

Pathways Across America

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



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

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

California National Historic Trail

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

Florida National Scenic Trail

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

New England National Scenic Trail

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

North Country National Scenic Trail

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Pony Express National Historic Trail

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route
National Historic Trail



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the

National Trails System?

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



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

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

National Recreation Trails

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

19 National Historic Trails

Ala Kahakai NHT

California NHT

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

Iditarod NHT

Juan Bautista de Anza NHT

Lewis and Clark NHT

Mormon Pioneer NHT

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Old Spanish NHT

Oregon NHT

Overmountain Victory NHT

Pony Express NHT

Santa Fe NHT

Selma to Montgomery NHT

Star-Spangled Banner NHT

Trail of Tears NHT

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route NHT

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



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...



Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening Communities

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



Enhancing

Access to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative 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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THE PATHWAYS COVER

The Summer 2011 Pathways Cover features a celebration of memories from the 13th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference in Abingdon, Virginia. All photos were taken by Chelsea Bodamer, Trails Apprentice Scholarship Recipient, or Julia Glad of the PNTS.

Interior photos, top left to right: The March to the Overmountain Victory Trail Trailhead, the Muster Grounds, in Abingdon, Virginia. Photo by Chelsea Bodamer. Hands-on learning at Bent's Fort National Historic Site, along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. "In Flight" by Rachael Augsburg, photo courtesy of the Florida Trail Association.





Reflections on the 13th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference Abingdon, Virginia May 14-18, 2011

The 13th National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference brought together trails leaders from federal agencies, stewardship organizations, and preservation initiatives from all over the country to learn about the many ways trails contribute to healthy communities.

This year's theme, *Healthy Trails -- Healthy Communities*, was chosen as health issues have captured the public's attention--from concerns about epidemics of childhood obesity and asthma, to the economic health of communities, to the health of coastal ecosystems inundated with oil.

Workshop sessions were centered around four tracks: Environmental Health and Preservation, Human Health, Educational Health, and Economic Health. We asked the question: How can we demonstrate the value of trails to communities so that they will appreciate, use, support, and sustain them for years to come?

Saturday, May 14

For the first time ever, the partners of the Partnership for the National Trails System participated in Damascus Trail Days, a tribute to the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that is the largest trail and hiking festival in America. PNTS trails partners shared a large tent for informational displays, and passers-by could learn about the stories of individual trails of the National Trails System through a fun educational trivia game.



Many National Scenic and Historic Trails were well-represented in the annual Trail Days Parade through the town, which is known for its casual and enthusiastic (water guns encouraged!) celebration of past and present through-hikers and trail organizations.

The opening reception of the Conference was held as the inaugural event of the Heartwood Artisan Center in Abingdon, Virginia. This gorgeous, brand-new facility opened shortly thereafter and featured the handicrafts and artistry native to Southwestern Virginia. Kaleo Paik, of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, called the event to order with a traditional Hawaiian Pu.

Sunday, May 15

The focus of Sunday was an educational showcase put on by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA), a conference host organization. Based on the annual educational event "A Call to Arms" the OVTA organizes for local students, our day at the OVT Muster Grounds featured stations about the various aspects of the story of the OVT and elements of 18th century life in the area. Participants marched in companies from the conference center to the Muster Grounds, where they enjoyed an outdoor lunch featuring local entrees and a greeting from Ed Morgan, the mayor of Abingdon, who declared May 15 annual National Trails Day in Abingdon. This showcase provided an excellent opportunity for both Scenic and Historic Trails partners to observe interactive storytelling techniques applicable to all trails.

Dinner that evening featured a live musical performance by local Appalachian heritage music ensemble, *Fire in the Kitchen*.



Monday, May 16

Monday was the first day of workshop track sessions. The day opened with a Federal plenary on the America's Great Outdoors Initiative. Panelists included Steve Elkinton, National Park Service, Eugenie Bostrum, DOI Office of Youth, Joel Holtrop Deputy Secretary of the US Forest Service and Carl Rountree, Director of the National Landscape Conservation System, Bureau of Land Management. (shown at right).



Lynn Scarlett, former Deputy Secretary of Interior, gave the keynote lunch presentation (far left). Trails Basics workshop sessions offered learning opportunities for those looking to gain an overview understanding of the NTS. The Trail Corridor Protection Working Dinner included participation by over half of conference attendee. Steve Elkinton led the workshop, which included discussion groups and guest presenters from individual trails highlighting their approaches and successes. Participants had opportunities to network and learn how to protect their trails.

Tuesday, May 17

Tuesday featured five mobile workshops. A full-day bus trip to many sites along the Overmountain Victory Trail was organized by Paul Carson, the NPS superintendant of the Trail (shown below), who brought in guests speakers at different points along the trail to discuss the processes involved in protecting and interpreting the OVT. Special thanks to the many OVTA volunteers who were willing to volunteer their time to bring these sites alive for the mobile workshop attendees.



John O'Dell and Eleanor Grasselli of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy led mobile workshops on the Appalachian Trail, with John demonstrating exotic species management (see opposite page, top middle photo) and Eleanor giving a general overview of flora and fauna native to the area.

Despite intermittent rain and heavy skies, the mobile workshop biking along the Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail was still a success, and participants of both that workshop and a half-day workshop in Damascus, VA learned about the economic impact of trails in "Trail Town USA".

