway. For this trail agency partners in Maryland created a water trail plan for improving access to and interpretation of the Trail, with the purpose of identifying short-term infrastructure and interpretation investments for the Maryland War of 1812 Commission and partners to implement through 2015.

Innovative resource management is occurring on many fronts. Energy development and transmission corridors continue to be major issues along many trails – both the individual and cumulative impacts. The Appalachian NST has many high-elevation and ridge-top ecosystems along the Trail corridor that have been impacted by and remain extremely sensitive to acid rain and acidic deposition, creating forest die-back and barren aquatic ecosystems. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds have made possible a 6-state Historic Trails Inventory, launched in 2010. It will address landscape setting and visual resources for some 400 miles of the Old Spanish NHT. Meanwhile, NPS entered into an agreement with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to nominate sites along the Santa Fe NHT for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, in partnership and with funding from the Colorado State Historical Fund for field surveys and visual resource management. At the local level, Santa Fe NHT staff are coordinating with the Cornerstones Community Partnership to document and provide preservation assistance on several historic trailbuildings in Tiptonville, NM.

Signs and Markings are an important part of any trail experience. Negotiations are underway with the California Department of Transportation for a grant through the Federal Highway Administration’s Transportation Enhancement Activities. A grant was approved in 2007 to mark the California NHT’s auto tour route throughout California at an estimated cost is \$1.4 million. Meanwhile, new signage has been produced and will be installed in western Nevada along both this Trail and the Pony Express NHT where they merge and continue west into the California. While the CMP for El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT was being completed, staff also completed a trailwide Sign Plan. In Idaho, strong local interest by the Caribou Historical Society has convinced the Idaho Transportation Department to propose a plan and agreement to produce highway signs for the Oregon and California NHTs in Idaho.

Visitor Use Monitoring along the Appalachian NST has led to a multi-year study using exit tallies and random survey questionnaires along a 109-mile stretch of the Trail north from Harpers Ferry, WV. From the results, researchers now predict a total trail annual visitation at almost 2 million people per year. See <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/nrrt/nsre/IRISRec/IRISRec15rpt.pdf>.

Federal Highway Administration 2010 National Trails Highlights

Submitted by Christopher Douwes, Trails and Enhancements Program Manager, FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) does not have direct administrative responsibility for National Scenic and Historic Trails, but projects administered through the Federal-aid Highway Program (FAHP) can have direct or indirect impacts on National Trails. The FAHP is a federally-assisted, State-administered program that provides funds to the States for projects eligible under various Federal-aid funding categories. All FAHP categories can benefit National Trails by providing highway and bridge access. Highway projects also can impact National Trails and may require project mitigation to protect National Trail resources. Many National Trails receive funds for specific projects under the Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities; National Trail status can benefit projects when the States rate, rank, and select project applications. Many National Trails share corridors with National Scenic Byways and benefit from the National Scenic Byways Program. The Federal Lands Highway Program, which provides funds for Federal Land Management Agency projects, also can benefit National Trails.



The FHWA used Recreational Trails Program funds to help several specific initiatives benefiting the National Trails System, including:

- Partnered with the Forest Service's Technology and Development program to provide trail publications to benefit trail construction and maintenance.
- Cosponsored several trail conferences in 2010, including the National Historic Trails and National Scenic Trails workshops and the National Trails Symposium. In addition, many States supported State-level trail training using Federal RTP funds.
- Supported the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), which helps provide training resources for all kinds of trails.

The FHWA supported the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC), which provides information to the public and reports on TE Activities — an important source of Federal-aid funds for many National Trails. Two eligible TE categories are “Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites (including historic battlefields)” and “Scenic or historic highway programs (including the provision of tourist and welcome center facilities).” Most National Historic Trails (NHTs) were the highways of their times; therefore most NHTs qualify as historic highway programs (to the extent that they are land routes or along rivers with parallel highway routes). Other TE categories, such as provision of facilities for pedestrians and bicycles, landscaping and scenic beautification, historic preservation, and archaeological planning and research, also may benefit National Trails.

***Photo below: Alpike Lakes Wilderness, Central Cascades, Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.
Picture by K. Schwarz. Printed with permission from the Pacific Crest Trail Association.***





Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
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www.pnts.org

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Trails Events Calendar Spring-Summer 2011

February 2011

February 14-17	Hike the Hill - Trails Advocacy Week	PNTS, American Hiking Society	Washington, DC	www.americanhiking.org
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March 2011

March 11-13	Florida Trail Annual Conference	Florida Trail Association	Fruitland Park, FL	www.floridatrail.org
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March 25-27	Cedar City Symposium	Oregon-California Trails Association	Cedar City, UT	www.octa-trails.org
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April 2011

April 7-10	Annual Conference and Membership Meeting	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Wausau, WI	www.iceagetrail.org
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April 29-May 1	OCTA California-Nevada Spring Symposium	Oregon California Trails Association	Quincy, CA	www.octa-trails.org
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May 2011

May 14-19	13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails	PNTS, Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Abingdon, VA	www.pnts.org
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June 2011

June 2-5	Old Spanish Trail Association Annual Conference	Old Spanish Trail Association	Pomona, CA	www.oldspanishtrail.org
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June 4	National Trails Day	American Hiking Society	Nationwide	http://www.americanhiking.org/ntd.aspx
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July 2011

July 1-8	ATC's 38th Biennial Conference, Virginia Journeys 2011	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Emory, VA	www.appalachiantrail.org
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July 31- August 3	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Omaha, NE/Council Bluffs, IA	www.lewisandclark.org
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August 2011

August 9-13	OCTA's 29th Annual Convention	Oregon-California Trails Association	Rock Springs/Green River, WY	www.octa-trails.org
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August 11-14	North Country Trail Association Annual Conference	North Country Trail Association	Dayton, OH	www.northcountrytrail.org
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August 26-28	Pacific Crest Trail Days	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Cascade Locks, OR	www.pcta.org
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