

Winter 2012-2013

# Pathways *Across America*



Trails  
Partner  
Highlights  
of 2012

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:

**Dpt. of Agriculture:**

USDA Forest Service

**Dpt. of the Interior:** National Park Service,  
Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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[www.pnts.org/](http://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.

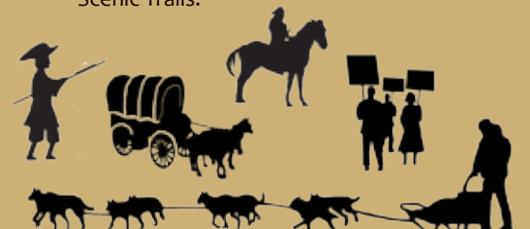
#### National Recreation Trails

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*



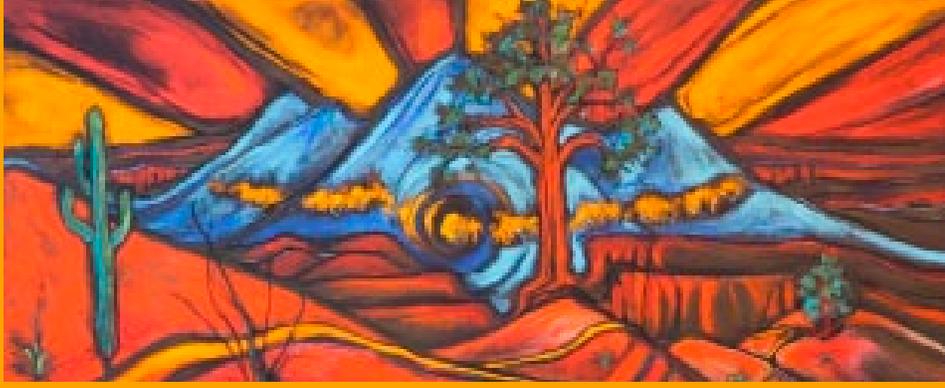
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## About the Pathways Winter 2012-2013 Cover

Photos from upper left to bottom right: snowshoeing on the Ice Age NST (PNTS photo); taking a break from snowshoeing on the North Country NST (NCTA photo); a view of the Smoky Mountains from the Appalachian Trail (photo by Andrew Downs, courtesy of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy); constructing an iconic tripod trail marker on the Iditarod NHT (photo courtesy of the Bureau of Land Management); clearing invasive brush on the Ice Age NST (PNTS photo); a work crew on the Pacific Northwest NST (PNTA photo); a hiker at Forester Pass on the Pacific Crest NST (photo by Hans Berg, courtesy of the PCTA); and recreationists headed sledding along the Nez Perce NHT (photo by Roger Peterson of the US Forest Service).

Inside Cover (top photos from left to right): A youth outreach program along the Appalachian NST (ATC photo); the founding ceremony for the Lewis and Clark Trust (photo courtesy of the Lewis and Clark Trust); and icicles hanging from a mossy rock along the Ice Age NST (PNTS photo).



# 2013 National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference

November 2-7, 2013  
Tucson, Arizona

*National Trails: Weaving the Tapestry of America's Cultures, Histories, and Landscapes*

## ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The layering of Native-American, Hispanic, and Anglo-American cultures in the long history of the Southwest inspires the theme for the 14th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails scheduled to occur in Tucson, Arizona, from November 2nd through 7th. While that theme -- "National Trails: Weaving the Tapestry of America's Cultures, History, and Landscapes" -- may seem particularly appropriate for the national trails of the Southwest, it is actually equally applicable to all national scenic and historic trails. The National Trails System is indeed a very rich tapestry of the fabric of America -- and we have barely begun to adequately celebrate and share that richness of culture, diversity of people, and inspiration of landscapes found along and discovered through our trails. Through this conference we will learn how better to display that tapestry for all to enjoy.

## EMBRACING THE DECADE FOR NATIONAL TRAILS

Since this conference falls at the mid-point of the "Decade for the National Trails", indoor and mobile workshops are being planned to report on progress being made and best practices being implemented to achieve the three Goals for the Decade. Mirroring the Decade Goals, we will trace these three strands at the Conference:

- Telling our stories and engaging new partners;
- Preserving special places and protecting the tapestry of the land;
- Strengthening our trail organizations and our trail communities.

The emphasis will be on how to better carry out these essential activities through practical sessions including:

- Successful fund raising by and for national trail organizations;
- Innovative programs and activities to engage children and youth;
- New land acquisition initiatives and public policy that will protect trail landscapes;
- Systematic trail stewardship programs integrating mapping with resource inventorying, monitoring, and protection;

The conference program planning and host committees are sorting through many potential topics and places to visit to organize an informative and inspiring conference. There will be music, dance, art, and food representative of the cultures of the Southwest. The timing of the Conference was set to coincide with a major Hispanic cultural event "El Día de los Muertos" procession in Tucson.

Mark the dates on your calendar and watch for registration information in early summer.

## SPECIAL CULTURAL EXPERIENCE: EL DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Every year in November, the streets of Tucson are filled with tens of thousands of participants celebrating this Mexican holiday honoring the dead through an elaborate, artistic procession through the city. Music fills the air and a ceremonial urn traveling the procession route gathers the names of loved ones who have passed on. The procession culminates with a burning of the urn and a choreographed performance by Flam Chen, a renowned fire performance troupe. We are lucky that our conference this year coincides with this vibrant festival and hope you can join us!



## THREE BIG IDEAS EMERGE IN 2012 and SPAWN TRANSFORMING ACTIONS

During 2012 the blossoming of several seminal ideas that describe essential characteristics of the National Trails System spawned several initiatives that can potentially transform the nature of the scenic and historic trails on-the-ground. Each of the three ideas has been germinating for some time at varying rates of development. The convergence of major actions emanating from them helped make 2012 a very noteworthy year for the National Trails System.

The first idea, that national historic trails should be on-the-ground heritage resources that people can use for recreation, was explored in both urban and rural settings during the Historic Trails Workshop in May 2012 in Socorro, New Mexico. Although some work to make new trails for recreation has been underway for a number of years along some of the national historic trails, most of the effort of the agencies and the trail organizations has been focused on “telling the story” of these trails and interpreting the significant sites along them. The emerging idea is that the intent of the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241) (NTSA) is for these trails to both preserve historic resources and serve as recreational routes for people today to walk in the footsteps of our ancestors.

This intent adds another dimension to the imperative to preserve the historic remnants of the trails: how to make trails that enable people to experience those remnants and the landscapes experienced by their historical travelers without destroying those historic artifacts. Carrying out this intent by physically making trails provides a great opportunity for historic trail organizations to attract new people to their work – the same kinds of people who form the core of the scenic trail organizations. Embracing this mission opens the possibility for much greater collaboration and sharing of skills between scenic and historic trail organizations.