In the evening, Julia Washburn, Chief of Interpretation for the National Park Service (below left), gave a truly inspiring presentation, Serving 21st Century Learners.

Wednesday, May 18

The last day of conference included the final two workshop track sessions and a plenary session lead by the contingent of youth scholarship recipients.

The youth presented in a panel format and then rotated through small roundtable groups of conference participants to discuss ideas about youth initiatives with trail leaders. (See following page describing youth scholarship program.)

The concluding evening featured the traditional PNTS conference banquet awards dinner (see column at right) and auction to support the Partnership for the National Trails System. Kaleo Paik of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association opened dinner with a traditional Hawaiian prayer, and a stirring speech was presented by the Reverend Doak.

Conference hosts, including the Town of Abingdon, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, were lauded for their assistance with the conference.

The evening concluded with the auction, enthusiastically led by Leo Rasmussen of the Iditarod and Alan Bowen of the OVT.



Above: The youth plenary featured topic tables each led by youth.

Awards

Tom Gilbert, the retiring NPS Superintendant of the Ice Age and North Country National Scenic Trails, was honored for his career of service to the National Trails System (left), as was Craig Bromley of the BLM (right).



Jeff Jarvis (left) of the BLM and Ross Marshall of the PNTS and the Santa Fe Trail Association (cover) also received awards. Pam

Underhill of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy received her award later at the ATC's biennial meeting (below).



Young Adult “Trail Apprentices” Shine at the National Trails Conference

The 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Conference welcomed 24 Youth Scholarship recipients to the trails community. Coming from a myriad of academic backgrounds and life experiences, the National Trails System brought these young scholars together and will undoubtedly connect them into the future. Looking out into the forest of faces during the opening ceremony, one could delight in seeing both the smiling faces of our newest and most senior members of the trails community!

The conference themes of Environmental Health, Economic Health, Human Health, and Educational Health were echoed strongly in academic, professional, and personal interests of our scholarship recipients. During the Youth Plenary Session, participants left with a closing promise that the next generation of America is dedicated to pursuing environmental, economic, human, and environmental health in such a way that they are not mutually exclusive. Many of the participants have already expressed interest in mentoring the trail scholars of the future and facilitating the 2013 scholarship program. Their work in the trails community and in the pursuit of environmental, economic, human and educational health is to be highlighted here in the Pathways magazine in each issue in the “Spotlight on Trails Apprentices” section.

One unique aspect of the Trails Apprentice program at this conference was the continued participation of 2009 Trails Apprentices. Scholarship recipients who attended the 12th Conference in Missoula, MT assisted with some of the planning for the youth program for Abingdon, and 6 trails apprentices who attended in Missoula were able to attend this year. Youth also helped with many conference functions. Marshall Alford, one of the Trails Apprentices previously featured in Pathways, was recognized during the conference for his recent college graduation and new position with the US Forest Service attained in part due to his extensive involvement with National Trails.

Thank you to our federal partners who committed their time and resources to making the Youth Scholar Program possible, including the USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and Federal Highway Administration. The trails community has already shown itself to be richer for it and will continue to do so as we grow in time from the impassioned youth to the wisened elders who are championing the National Trails System and all its natural, cultural, scenic, and historic resources into the future.

Submitted by Megan Eno, US Forest Service, Florida National Scenic Trail



Above: The career exploration discussion brought youth and trails leaders from both the private and public sides to dialogue about career paths related to trails and land management.



The Youth Plenary (above) put Trails Apprentices in the spotlight to share their perspectives and ideas about the National Trails System. The plenary began with a panel and then youth decided to break into small, rotating discussion groups to allow for increased dialogue with trails leaders. Photo at right: Greg Jackson.



Photos below from left: Molly Hearn, Sara Pikora, and Amirah AbuLughod, building friendships for the trails community of the future; Justin Fisch, who presented on his trail user counting project during the conference, during youth introductions; and returning Trails Apprentice Annie Fehrenbach, sharing an enthusiastic “Huzzah” with Alan Bowen of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association.



Benefits of Connecting Healthy National Scenic and Historic Trails to Healthy Communities

In 2010, throughout the many America's Great Outdoors public listening sessions, the Bureau of Land Management's events celebrating the 10 year anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System, and other forums we emphasized how our national scenic and historic trails pass through or close to 100 of the metropolitan areas of 50,000 or more people in America. Our 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails this spring in Abingdon, Virginia provided an opportunity to explore those connections and the benefits scenic and historic trails bring to and gain from those 100 larger and the hundreds of smaller communities along their routes.

In Abingdon and nearby Damascus we heard from mayors and saw firsthand the economic and social benefits that the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail bring to their respective communities. In Damascus many of us participated in a small town's big festival celebrating hiking on the Appalachian Trail while in Abingdon we experienced how the Overmountain Victory Trail Association brings the Revolutionary War history of that place alive. In workshops during the 13th Trails Conference we learned more about the economic benefits that heritage and eco tourism bring to communities with trails, how doctors in Cuba, New Mexico are prescribing hiking on the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail to improve the health of their patients, and the ways that Kansas City's rich heritage of five national historic trails is being woven into the hundreds of miles of trails and greenways of the Metro Green System. Similarly we saw how the Ice Age National Scenic Trail is both providing close to home hiking and restoration of native southern Wisconsin prairie and savanna ecosystems in an ecological trail corridor.