The second idea is that one of the essential characteristics of national scenic and historic trails is that they have two equally critical dimensions – length and width. The exceptional length of these trails has long been recognized, but except for the Appalachian Trail, there has not been any concerted effort to manage the national scenic and historic trails as environmental corridors of any width. That insufficient, damaging practice changed for parts of the trails during the summer of 2012 with the release by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of three Policy Manuals directing the administration and management of national scenic and historic trails within the National Landscape Conservation System. Among their significant provisions, these Policy Manuals implement the purpose and requirements of the National Trails System Act that the administrator of each trail select and delineate a right-of-way for it.

Respecting the intent of the NTSA that “National scenic trails ... provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which such trails may pass” and that “National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment” the BLM has stipulated that the national trails rights-of-way shall be management corridors of considerable width. The Lander, Wyoming BLM Field Office Resource Management Plan, first to be issued under the new Policy Manuals, defines a National Trail Management Corridor, ranging in width from 5 to 12 miles, along the entire length of the Continental Divide National Scenic and the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails through its management area.

The BLM Policy Manuals and the Lander RMP recognize that it is not enough to protect the ruts and other historic artifacts of the historic trails. The landscape setting that provides the context for those historic features must be preserved, as well, to allow trail users to have a vicarious experience of the historic use of the trail. Similarly it is not enough to provide tread for hikers and equestrians to follow for long distances via the scenic trails. The “nationally significant” landscapes through which these trails pass must be preserved, for it is the quality of the journey through these landscapes that provides for public “enjoyment” and makes national scenic trails exceptional and significant. Quite simply, the national trail without the protected “nationally significant” landscape surrounding it is incomplete. The experience of wildness, of their natural setting by trail users is essential for both national scenic and historic trails to be complete.

The third idea, that the 30 national scenic and historic trails of the National Trails System comprise a large landscape, is the newest, and perhaps the most profound, of the three. This idea arose in the process of the inter-departmental Federal agencies Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) initiative during the spring and summer of 2012. The tangible result of this planning is a proposal for \$61 million of Land & Water Conservation Fund money to be used to acquire 120 parcels of land from willing sellers along 7 national scenic and 4 national historic trails. This proposal is the first time that land acquisition projects for several of the scenic and historic trails have been presented together as a National Trails System package.

Agency leaders with whom we talked about this CLP proposal during “Hike the Hill” in February were extremely enthusiastic about it because they understood that it combines resource conservation with recreation opportunities, just as Congress intended in the NTSA. They were also enthusiastic about the layers of interagency collaboration and public/private partnership – hallmarks of the National Trails System -- manifest in the proposal; it is the way we work. Participating in the realm of large landscape planning put the National Trails System on the map of national resources as a true system rather than as a collection of trails. The intangible benefit of the National Trails System as a large landscape is in becoming recognized as an iconic national resource system complementary to the National Park System, National Wildlife Refuge System, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and the Wilderness System. As with the units of these other resource systems, while each trail has its own value and significance, belonging to the National Trails System puts it among the exclusive ranks of the Nation’s most important and treasured natural and cultural assets. These national resource systems in turn help define our common identity and shared heritage as Americans.

National historic trails as recreation routes, national scenic and historic trails as heritage and environmental corridors, the National Trails System as a large landscape are profound ideas with great potential to significantly change the way our trails are understood, respected, and managed. Although they have already borne sweet fruit the full potential of these ideas to transform the nature of the scenic and historic trails on-the-ground is yet to be realized. They are dynamic ideas still evolving which we must nurture and use to guide more fruitful preservation and development of our national scenic and historic trails. Will you help us do so?

Enjoy a beautiful spring!



– Gary Werner, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System



# Background on the Decade Goals for the National Trails System

By Jere Krakow

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 System 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 a 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 organization meetings and national 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 known 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!



## 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.

## 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 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.

## Decade Goal 3 - Capacity Building

Capacity Building, the third decade goal, is closely tied to the goals of Outreach and Protection. This goal is about providing the underlying resources and systems needed to make public visibility and engagement and conservation of land and heritage possible. While projects directly related to the first two goals are typically viewed as priorities, taking the time to build the organizational infrastructure, establish strong volunteer programs, and develop critical partnerships and funding strategies makes those very projects possible.

Capacity building intertwines people, systems, and partnerships. Developing a volunteer recruitment program brings in manpower, establishing a clear systematic approach to recording those increased volunteer hours in turn allows for attracting potential funding partners by demonstrating the value of the time volunteers are contributing.

Capacity building may come through hiring new staff, teaming up with a local university for credit internships, combining forces with like-minded organizations, or instituting a clear donor outreach program. It may double as outreach through marketing initiatives and media events to garner public support. Capacity building also relates to the core organizational development, such as board member trainings, long-term growth strategy development, providing a strong foundation for pursuing the goals of each organization and the National Trails System as a whole.

# Decade for the National Trails...

## A Sampling of Outreach Successes

### IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Iditarod Trail, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance sponsored “Centennial Musher” Dan Seavey in the 2012 race to highlight the history of the trail, the importance of communities along the trail, and the value of stewardship. The rich history of the trail – and the people and dogs who travelled it – were remembered during the 2012 Iditarod Sled Dog Race as the musher wearing bib #100 traveled by dog team from Anchorage to Nome. Dan Seavey is a lifelong steward of the Iditarod Trail, helping to establish both the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Congressional designation of the Iditarod National Historic Trail in the 1970s. He competed in the 1st, 2nd, 25, 29th, and the 40th Iditarod race.



The Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (ITREC!), an educational initiative sponsored by the Alliance and its partners, continued to offer high-quality professional development opportunities promoting place-based education and service learning. Teachers and community partners are developing opportunities to help build lifelong stewards of Alaska’s public lands, natural resources and cultural heritage along the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Cumulative reach for the first 3 years of the program is approximately 3,600 students in eight communities, with 40 teachers actively participating in the program.

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### CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NHT, STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NHT, & POTOMAC HERITAGE NST

In 2012, the National Park Service released “Chesapeake Explorer”, a mobile application designed to help visitors discover and enjoy fun and inspiring places and activities in the Chesapeake region. Chesapeake Explorer aggregates information about national parks, State parks, Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network sites, and sites along three national historic and scenic trails in the watershed. It provides information about the locations, hours and admissions of these places. The app’s geo-location feature will identify nearby national parks and trails that suit particular interests, and allows the explorer to tag favorites. The device also sorts locations by activity so someone can easily identify places to see waterfowl, go bicycling, or launch a kayak, and plan trips accordingly. Chesapeake Explorer can suggest thematic tours to explore, whether by bike, car, or on foot, and can build customized tours.



### OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

OCTA added several new interpretive exhibits in Missouri and Johnson County, Kansas, and OCTA members were very active in trail marking and placing memorial monuments in trail locations in Arizona, Idaho, California, and elsewhere.

OCTA was featured on the front page of the Lawrence (KS) Journal-World highlighting its preservation work in eastern Kansas in August 2012. It also was featured on the local nightly TV newscast.

The OCTA annual Convention in Lawrence KS was featured in area newspapers and protection efforts in Utah drew front-page coverage in the Salt Lake City Tribune.



### NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Nez Perce Trail Foundation and the staff of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail collaborated to complete the NPNHT Google mapping project, an interactive virtual tour of the sites along the Nez Perce NHT.

2012 marked the 135th year since the 1877 war and flight. The staff of the Nez Perce NHT, in conjunction with a number of partners, hosted a website providing information about more than 35 events and presentations about the culture of the Nez Perce people and the significant historic events associated with the NPNHT.



### NATIONAL TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION

TOTA’s Georgia chapter completed its first-ever “Trail of Tears Traveling Trunks,” funded by a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council. In this trunk Georgia teachers will find a number of aids to help them relate this nationally significant story to their students in a way that will hopefully engage young minds as they meet the requirements of the State curriculum. For many years the Georgia chapter has received requests for assistance with finding appropriate books, artifacts, and lesson plans – especially during Native American Heritage Month in November. The chapter has brought all these resources together into one convenient package. A link to the traveling trunk web page can be found at <http://www.gatrailoftears.com/travelingtrunks/>. Teachers in Georgia classrooms have already been making use of the new material, which includes games, word search puzzles, maps of the old Cherokee Nation, a letter from “Miss Cherokee 2012,” a copy of the Cherokee Syllabary, photographs, posters, and lesson plans.

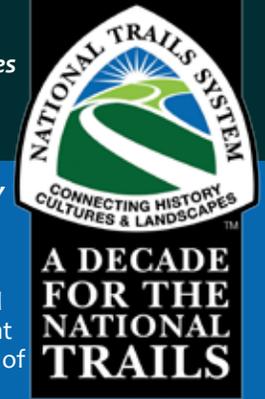


# Goal #1 OUTREACH

## ~ 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



### SANTA FE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



The creation of the Junior Wagon Master program, designed to encourage families to get out to explore the Trail, was completed in 2012. Implementation of this program is on-going. Completion of activities will allow participants to collect patches for each of four sections of the Trail.

Several chapters are actively involved in creating local tour sign plans. Two chapters have completed their installations, while several others have signs ordered and others are working closely with NPS staff to create their sign plan. In addition, chapters are gathering information and printing and distributing brochures to supplement these local auto tours. New markers are continuing to be placed along the trail.

Two more Santa Fe Trail Kiosks were unveiled in 2012. These kiosks are part of the SFTA's Decade Goals initiative and funding was provided through the NPS Connecting Trails to Parks program. Kiosks unveiled this year included Bents Old Fort NHS and Fort Union National Monument. Two wayside exhibits, using Challenge Cost Share Funds, were created by the Kaw Nation and staff at NPS. One exhibit is located at the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned, KS. The other is located at the Kaw Mission in Council Grove, KS. Additionally, another work on another kiosk is underway and will be located at the newly constructed McPherson County Museum, McPherson, KS. Two areas of the Santa Fe Trail, Dodge City and Council Grove, have been chosen as prototypes to create "Media Tours". Working closely with NPS staff, SFTA will provide information and resources for media applications.



Also started in 2012 is a new "Geo Caching" tour of the Santa Fe Trail. Scheduled for implementation in late 2013, this program will hopefully engage a broad spectrum of new users to enjoy the Santa Fe Trail.

A Santa Fe Trail Research Program was begun in 2012 including identification of topics that need to be researched further, the inventory of the Harry C. Myers Research Collection was completed in 2012 for eventual public presentation.

### STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In July 2012, the National Park Service officially launched the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail with a ceremony in the Fells Point neighborhood of Baltimore, MD. A number of visitor resources have been created for the trail, including the trail's history and travel pocket guide, interpretive kiosks at 25 trail locations, highway markers on Maryland roads, the trail's Junior Ranger program, new mobile application, new website, a Virtual Resource Center for educators, and an illustrated history and travel guide, *In Full Glory Reflected: Discovering the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake*, a collaboration of the National Park Service, the Maryland Historical Trust, the Maryland Historical Society, the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission, and Star-Spangled 200, Inc.



### OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2012, the OVTA's annual March to Kings Mountain and Call to Arms educational event engaged over 10,000 people, of whom more than 8,000 were elementary school students, in the story of the Overmountain Victory NHT. More than 14,000 miles were walked as part of the march.

The W. Blair Keller Interpretive Center at the Muster Grounds, the northernmost trailhead for the OVT, officially opened with an unveiling of museum exhibits celebrating the trail (left).



### ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Via a National Parks Foundation America's Best Ideas grant acquired by the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA), and the Ala Kahakai NHT (ALKA), communities along the trail sponsored a series of "Music and Talk Story" events. Between 2011 and 2012, seven events were held at locations within the trail corridor celebrating the areas through storytelling and songs.

ATA and ALKA have partnered with the Nakoia Foundation to implement a youth program for the trail called Na Pe'a (The Sails). The program trains youth to sail traditional fishing canoes, and includes training in ocean safety skills, cultural and stewardship practices, and fisheries and trail management. It is envisioned that all trail management communities will incorporate youth programs around sailing fishing canoes for cultural perpetuation and near shore ocean management activities.



### EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT ASSOCIATION

In 2012, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association received a National Park Foundation - America's Best Ideas grant to create an educational curriculum for 7th grade students across Texas. The organization



also held numerous outreach events, including the first-ever Camino Real-OCTA symposium: "Trails that Shaped the Face of Texas: El Camino Real and the Southern Route to California." The organization also displayed an El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT photo exhibit at multiple venues across the State, hosted the 3rd annual statewide video conference on El Camino Real for 7th grade students across Texas, and worked with a filmmaker to document Camino Real history and resources for a forthcoming PBS documentary "Texas Before the Alamo." Organization members and leadership also took part in El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT educational workshops in Natchitoches, LA, and Victoria, TX, and held numerous outreach and advocacy events across Texas and Louisiana.

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



Boardwalk through a fern-lined bayhead swamp created through the efforts of FTA volunteers. Photo by FTA member Sandra Friend, courtesy of the FTA.

## FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2012, the Florida Trail Association (FTA) coordinated 23 trail construction and maintenance projects open to the public, including hosting 18 chainsaw, crosscut, first aid, and crew leader trainings, and formed its Trail Operations Program focused on Building, Maintaining, and Protecting the FNST and the volunteer programs that support it. The FTA also organized a Traditional Skills Workday and coordinated two “F-Troop” projects with a total of 34 participants contributing 1,368 volunteer hours on the FNST: 27.6 Miles of FNST were maintained or brought “to standard”, 162 trees from 4” to 39” were removed from the trail corridor, and three sections of trail totaling over 127 ft were realigned for sustainability.