One workshop track focused on the opportunities and benefits our scenic and historic trails provide for captivating and memorable educational experiences for people of all ages. We have reported in *PATHWAYS* and begun to catalog in our *Youth Programs of the National Trails System* reports some of the tremendously successful educational programs underway along our trails. Among them are the Pacific Northwest Trail Association's SKY program, Ice Age Trail Summer Saunters, the Chesapeake Conservancy's Youth Summer Camps, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's pioneering Trail to Every Classroom that has been adapted to the Iditarod Trail, the Nez Perce Trail annual "Chief Joseph Trail Ride", the two week annual reenactment of the Campaign to Kings Mountain by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, and the "Santa Fe Trail Trips" featured in this issue.

This impressive list and the other activities we have archived, including the many service learning programs routinely occurring along our trails, comprise a significant benefit that our trails bring to communities along them and the Nation as a whole. Unfortunately the educational value of the scenic and historic trails is greatly under-appreciated. Collectively we need to do a much better job of informing the people of those communities and the opinion leaders of our states and country about this wonderful service and the tremendous benefits we as a community of trail stewards provide by inspiring and engaging children, youth, and adults in appreciating the historical, cultural, and natural heritage of our Nation.

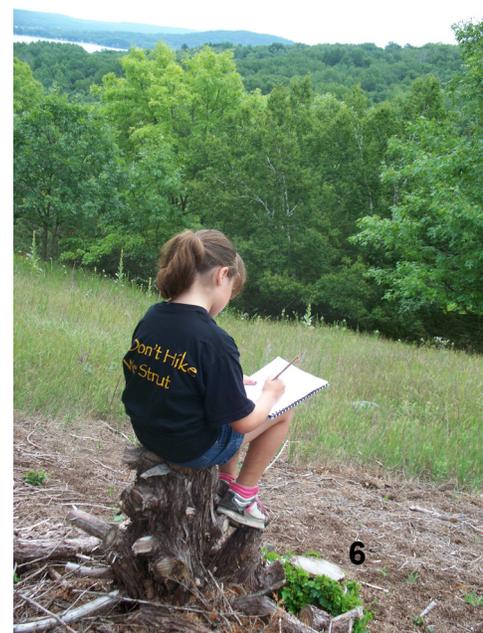
We also should redouble our efforts to build upon the good work already begun to fully realize the educational potential still mostly latent in our scenic and historic trails. Our successful programs should be expanded to communities and to groups that have not yet participated in them and we should keep experimenting with new ways of telling our trails' stories. We should seek funding to support our efforts in both the educational and health care realms. We should make the National Trails System as well known and appreciated for its educational values as it is for its scenic, recreational, and historic values.

Through the 13th National Trails Conference we were inspired by examples of creative and beneficial connections between our trails and some of the communities through which they pass. We were shown possible ways to strengthen and expand those connections and were given good reasons to do so. You can share in what we learned by browsing through the reports and pictures from the 13th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails posted on the Partnership's website: www.pnts.org

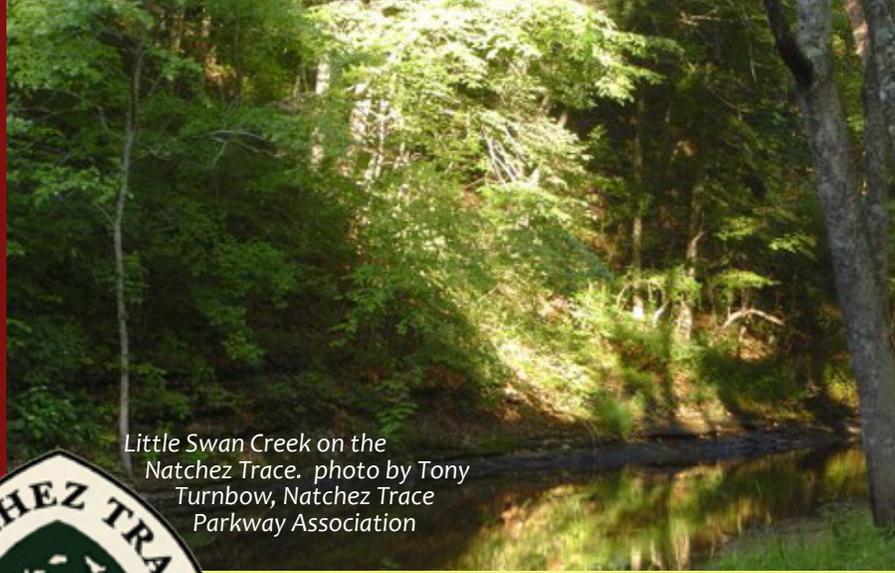


Gary Werner
Executive Director
Partnership for the National Trails System

Keeping a Trail Journal during the Summer Saunters educational program along the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. Photo courtesy of the Ice Age Trail Alliance.



A Look at the NATCHEZ TRACE National Scenic Trail & Parkway



Little Swan Creek on the Natchez Trace. photo by Tony Turnbow, Natchez Trace Parkway Association

NATCHEZ TRACE BACKGROUND

Sometimes historically known as the “Devil’s Backbone,” the old Natchez Trace runs between Natchez, Mississippi and Nashville, Tennessee. It passes through the hilltops of Middle Tennessee, rich planting areas of Alabama and Mississippi, and through the Spanish Moss-covered forests near Natchez along the Mississippi River.

The Natchez Trace is one of the oldest footpaths in the Nation, used since prehistoric times by indigenous groups, with Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes using the path since before the arrival of European travelers and settlers. In the early 1800s, the area around the Natchez Trace was considered pioneer country, with passports sometimes needed to travel through the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations. Boatmen from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky, collectively called “Kaintucks”, used the route to return home on foot after shipping agricultural goods and coal downstream along the Mississippi River.

President Jefferson saw the need for a military road from Nashville to Natchez to protect American access to Gulf ports and authorized construction of the Natchez Road as one of the first federally improved roads. That route proved its value in transporting troops to the Battle of New Orleans during the War of 1812 and later to Texas during the Mexican-American War (1846-1848). The road also provided a major migration route for the settlement of the South and arguably played an important role in the development of southern culture. Its use declined as steamboats, stagecoaches, and railroads handled the transportation needs of the rapidly growing area.



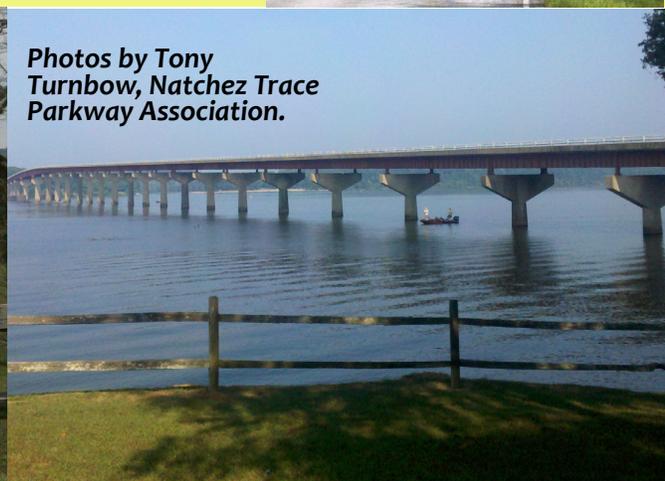
The Civil War brought many portions of the Trace back to life as the entire corridor saw Civil War action including battles in Nashville, Shiloh, Corinth, Brice’s Crossroads, Tupelo, Vicksburg, Raymond, and Port Gibson. After the Civil War, the Trace once again began disappearing and was gone by 1900. The Daughters of the American Revolution revived the Trace by placing markers in each county the trail traversed starting in 1905. By 1933, markers had been placed in each county and the DAR began pushing for congressional protection with the assistance of the Natchez Trace Association. These efforts led in 1938 to the establishment of the Natchez Trace Parkway under Federal law.

The Parkway became a national park unit in 1938 and construction began shortly thereafter, finishing in 2005 at an estimated total cost of \$500 million.

The present Parkway spans 444-mile (same distance as DC to Boston or San Francisco to almost San Diego), 3 states (TN, AL, MS), 25 counties, 20 communities and has over 1,000 miles of boundary. Approximately 9,000 private and commercial land owners are adjacent to the Parkway’s boundaries. About 14 million people traveled the Parkway in 2010 (one of the highest visitation levels in the NPS) – 6 million as visitors and 8 million as residents using it as a routine travel route.

Did You Know?
The National Trails System Act of 1968 identified the Natchez Trace as one of the initial 14 routes nationwide thought to have potential as a National Scenic Trail.

Text compiled from content from Tony Turnbow, NTPA, and Cam Sholly, NPS Superintendent, Natchez Trace Parkway.



Photos by Tony Turnbow, Natchez Trace Parkway Association.

Parkway or Scenic Trail? Complementary Distinctions for the Natchez Trace

The Natchez Trace carries two distinct designations that refer to different elements of the route. The Natchez Trace Parkway, a driving route, commemorates the 10,000 year old, 444-mile route of the Old Trace. The Parkway and its surrounding 55,000 acres are protected in order to commemorate the entire historic corridor. It has the 21st largest base budget in the NPS and boasts around 14 million visitors per year. Construction started on a roadway commemorating the route in the early 1930s as a Civilian Conservation Corps project; in 2005, the last remaining gaps were completed.

The Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail is a smaller, separate NPS unit managed under the Natchez Trace Parkway by Parkway staff. The National Scenic Trail is comprised of four hiking-accessible trail sections totaling 65 miles adjacent to the driving route designed to give visitors an alternate means to enjoy parts of the Natchez Trace. These four sections are marked by the solid lines on the National Trails System map, whereas the driving-only Parkway is marked as a dotted line.

National Scenic vs. National Historic Trail

The historic significance of the route is on par with the goals and approaches of the National Historic Trails, so one may wonder, “why a National Scenic Trail?” By 1983, when the route received National Scenic Trail designation, the Trace was already well established as a national parkway commemorating the old route. What was lacking at that point was a bigger and better trail system within the boundaries of the Parkway to help visitors enjoy the Trace’s wildlife, history, culture, and scenery. In other words, the Natchez Trace Parkway, a driving route, serves effectively as an historic trail, while the sections of footpath serve as recreational routes more along the usage patterns of the National Scenic Trails.