The FTA “Community Activities Day” engaged citizens from communities near the FNST in stewardship projects and facilitated 1 Boy Scouts of America troop event consisting of 9 Boy/Girl Scouts contributing 54 hours of volunteer service in Bradwell Bay Wilderness.

The FTA developed or maintained several critical outreach partnerships. The Alternative Spring Break Program, started in 2010, this year welcomed 31 Students from around the world who contributing over 915 hours of volunteer service on the FNST.

An “Adjudicated Youth” program engaged troubled young adults in trail maintenance. The program’s youth maintained 4.5 miles of wilderness trail in 104 hours of volunteer time. An additional “After School Youth Activities” group contributed 29 hours of volunteer service maintaining the FNST. The Florida Trail Association also developed a new partnership with Gator Wilderness Boys Camp for hiking and trail maintenance.



## APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY



This year, the Trail to Every Classroom program (TTEC) focused on reconnecting with the 275+ program alumni. Three workshops were held, drawing a total of 63 TTEC alumni. The workshops involved alumni sharing their ideas for engaging youth in the outdoors, Wilderness First Aid, CPR training, hike leadership, trip planning, incident management, development of trail place-based trail Quests and how to incorporate trail building skills into their multidisciplinary curricula. The Trail To Every Classroom Advisory Committee, founded in 2011, met for the second time in 2012 to discuss the TTEC curriculum, develop partnerships, and support and grow the TTEC program. Thanks to this leadership, teachers can now earn 3 credits towards a Master of Education in Environment-Based Learning through Mary Baldwin College in Virginia. Development on a TTEC manual has also begun.



The A.T. Community™ Program grew by 13 new designated communities in 2012, reaching a total of 28 official A.T. Communities. Eleven A.T. Community Ambassadors contributed almost 3000 volunteer hours and recruited over 960 new volunteers over the year. They led maintenance trips, African American History hikes, invasive exotic species removal, phenology monitoring, got over 1000 students out on the Trail, and provided support at community meetings, festivals, and events.

In celebration of their 100th Anniversary, Girl Scouts of the USA set a goal of getting girls of all ages out hiking on the A.T., covering all of its 2,184 miles over the course of 7 months. This ambitious initiative, known as the Great Girl Scout Hike (GGSH), culminated on October 31, 2012. Over 5,400 girls and 2,800 adults took part and hiked a portion of the A.T. Some troops hiked a quarter of a mile, while some covered a whole State, and others completed the entire Trail; covering over 17,000 miles total. Girl Scouts registered their planned hikes online and shared their stories and photos on the GGSH’s Facebook page.

Girl Scout hike photo courtesy of the ATC.



# 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.



## ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

2012 saw the development of the Arizona Trail Seeds of Stewardship Program by the Arizona Trail Association. This innovative youth outreach, education, and stewardship initiative works with local schools to use the Arizona Trail as an outdoor classroom.

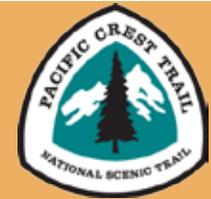
The ATA also developed a new trail guidebook in 2012, to be published in Spring of 2013, including maps, photos, trail descriptions, botany, geology, and history of the Arizona Trail.

The Arizona Trail Association continued to have success in working with Arizona Trail gateway communities to develop these small towns into "trail towns" through special events, promotion, and offering goods and services for the trail community.



## PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2012, the Pacific Crest Trail Association greatly increased its social media presence. PCTA has an active Facebook page with significant fan interaction. In 2012 the number of "likes" of PCTA's Facebook page grew by more than 5,000, from 9,000 to more than 14,000 "likes." PCTA continues to expand its social media activity in order to raise awareness about the Pacific Crest Trail and its opportunities for recreation.



## NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

Over 2012, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) worked with partners to develop a unigrid trail brochure for the New England NST (NET) and distribution to partners, supporters, maintainers, and the public is underway.

New trail kiosks have been installed at 5 key sites on the NET in CT. Trail maps feature QR codes that link the hiker to a trail map and to the NET website where they can report trail conditions.



Vista from the North Country NST near Lake Superior. PNTS photo.

## NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2012, The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) developed a Trail Town program to grow awareness and support for the NCNST, improve access and information to get members of the community active in the outdoors, and boost economic benefits by providing recognition to local businesses. These Trail Towns work towards building a community that values outdoor recreation for the health of the environment, the people and the economy. The NCTA now recognizes five official Trail Towns and are working on at least as many more into the next year.

The annual Allegheny 100 Backpacking Challenge had its biggest year yet with 77 hikers, yielding unprecedented news coverage and a boost to membership in the local chapter.

The National Park Service also completed a revision of the North Country Trail brochure.



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) has started working with local school districts to take advantage of a State regulation requiring high school seniors to do 40 hours of community service work as part of their graduation requirements. This year 35 high school seniors worked on projects on the Pacific Northwest NST as part of that initiative. Along with PNTA's SKY Programs, adult volunteers, partners such as the Back Country Horsemen and Montana Conservation Corps, the PNTA was able to accomplish maintenance on over 450 miles of the Pacific Northwest NST this year. The organization plans to work with local communities along the Trail in 2013 to increase the amount of maintenance and miles maintained of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.



# Decade for the National Trails...

## A Sampling of PRESERVATION Successes

### OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In conjunction with the NPS and other partners, Polk County, North Carolina formalized purchase and opening of the 167-acre Bradley Nature Preserve, which includes 2.5 miles of the original Overmountain Victory NHT. The NPS also partnered with McDowell and Rutherford Counties in North Carolina to assist with the drafting of a historic structure report and master plan for those properties. *Photo: Alexander's Ford at the Bradley Nature Preserve.*



### CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In May 2012, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar designated four water trails as new historic connecting components of the existing Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. The designation recognizes the significance of four connecting rivers--the Susquehanna, Chester, Upper Nanticoke, and Upper James Rivers--to the history, cultural heritage, and natural resources of the 3,000-mile-long national historic trail in the Chesapeake Bay. The designation of trail components will enable the National Park Service to work closely with State and local agencies and other partners--notably conservation and tribal organizations--to provide technical and financial assistance, resource management, facility enhancement, interpretive trail route marking and promotion along the connecting trails.

The Chesapeake Conservancy funded and managed a professional evaluation of Chesapeake Bay tributaries to determine their potential for designation as historic connecting components to the Captain John Smith trail. Research teams included historians, tribal representatives, and regional universities. Based on the study's findings, the Chesapeake Conservancy worked with local watershed, tribal, and water trail groups and State agencies to develop applications to the National Park Service to nominate the four rivers as connecting trail components.



### JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Juan Bautista de Anza NHT benefitted strongly from Federal and State renewable energy planning efforts, which in 2012 saw the abandonment of the Imperial Valley Solar Project, which had represented a huge potential threat the Anza NHT viewed. In October 2012, the Solar Energy Development Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (Solar PEIS) was published, identifying areas where solar energy development would be discouraged, prohibited, or encouraged on Federal land in the Southwest. The Solar PEIS excludes all national scenic and historic trails from solar development and designates much of the land adjacent to the Anza Trail historic trail corridor as Exclusion Areas.

Additionally along the Anza NHT, The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) helped secure several new easements from private and corporate partners, accounting for over 3 miles in new trail.

Through collaboration between the Anza-Borrogo Foundation and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, a 40-acre parcel in the Anza-Borrogo State Park was acquired, protecting an area where the Anza expedition passed through on their way to greener land.



### SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

SFTA chapters along the Trail continue to maintain public sites, repair and/or replace damaged signs, and bring attention to trail resources. Excellent programs and tours are the core of chapter activities, as well as volunteering to work where needed along the Santa Fe Trail. The Santa Fe Trail Association continues to work closely with landowners and State Departments of Historic Preservation to nominate multiple properties for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places, including Black Pool, Ford County, Kansas.



*Photo below: Black Pool along the Santa Fe NHT.*



### OREGON CALIFORNIA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OCTA worked with several energy development companies and other nonprofits to purchase the 82-acre site at the New Fork River Crossing on the Lander Road in Wyoming.

OCTA was featured in a front-page story in the Salt Lake Tribune after proactively getting press releases out to over 1,800 media outlets in December 2012 to tell the story of the Mesa Corporation's planned potash development along the Hastings Cutoff in western Utah near Donner Spring.

In addition to a steady effort to mark the trail, The Northwest Chapter of OCTA collaborated with Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society and the Josephine County Historical Society to establish a mapping and marking plan for the signs for the Grants Pass segment of the Applegate Trail, a part of the California NHT.



# Goal #2 PRESERVATION

## ~ NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

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



Photo above: Lapakahi State Park along the Ala Kahakai NHT.

### ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

Ala Kahakai staff and volunteers continue to support a dozen descendant-led community groups throughout the corridor. Activities include: trail clearing, scoping activities, planning, mapping, archaeological reconnaissance, addressing specific access issues, and capacity-building. At the behest of the communities, staff submitted a Land Water and Conservation funding request to the DOI for the acquisition of coastal lands in North Kohala and South Kona.

Ala Kahakai NHT and Pu'ukohola NHS received State funding to deploy masons under the NPS Hawaiian Legacy Program to restore earthquake damage at Lapakahi State Park. This project was successfully completed in 2012.

The research work on historic trails and the description of land use permitting processes were completed by the University of Hawai'i Department of Urban and Regional Planning. This information is being transmitted to Redlands University to be incorporated in the Ala Kahakai NHT GIS based, Knowledge Management System being designed by the University of Redlands. This work is on-going.

Kaiholena, a 35-acre parcel on the Kohala coast shoreline within the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail corridor, has the most numerous, intact pre-contact archeological and cultural sites in Hawaii and is an example of community based stewardship. Ala Kahakai Trail Association, in its land trust organization capacity backed by generous support from EWM Enterprises, the Legacy Lands Conservation Fund, the National Park Service, the local community and a recent \$50,000 donation by the Dorrance Family Foundation, has secured 95% of the \$2,106,000 required funding. The Ala Kahakai Trail Association's final efforts to raise the last \$103,945 continue.



### MULTIPLE TRAILS--LANDER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Lander Resource Management Plan (RMP), which relates to the 2.5 million acres of public lands under management by the BLM's Lander Field Office, continued its journey towards finalization and approval throughout 2012. The BLM Lander Field Office manages 100 miles of the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express NHTs, as well as 92 miles of the Continental Divide NST. This long section of the four national historic trails is referred to as the Greater South Pass Historic Landscape.

In 2012 the hundreds of comments gathered in late 2011 and early 2012 were compiled, analyzed, published, and incorporated into a revised version of the RMP. A protest period was scheduled for Spring of 2013, which ended March 25, 2013. The proposed plan, which is based primarily on "Alternative D" or the "Preferred Alternative" will undergo a resolution of protests and a 60-day Governor's consistency review before it can be approved.

See <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/lander.html> for more information and progress updates.



### IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

With a grant from the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, the Iditarod Trail Committee cleared about 55 miles of Iditarod Trail in the Happy River, Puntilla Lake, and Rohn areas. Also, additional work was performed on 25 miles of the Turquoise Lake burn segment of the Trail. In cooperation with BLM and local communities, approximately 75 miles of trail was cleared, 63 miles of tripods installed, and 133 miles of trail marked in the Takotna, McGrath, Iditarod areas.



# Decade for the National Trails...

## A Sampling of PRESERVATION Successes

### NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association received funding from the Hartford Foundation to focus on building a trail protection strategy for the New England Trail in seven trail communities. This grant will span three years and will provide much-needed financial support for building partnerships, mapping, landowner outreach, and planning.

The Simsbury, Wintonbury, and Berlin Land Trusts all received funding from the State's Open Space Grant Program to assist in the protection of properties either adjacent to or on the NET.

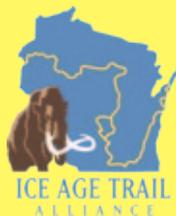


### ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

In late 2012, the Ice Age Trail Alliance gathered three significant parcels along the trail. These acquisitions, made possible through the help of Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund and Dane County's Conservation Fund, preserve areas of geological as well as historic significance and protect excellent hiking areas.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance continued to collaborate intensively with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, to secure land and easements and develop State Ice Age Trail Areas (SIATAs).

*East Twin River parcel secured for the Ice Age NST in 2012. Photo courtesy of the IATA.*



### FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The staff of the Florida Trail Association (FTA) worked with US Forest Service in Florida to realign 4.1 Miles of FNST to a more optimal location in Farles Prairie on the Ocala National Forest.

FTA also worked with Kissimmee Prairie Preserve, South Florida Water Management District, and the National Forests in Florida to begin an Optimal Location Review Process of the FNST along the Kissimmee River to find a more sustainable trail alignment and improve the user experience.

FTA volunteers and staff worked with Big Cypress National Preserve staff to install signage at critical junctions in the preserve to guide hikers on the FNST and decrease incidence of Search and Rescue Operations. FTA volunteers, staff, and agency partners responded to three hazardous sections of FNST at Spring Creek, Ocean Pond, and Sopchoppy Bridge and provided interim routing alternatives for trail users until these areas can be reopened.



### ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Arizona Trail Association secured agreements with two major mining corporations whose operations stand to adversely affect the Arizona Trail for funding to reroute, maintain, and protect a new trail alignment.



### PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Since 2007, the Whistler Canyon Trailhead has been a dream of many people in Okanogan County, in the State of Washington. This major access point on the Pacific Northwest NST south of Oroville, WA on US Highway 97, was blocked off to public use by a rock quarry. Through a collaborative partnership of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, the Okanogan Valley Chapter of the Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, the Okanogan Trails Coalition, Okanogan County, Kinross Gold, the US Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management, significant progress was made towards that goal in 2012. With the county taking the lead, this first new trailhead on the Pacific Northwest NST has become a reality.

Funding for this project came from numerous grants and private donations. With the completion of this phase of the development, the land will pass from county ownership to that of the Bureau of Land Management soon.



*Whistler Canyon Trailhead photo courtesy of the PNTA.*

# Goal #2 PRESERVATION

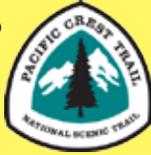
## ~ NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

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



### PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

In 2012, Pacific Crest Trail Association partnered with the Anza Borrego Foundation to purchase a 40-acre parcel in Anza Borrego Desert State Park. The once privately-held parcel located next to the Pacific Crest Trail will be preserved as open space and set aside for public use. This purchase ensures that this property will remain in its largely natural and untouched state and that the trail experience will continue unharmed. The parcel is located at the top of Nance Canyon near Anza, California. One hundred forty miles north of Mexico, the purchase includes a riparian corridor, open grassland, chaparral, and juniper woodland. The parcel also has a connection to the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, as the 1774 and 1775-76 Anza Expeditions to California traveled up Nance Canyon from lower Coyote Canyon to the San Carlos Pass, exiting the desert to a greener, more pastoral California.



### NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) made great strides toward its Trail Protection program in 2012, and the organization's fundraising efforts for trail protection took off. The organization was successful in getting grants from several foundations for projects and added an additional \$30,000 to their Trail Protection Funds. The NCTA obtained grants in Pennsylvania and Michigan to allow it to continue working to connect two key State parks in Pennsylvania and to build a trail protection plan for Michigan. To expand on this success, NCTA built a Trail Protection Grant program to be launched in 2013.

The NCTA also produced a series of Landowner Options brochures and a Volunteer Guide to Trail Protection to educate our volunteers and community members, and featured several workshops at its annual conference.

NCTA sued the State of New York in 2011 over opening ten miles of the NCNST to snowmobile traffic after 10 years of use as a hiking trail. In doing so, NCTA stood in defense of hiking and the quiet recreation community as well as the intent of the National Trails System in establishing National Scenic Trails. Ultimately, the lawsuit was withdrawn to enable both parties to engage in good-faith negotiations establishing the NCNST in a position of strength in New York.

The NCTA was also delighted that the NPS was able to secure \$50,000 in additional LWCF Funds to acquire a property in Newaygo County, Michigan along the North County NST.



### APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY

In the autumn of 2012, the Cherokee National Forest closed on the final phase of the 10,000-acre Rocky Fork acquisition, one of the most significant purchases for the Appalachian Trail in this century.

The Rocky Fork property is located along the Tennessee-North Carolina border in Tennessee's Unicoi and Greene counties. Rocky Fork, named after the cool waters of the creek that runs down its center, lies within Cherokee National Forest and abuts Pisgah National Forest in North Carolina, creating a vast unfragmented haven for wildlife and protecting water quality for neighboring communities.

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), US Forest Service (USFS), and Tennessee congressional delegation worked together for decades to acquire the Rocky Fork tract, most of which lies in the Appalachian Trail Community of Unicoi County, Tennessee. Major contributors to this project also included the ATC's partner, the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, who secured a \$6 million Tennessee Heritage Conservation Trust Fund grant to assist the acquisition process, and The Conservation Fund.

Diligent and persistent efforts by the ATC partnership resulted in Rocky Fork being selected as the number-one priority for USFS acquisition nationwide, a distinction that required leadership from Forest Supervisor Tom Speaks and support from the local community to facilitate significant Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations to cover most of the \$40 million acquisition.

The ATC's involvement in the Rocky Fork project stemmed from about 1.5 miles of the A.T. crossing private property (17 percent of the A.T. footpath mileage still needing protection in 2008) and most of the tract being visible along about 50 miles of the A.T. between Big Butt and Unaka Mountain. As an integral part of the ATC's Appalachian Trail Community relationship with Unicoi County, the ATC is working with the state, Cherokee National Forest officials, and local volunteers to inventory, mark, and open the developing Rocky Fork State Park trail system and plan appropriate connections to the A.T. and national forest lands for loop trails.

Photo courtesy of the ATC.



# Decade for the National Trails

## A Sampling of CAPACITY BUILDING Successes

### NEZ PERCE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In 2012, the Nez Perce National Historic Trail Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) revisions were drafted and reviewed by Federal partners. A tribal NPNHT MOU template modeled after the recently expired MOU with the Nez Perce Tribe was drafted for review by the tribal governments this winter to establish and strengthen a proactive working relationship between the various tribes and the NPNHT staff.



Photo: Interpretive signage near Chief Joseph Campground.

USFS Photo.



### LEWIS & CLARK TRUST, INC.

The Lewis & Clark Trust, Inc., a new Lewis and Clark NHT organization complementing the efforts of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, was officially incorporated in April 2012. The Trust was developed to seek innovative approaches to funding protection and outreach for the Lewis and Clark NHT. The organization is developing partnerships with private and public entities and places particular emphasis on reaching the next generation of Lewis and Clark enthusiasts.



The Lewis and Clark Trust launched a website with links to interactive resources about the trail from a variety of partners.

Photo below: presenting to youth at the Lewis and Clark Trust founding ceremony.



### ALA KAHAKAI NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) received its 501(c)(3) status and continues to participate with the Partnership for the National Trails System. In December 2011, the ATA received a commitment for \$1.4 million from the State of Hawaii Legacy Land Program to acquire in fee 35 acres of land in North Kohala.



Ala Kahakai NHT (ALKA) is implementing a grant to develop plans and designs for the Pu'ukohola / Spencer Beach Park trail head under the Connect Trails to Parks Program. The grant is funding a community acceptance strategy to work with the coastal and resort communities in incorporating this segment as a valued amenity for their communities and guests. This project, formerly known as "the first 15 miles" is now called the "Kohala Gateway Project".

ALKA and ATA continue to provide planning and implementation support to three community groups to clear trail. These groups include approximately 30 volunteers.