Editor’s Note: *The dual nature of the Natchez Trace described above exposes an under-appreciated aspect of the National Trails System. Some of the wildest and most scenic recreational opportunities in the System are found along national historic trails, such as the route of the Ala Kahakai along the coast of Hawaii and the Iditarod Trail route across the remote vastness of central Alaska. Just as unheralded, many historic sites – from Civil War battlefields on the Appalachian Trail to prehistoric Native American animal driveways and hunting blinds along the crest of the Continental Divide Trail to the sites of John Muir’s boyhood home and Aldo Leopold’s shack on the Ice Age Trail – are found along national scenic trails. To insist on and practice a rigid distinction of purpose for each of these trail designations is to ignore the full richness of resources and experiences encompassed by the national scenic and historic trails. We should recognize, celebrate, and publicize this richness much more than we do.*

Photo of reenacting War of 1812 Soldiers taken by Jed Dekalb, Chief Photographer for the State of TN.



Natchez Trace Parkway Association joins Partnership for the National Trails System

During the PNTS Leadership Council meeting held at the National Trails Conference in May 2011, the Natchez Trace Parkway Association’s request to become a PNTS member was approved. The PNTS enthusiastically welcomes its newest member!



ABOUT THE NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY ASSOCIATION

The Natchez Trace Parkway Association, formed in the early 1930s to encourage development of the Parkway, has begun work to share its story through improved interpretation and events along the corridor. Taking advantage of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Parkway and the Bicentennial of the War of 1812, in which the old Natchez Trace played a prominent role, the Association is regrouping to bring new attention to the Natchez Trace Parkway and its place in American history.



Tracing the Journey of Southern Discovery

The Association is encouraging the development of living history to bring the fascinating Trace stories back to life and is working with the Parkway to support the interpretation of the War of 1812 with proposed military reenactments. The Association’s goal is to join with other sites to tell the story of the War of 1812 in the south. Planning for the bicentennial is already creating new partnerships among the Association, history groups across the country, and new supporters who are fascinated with the early settlement period.

Now that the motor road has been completed, the Association has adopted the motto “Explore, Complete, Support, Protect” and is turning its attention to supporting the Park Service goal to complete amenities to enhance the visitor experience. The Chickasaw Nation is planning construction of an interpretive center at the heart of its former capital near Tupelo. The Association is working with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to encourage development of an interpretive center near the burial site of the explorer Meriwether Lewis, who died on the old Trace. The center would carry on the legacy of Lewis by using his story to connect the traveler to the discovery of the bountiful nature along the Trace. The Association is working with groups to explore new historic interpretation at the site of a ferry operated by Chickasaw Chief George Colbert on the Tennessee River in Alabama as well as enhanced visitor interpretation near the site of the historic Natchez Emerald Mound. The eventual completion of all four major interpretive areas will significantly enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the Parkway, fulfilling its original purpose.

The Association is reaching out to new supporters beyond the immediate area through development of its web site www.natcheztrace.info. The two million people who live along the trail are being encouraged to explore its full length during the bicentennial years. The Association is also creating an exhibit on Trace history to bring to local communities. The communities will be encouraged to use the exhibit to develop their own permanent Trace-related interpretation. A curriculum for schools will be included. A journal for members is also in development as well as a history photo book in commemoration of the Parkway.



THE LWCF AND THE NTS



Why supporting the Land and Water Conservation Fund is Crucial for the National Trails System

Submitted by Jodi Stemler, Outdoors America, LWCF Coalition

ABOUT THE LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), created in 1965, has helped protect land at some of America's most famous and popular places including our country's iconic national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, and National Landscape Conservation System Lands where millions of Americans recreate as well as cultural and historic places. LWCF has also funded the creation of National Scenic Trails including the Ice Age Trail, the Appalachian Trail, the Florida Trail, the Pacific Crest Trail, and many more. LWCF also includes grants to support state and local parks, including the greenbelts and trail systems that inspire people to try long-distance trails.

The important thing to note is that LWCF does not rely on taxpayer money. Instead, the fund annually receives a small portion of royalties paid by companies drilling for oil and gas in America's oceans. The fund is supposed to receive \$900 million annually for land and trail conservation needs. But nearly every year, Congress has spent the money for other purposes. Only once in the history of the fund has all the money gone for the original intent of the LWCF.

"Billions of dollars are collected every year from existing offshore oil and gas leasing revenues – the designated revenue stream for LWCF – and yet that money is regularly diverted for other purposes," said Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land. "We need to make sure the money is spent for the purposes for which it was originally collected and to ensure that communities can protect places important for their outdoor recreation economy."

A June 2011 report by the Department of the Interior found that the \$214 million the Department spent last year to acquire land supported 3,000 jobs and contributed \$442 million in economic activity.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

A June 2011 report by the Department of the Interior found that the \$214 million the Department spent last year to acquire land supported 3,000 jobs and contributed \$442 million in economic activity.

Moreover, outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, camping, climbing, hiking, paddling, back country skiing, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, and other activities contributes a total of \$730 billion annually to the economy, supporting 6.5 million jobs (1 of every 20 jobs in the U.S.) and stimulates 8 percent of all consumer spending, according to the Outdoor Industry Foundation.

Americans are connected by the thousands of miles of trails that crisscross our country. These trails are the corridors of history winding us through a place in time and binding us with the people before us, who built this great nation. They inspire us to walk, jog, or bike long distances, or simply stroll with the dog through our local communities.

Those of us who have joined trails clubs or volunteered for trail-clearing or maintenance projects also know far more about the complexity of building and maintaining these trails. And many of us also know that there is one federal program that has made a substantial impact on creating many miles of trails – the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).

CURRENT FUNDING STATUS

Despite its critical contribution to our national and local economies, LWCF—and perhaps the future of our trails—are in jeopardy again. A heated battle in Congress in December left LWCF with a crippling 30 percent budget cut. And now, as Congress debates next year's funding for domestic priorities like LWCF, the question is not whether LWCF will be cut, but again, how deeply.

Appropriately, LWCF has tremendous champions on Capitol Hill and in the Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar, a fact that has thus far kept the non-taxpayer-funded program alive. In late June, a bipartisan group of 150 U.S. Representatives and 39 U.S. Senators asked congressional leaders to ensure that "robust and consistent" funding is allocated to the program. Secretary Salazar has been the biggest advocate for LWCF, promoting the economic benefits of these critical conservation and recreation investments.

Most recently on June 23, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) and Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) introduced legislation to permanently fund LWCF at its fully authorized level of \$900

million annually. Senators Jon Tester (D-MT), Mark Udall (D-CO), and Ron Wyden (D-OR) are also on board, and signed up as original co-sponsors of the bill, S. 1265. Similar legislation gained momentum in the last Congress and continues to have broad support.

During this time of fiscal crisis, it is critical that our nation's investments pay dividends. LWCF has been doing so since 1965, but without loud, vocal support from trail users and others that have benefitted from the program, LWCF faces an uncertain future.

THE LWCF Coalition: Taking Action to Support LWCF Funding

The Partnership for the National Trails System is an active member of the Land & Water Conservation Fund Coalition (LWCF Coalition). The LWCF Coalition has been working for several years to promote full, dedicated annual funding of the Land & Water Conservation Fund. Led by the Trust for Public Lands, The Wilderness Society, and The Conservation Fund, this broad coalition includes many of the most influential national, state, and local conservation and recreation organizations. Through recruiting and encouraging grassroots advocates, providing information to editorial boards and opinion leaders, and directly advocating with members of Congress, the LWCF Coalition promotes legislation to require full annual funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund and lobbies for robust LWCF funding in the annual appropriations made by Congress.



For more information on the LWCF Coalition, or to get involved with this effort, go to www.lwcfcoalition.org

A Background of the LWCF and the Appalachian Trail

Among the first beneficiaries of both pieces of legislation was the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. Today it represents one of the greatest success stories of both the LWCF and NTSA legislation.

The initial authorization included in the 1968 National Trails System Act assumed that the states would take the lead in acquiring lands and interests in lands to establish a permanent right-of-way and protective corridor for the Appalachian Trail. Soon, however, it became apparent that more aggressive federal action was required. Amendments to the National Trails System Act in 1978 would launch one of the most complex land-acquisition programs in the nation's history. In 1978, approximately 800 miles of the Appalachian Trail were on private lands or situated along road shoulders; today all but five miles of the trail now are protected through public ownership within a greenway extending more than 2,000 miles.



“The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 was a visionary piece of legislation adopted by the U.S. Congress for the purpose of providing a financial means to preserve, develop, and assure accessibility to outdoor recreation resources and to strengthen the health and vitality of U.S. citizens. Those purposes are every bit as relevant today, if not more so, and it is perhaps not surprising that the purposes of that act closely align with those of the National Trails System Act, which was adopted only three years later.”
- Dave Startzell, Appalachian Trail Conservancy

The National Park Service has acquired more than 2,550 parcels of land encompassing more than 117,000 acres in eleven states while the USDA Forest Service has acquired about 470 parcels totalling more than 56,000 acres. Virtually all of those lands were acquired with the use of Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations. About one-half of the 14 states crossed by the A.T. also have acquired lands (totaling 19,500 acres) and many of those acquisitions also were accomplished with matching funds provided from “state-side” LWCF appropriations.

While the federal land acquisition program along the A.T. has been focused primarily on forming a relatively narrow protective corridor, generally averaging 1,000 feet in width, a number of significant acquisitions in the past several years have demonstrated that the Appalachian Trail greenway can serve as a backbone for broader, landscape-level conservation projects. Some recent examples include the Mahoosucs Gateway/Success Township project in New Hampshire and the Chateaugay-No Town project in Vermont, both spearheaded by The Conservation Fund, and the White Rocks project in Pennsylvania, coordinated by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy. All of the above-referenced projects also demonstrate the leveraging power of federal investments in land-conservation projects. In each case, federal LWCF appropriations were blended with state and private sector financial contributions. All three projects also represent true partnership projects, engaging federal and state land-managing agencies, local governments, several nonprofit organizations, and the affected landowners. Submitted by Dave Startzell, Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

White Rocks Project

This project, which was completed by the National Park Service in the spring of 2011 with FY 2010 LWCF appropriations and matched by a Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Keystone grant program (with additional contributions from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and several of its club affiliates) conserved approximately 850 acres of heavily wooded ridge-top lands and an important aquifer surrounding several miles of the Appalachian Trail and forestalled a proposed subdivision of the property for 274 residential lots.