ALKA added a new staff member under the Pathways Program (formerly the Student Career Experience Program), Nahaku Kalei, to serve as the trail's Marine Coordinator. Nahaku is the lead staff for the Na Pe'a program. She is also expected to be a crew member on the Polynesian Voyaging Society's World Wide Voyage, a three-year, circumnavigation of the planet on open ocean sailing canoes. As such she and ALKA Superintendent is forging an NPS/DOI connection to this voyage.

### TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

In April 2012, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' tribal historic preservation office held a workshop on federal cultural resource law for TOTA members. The workshop explained several Federal laws regarding cultural resources, how each interacts with various federal agencies and undertakings, and the limitations of these laws. The purpose of the workshop was to show TOTA members how to fund studies and protect TOTA sites using these laws.



### JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

The Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona is partnering with the National Park Service in the expansion of trail signage and the development of trail waysides, including design of interpretation panels. The ATCA is also collaborating with the Arizona Department of Transportation in pursuit of auto tour route signage in areas unlikely to be accessible by foot trail.



### OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

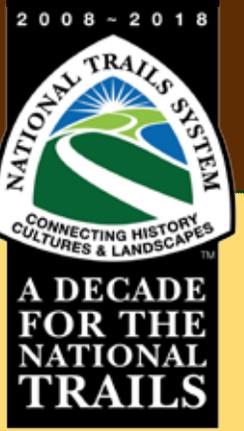
OCTA launched a new business membership program and held a mapping and marking workshop in Salt Lake City to train new volunteers.



# 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.



### IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and its partners received a 2012 Department of Interior "Partners in Conservation Award" from the Secretary of Interior on Oct 18, 2012. The award is a DOI Honor Award for outstanding achievements that include collaborative work among diverse entities such as Federal, State, local and tribal governments, private for-profit and nonprofit institutions, other nongovernmental entities, and individuals. The award recognizes outstanding results that have been produced primarily because of the engagement and contributions of many partners. The award was presented to four partners: the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, BLM Anchorage Field Office, Chugach National Forest, and the Department of Natural Resources Easement Project.

Photo: L-R: Marcilynn Burke, Department of the Interior, Acting Assistance Secretary, Land and Minerals Management; Lesli Schick, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Iditarod Easements Supervisor; Jaime Schmidt, USDA-USFS Chugach National Forest; Judy Bittner, President, Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance; David Hayes, Department of the Interior, Deputy Secretary; Kevin Keeler, BLM Iditarod NHT Administrator; Rick Thompson, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Regional Manager; Karen Kelleher, BLM Anchorage District Manager; Mike Pool, BLM Acting Director.



### OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAILS ASSOCIATION

The OVTA is leading the effort for a capital campaign to raise funds for the planning, design, construction, and management of an Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Headquarters and Visitor Contact Station. The OVTA also completely redesigned its website in 2012 (screenshot below).



### EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL ASSOCIATION



El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association greatly expanded its organizational capacity by taking on four interns from the University of Texas at

Austin and Texas State University. These interns have done a significant amount of GIS mapping of trail resources, created a geodatabase of resources for the trail and association, and taken part in outreach and educational activities along the trail. The interns also worked on grant proposals to nominate Camino Real resources to the National Register of Historic Places, attended various workshops for the trail, helped facilitate and present at board meetings, and performed a myriad of general administrative duties for the trail and association. Their assistance through 2012 proved to be a significant source of support for the organization. Organization leadership also took part in organizational capacity building workshops in Socorro and Albuquerque, NM.



### SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

During 2012, SFTA focused on attending events and/or conferences sponsored by similar organizations, to gain exposure and increase membership and initiated an effort to invite other historical organizations to an event co-sponsored with Bent's Old Fort NHS. The SFTA brought together the memberships of the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Smoky Hill Trail Association, the Cherokee Trail Chapter of the Oregon California Trail Association and the National Stagecoach and Freight Wagon Association for the "Wagons HO!" event in May 2012. This type of cooperative, cross-over event resulted in some additional members for all groups, and brought a great deal of attention to the NHS of Bent's Old Fort.

A membership survey was conducted in 2012 to gauge the interests of our members and what SFTA could do to better serve the membership. This will be followed-up by using those results to start creating a marketing plan.

Representatives of the Santa Fe Trail Association were sent to the PNTS Historical Trails Workshop held in Socorro, NM. Plans are underway for those representatives to present that information to SFTA's Board Members, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairs in April 2013.

SFTA members came together in April 2012 and drafted a new Strategic Plan that will help guide us for the years 2013-2023, which will include the Bicentennial Celebration of the Opening of the Santa Fe Trail to Trade by Wm. Becknell in 1821.



# Decade for the National Trails...

## 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.

### ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

The Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) initiated a three-person "Stew Crew" of Stewardship interns who helped on a variety of land stewardship and public engagement projects. The IATA's Mobile Skills Crew continues to build and maintain trail segments, with particularly large projects on the Jerry Lake segment in the Chequamegon National Forest, the Montrose segment in Dane County, and a segment in Hartman Creek State Park.

The Ice Age Trail University has grown significantly from its inception in 2003, with 90 participants in 2012 learning chainsaw handling, trail building techniques, and safe food handling for group events.



### PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail is a monumental undertaking. A barrage of wildfires, wind storms, and floods damage the trail every year, vegetation growth is relentless. Such work, historically carried out by government trail crews, is increasingly done by hundreds of volunteers organized by the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

To help volunteers succeed in their trail work, the PCTA collaborated with the US Forest Service to design a Trail Skills College curriculum. REI provided a grant for the initial funding. The Trail Skills College curriculum administers a shared perspective, vocabulary, and approach to working on the trail by moving volunteers through a succession of courses. Beginning with an entry-level trail maintenance course, volunteers build upon their skills through hands on experience. Intermediate and advanced courses focus on drainage, rock work, trail design, signage, saw skills, and crew leadership.

More than 300 volunteers contributed 7,600 hours in nine different Trail Skills Colleges in 2012, with events held in California, Oregon, and Washington. Courses are taught by professionals and volunteer leaders who have extensive experience in the fields of recreational construction, trail maintenance, and leadership.



### NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

With funding from a Michigan based foundation and from the National Park Service, the NCTA was able to bring on two interns in 2012 to build a Trail Protection program to highlight accessibility along the North Country Trail.

The biggest improvement in capacity was the addition of a new National Park Service Superintendent for the North Country Trail, based in Lowell, Michigan, to enhance the NCTA and NPS working relationship.



### NEW ENGLAND NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Connecticut Forest and Park Association (CFPA) initiated a pilot Ridgerunner program in CT this year with weekend volunteers. Ridgerunners were stationed on Mt Higby and in the Ragged Mountain Preserve. These trail ambassadors connected with hikers, shared trail information, promoted Leave No Trace principles and identified areas in need of maintenance.