Chateaugay-No Town Landscape-Level Project

This project affects four parcels, totaling 1,000 acres, that bordering the A.T. in Barnard and Bridgewater, Vermont, and it serves as a focal point for a broader conservation effort in that area affecting as much as 55,000 acres. The property—the first portion of which was acquired in the spring of 2011 by the National Park Service—provides supplemental protection for the A.T., habitat protection for moose, black bear, and numerous migratory bird species, and encompasses the watershed for Locust Creek, a Vermont Class A stream.

Mahoosucs Gateway/Success Township Project

This project, involving the protection of approximately 4,700 acres, provided supplemental protection along six miles of the A.T. near the town of Berlin, New Hampshire, including the peaks of Bald Cap and North Bald Cap mountains as well as a number of high elevation watersheds draining into the Androscoggin River. The property was acquired by the National Park Service in 2010 with the aid of LWCF appropriations in both fiscal year 2009 and 2010.

Land and Water Conservation Fund Successes for National Scenic and Historic Trails



Photo: Suwannee River, by Robert Coverney, Florida Trail Association.

LWCF Helps to Complete the Florida Trail

Submitted by Kent Wimmer, Florida Trail Association

Since 1965, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) has directed more than \$900 million in Florida for federal land acquisition and state and local park development. This funding includes over \$17 million that has been used over the past eight years to permanently protect nearly 29 miles of the FNST (more than 4660 acres in 49 tracts) in central Florida, along the Suwannee River, in St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge, Apalachicola National Forest, along Econfina Creek and Nokuse Plantation, in the western panhandle. The USDA Forest Service has used these funds to strategically acquire lands adjacent to and connecting existing public lands.

The Florida Trail Association, the USDA Forest Service, and our agency partners will not be able to complete the FNST and eliminate roadwalks without additional funding from the LWCF to acquire land. FTA has asked Congress to provide \$1.5 million to the USDA Forest Service to acquire land to protect 25 critical segments (3 miles on 524.4 acres) to complete the trail along the Suwannee River before these tracts are developed for residences or converted to agriculture. The focused acquisition plan is designed to complete a contiguous corridor of publicly owned and protected Florida National Scenic Trail along a 70-mile section of the Suwannee River. These proposed acquisitions will enhance hiker safety by moving the trail away from nearby highways and will protect a greenway for recreation and wildlife along the scenic Suwannee River. Land management efficiency will be improved through the consolidation of public lands into a continuous trail management corridor.

Now that the cost of land has decreased, it is a “buyer’s market” and landowners have renewed motivation to sell lands for conservation and recreation. The window of opportunity is open; the time to protect segments of the Florida National Scenic Trail is now. Congress should do all it can to protect the small pot of non-tax money that goes into LWCF, meaning opportunities critical to the outdoor recreation economy are not lost forever.

LWCF Protects Sandy River on the Oregon National Historic Trail

Submitted by Travis Boley, Oregon-California Trail Association



In the summer of 1999, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Western Rivers Conservancy and Portland General Electric (PGE) formed a partnership to restore and conserve the Sandy and Little Sandy Rivers and create a natural and recreation area along the river. Called the Sandy River/Oregon National Historic Trail project, Land & Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) are being utilized to assemble these parcels.

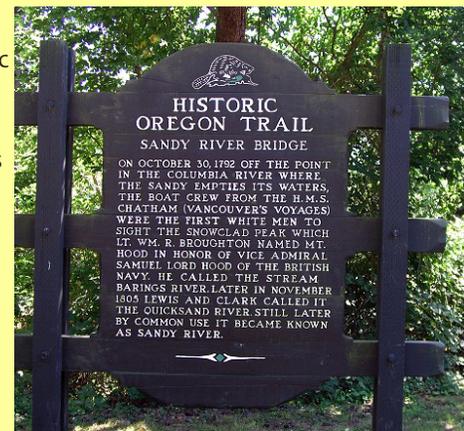
The Sandy River Basin is located on the eastern edge of the Portland metro area, with scenic, deep gorges, traces of the Oregon National Historic Trail, and spectacular whitewater and runs of wild salmon and steelhead.

Western Rivers Conservancy is assembling a 5,000-acre natural area along the Little Sandy River and the main-stem Sandy upstream from Dodge Park. PGE has committed to donate 1,500 acres to Western Rivers Conservancy. In addition to the land donated by PGE, Western Rivers Conservancy has committed to acquire an additional 3,500 acres of private lands in order to assemble continuous river corridors along thirteen miles of the Sandy River, four miles of the Little Sandy, and the lower portion of the Salmon River. To date, Western Rivers Conservancy has purchased or signed agreements to purchase 2,900 acres in the basin.

The BLM will take title to most of these lands, combining them with existing BLM holdings to create a larger 9,000-acre conservation and recreation area that will expand recreational opportunities in the Sandy River Basin, including access to the Oregon National Historic Trail. These lands have been purchased with appropriated funds from the federal LWCF. Most of these lands have already been conveyed or will soon be conveyed to the BLM to be managed for the protection of sensitive fish and wildlife habitat, the protection of the Oregon National Historic Trail corridor, and to preserve the area as a public resource for hikers, floaters, and anglers.