2012 saw the construction of an additional 2.5 miles of the NET in the East River Preserve in Guilford, CT. The 580- acre Town open space affords sweeping views of the East River, protects key bird habitat and is a unique natural environment.



### PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The PNTA hired a part-time executive director in July of 2012 to work on membership, fundraising, and marketing of the PNTA.



### FLORIDA NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The Florida NST, through partnerships with the Florida Trail Association, the US Forest Service, and the University of Florida's School of Forest Resources and Conservation completed and published a multi-year visitor assessment demonstrating annual visitors to the trail average over 350,000. The US Forest Service also published its first FNST State of the Trail Report to better understand the current condition of the FNST and create a template for future updates and information sharing, and published a landmark five-year strategic plan for the trail.



### ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Arizona Trail Association added two part-time staff members to implement its youth outreach program, reworked membership levels and benefits, and identified new partners within the outdoor recreation industry to support the Arizona Trail.



# 2012 Partnership for the National Trails System Accomplishments



## GENERAL OVERVIEW

During 2012, the Partnership's staff and officers guided and coordinated work of our National Trails System community leaders to achieve several major accomplishments. Working together during 2012 we:

- Collaborated again with the American Hiking Society to organize and host the 15th annual "Hike the Hill" Trails Advocacy Week including:
  - 55 participants from PNTS member organizations;
  - Hosted meetings with the leadership of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Congressional Appropriations Committees staff;
  - The 2nd Interagency Trail Lands Protection meeting for agency land acquisition leaders, trail organization leaders, and agency trail administrators.
- Coordinated preparation of a National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Land & Water Conservation Fund project proposal for Fiscal Year 2014 comprising
  - 120 land acquisition projects along 11 national scenic and historic trails;
  - \$61 million requested to complete these acquisitions
- Published and distributed four issues of Pathways Across America and a special issue describing the public and private partnerships that sustain each of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails.
- Produced the first report describing the trail land protection activities for the 11 National Scenic Trails.
- Organized and hosted three workshops for PNTS member organizations and agency trail staff:
  - National Historic Trails Workshop in Socorro, New Mexico in May for 50 participants over 2.5 days;
  - National Scenic Trails Workshop in Shepherdstown, West Virginia in November for 55 participants over 3 days;
  - National Trails System Organization Capacity Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico for 42 participants from 13 national trails organizations and Federal agencies over 3 days;
- Began planning the 14th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails scheduled for November 2-7 in Tucson, Arizona.
- Initiated discussions with senior Department of Energy staff advocating including national scenic and historic trails in a national database of environmentally sensitive areas to be avoided in the siting of high voltage energy transmission lines.

## ADVOCACY EFFORTS

The advocacy efforts of our National Trails System community, renewed each year by "Hike the Hill", and extending throughout the year have successfully maintained funding for operation of the national scenic and historic trails by the National Park

Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Forest Service at the historic high level of \$28 million for the past several years while budgets for many other functions of these agencies have declined.

The three workshops organized during 2012 were made possible by funding provided by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration. Each workshop had its own distinctive character and addressed major topics critical to the success of the national trails.

The Historic Trails Workshop focused on how to make these trails relevant recreational and heritage resources in the communities as well as the hinterlands they pass through. Rather than emphasizing how to tell the stories of historic trails the workshop explored how to make them visible and usable on the ground while protecting the historic and cultural resources associated with them.

Although the Scenic Trails Workshop included discussions of a variety of topics, a major focus was on how to achieve protection of the continuity of these trails and the scenic quality of their landscape settings. Ways were explored to persuade the other Federal agencies to follow the lead of the Bureau of Land Management policy requiring delineation of management corridors for national scenic and historic trails in their land management plans. Ways to plan, organize, fund, and implement more consistent land acquisition for the scenic trails were also discussed.

The third, "bonus" workshop was a collaboration with the National Park Service National Trails Intermountain Region staff that explored two elements of healthy nonprofit organization work. Workshop participants were guided through important awareness and practices to continually recruit and nurture volunteers and strong leaders for their organizations by two trainers from the Institute for Conservation Leadership during the first day and a half. The second half of the Workshop focused on how to effectively involve and work with Native-American tribes in sustaining the national trails through a series of presentations and discussions led by Native-Americans.

Some of these accomplishments of 2012 were the culmination of work begun several years before; others were a continuation of long-standing programs; and others still have laid the foundation for more successes in the future. 2012 was a good year for the Partnership for the National Trails System.

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## Trails Events Calendar Spring-Summer 2013

### **April 2013**

April 13	Annual Meeting W3R®-US	W3R®-US	Princeton, NJ	<a href="http://www.w3r-us.org">www.w3r-us.org</a>
April 11-14	Annual Conference and Membership Meeting	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Dresser, WI	<a href="http://www.iceagetrail.org">www.iceagetrail.org</a>
April 14-17	International Trails Symposium	American Trails	Near Mesa and Scottsdale, AZ	<a href="http://www.americantrails.org">www.americantrails.org</a>
April 26-28	OCTA California-Nevada Spring Symposium	Oregon California Trails Association	Oroville, CA	<a href="http://www.octa-trails.org">www.octa-trails.org</a>

### **May 2013**

May 31-June 2	OSTA Annual Conference	Old Spanish Trail Association	Cortez, CO	<a href="http://www.oldspanishtrail.org">www.oldspanishtrail.org</a>
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### **June 2013**

June 1	National Trails Day	American Hiking Society	Nationwide	<a href="http://www.americanhiking.org">www.americanhiking.org</a>
June 8	National Get Outdoors Day	National Recreation Coalition, US Forest Service, Joe Reilly	Nationwide	<a href="http://nationalgetoutdoorsday.org">nationalgetoutdoorsday.org</a>

### **July 2013**

July 19-26	ATC's 39th Biennial Conference	Appalachian Trail Conservancy	Cullowhee, NC	<a href="http://www.appalachiantrail.org">www.appalachiantrail.org</a>
July 22-26	OCTA's 31th Annual Convention	Oregon-California Trails Association	Oregon City, OR	<a href="http://www.octa-trails.org">www.octa-trails.org</a>
July 28-31	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation Annual Meeting	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Bismarck, ND	<a href="http://www.lewisandclark.org">www.lewisandclark.org</a>

### **August 2013**

August 12-17	North Country Trail Association Annual Conference	North Country Trail Association	Slippery Rock University, PA	<a href="http://www.northcountrytrail.org">www.northcountrytrail.org</a>
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### **September 2013**

September 6-8	Pacific Crest Trail Days	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Cascade Locks, OR	<a href="http://www.pcta.org">www.pcta.org</a>
September 26-29	SFTA BOD Meeting and Symposium	Santa Fe Trail Association	Ulysses, KS	<a href="http://www.santafetrail.org">www.santafetrail.org</a>