Western Rivers Conservancy and PGE have combined in a joint effort to remove dams and protect habitat along the Sandy and Little Sandy, opening up portions to salmon and steelhead migration and restoring much of the area as it would have appeared to emigrants arriving on the Oregon Trail in the 1840s and 1850s. The land has gone into BLM hands, with a special management designation, similar to wilderness status but with emphasis on public access.

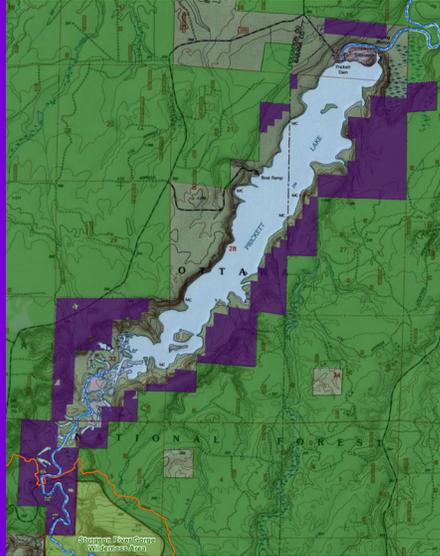
The Oregon Congressional Delegation, led by Senators Gordon Smith and Ron Wyden and Congressman Earl Blumenauer, have played an essential role in securing \$10.7 million in LWCF appropriations since 2001.



LWCF Funds Needed for Critical Land Conservation Projects Currently Awaiting Funding

Submitted by Maddy Pope, The Trust for Public Land

As national scenic and historic trails traverse national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands, significant unprotected sections of trail or trail corridors often cross private inholdings. Should these inholdings be sold and developed, key sections can be lost forever. Federal agency purchase and protection of strategic inholdings utilizing the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) can bring important enhanced protection to trails and viewshed lands. Trails advocates and organizations are key partners in supporting LWCF funding for trail protection projects. The National Trails projects on this page are in immediate need of LWCF funding.



Prickett Lake Ottawa National Forest, MI North Country NST

The North Country National Scenic Trail traverses the southern end of the 1,258-acre property surrounding much of Prickett Lake in Michigan's Ottawa National Forest. Funding from LWCF will allow the U.S. Forest Service to complete the acquisition of this scenic and recreation property. Protection of this tract will preserve the pristine experience for hikers along the North Country Trail as it weaves between Prickett Lake and the Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness.



- Land Available for Acquisition in FY 2011 - 2012
- Ottawa National Forest
- Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Area
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Sturgeon Wild and Scenic River

Fleming Ranch, San Bernardino National Forest, CA Pacific Crest NST



This year in the San Bernardino National Forest in California, the U.S. Forest Service is seeking to acquire the Fleming Ranch property using LWCF funds. Situated just above a montane meadow on the ranch property, the Pacific Crest Trail follows the Desert Divide, a 26 mile ascent into the alpine forest zone of Mt. San Jacinto. The Fleming Ranch property is a key piece of this visual experience for PCT hikers and equestrians, situated in the foreground of Garner Valley. Without the preservation of this one parcel, the quality of this pastoral scene would be greatly and permanently diminished.



Miranda Canyon, Carson NF, NM Old Spanish NHT

The 4,990-acre Miranda Canyon Property south of Taos provides sweeping views of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Once slated for residential development, this private inholding in the Carson National Forest is currently available for purchase by the U.S. Forest Service pending an appropriation this year from LWCF. Visitors enjoy horseback riding, camping and hiking in the cool summer temperatures and skiing and snowshoeing in winter. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail traverses the tract, with historical features revealing its significance as a pack mule trail linking land-locked New Mexico and coastal California between 1829 and 1848.



Trust for Public Land Project Manager, J.T. Horn, hikes along the A.T. through the proposed Crocker Mountain Conservation Project in Maine. Two tracts adjacent to the NPS AT corridor in the High Peaks region totaling over 17,000 acres are proposed for protection in 2012. Photo credit: Jerry and Marcy Monkman.

High Peaks Conservation Project (Crocker Mountain and Obeton Stream), ME Appalachian NST



A Forest Legacy Program grant, funded under LWCF, will protect over 17,000 acres as sustainable working forests while ensuring permanent public access for recreation. The Crocker Mountain and Obeton Stream parcels are part of a 71,000-acre network of conserved lands in Franklin County that includes the Bigelow Preserve, the Redington Navy Base, the Mount Abraham Reserve, and the National Park Service Appalachian Trail (AT) corridor. The AT bisects the Crocker Mountain parcel for approximately 10 miles and is within the viewshed of the northern portion of the Obeton Stream parcel. Maintaining the undeveloped state of these tracts is integral to preserving the scenic characteristics of these sections of the AT.



Santa Fe Trail Trips

Since 1985, 11 and 12-year-old students from Wamego, KS have had the opportunity to participate in the biennial Santa Fe Trail Trips through the Pottawatomie County Extension 4H Santa Fe Trail Trips program. Youth leadership plays an important role in this 10-day overnight program along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail. Youth help raise their own funds to participate and work in small teams with a "Wagon Master," a fellow youth appointed for the trip who ensures that each group's camping and travel needs are met.

By day, the youth travel the length of the trail by motor coach, visiting museums and historical sites along the way. They keep trail journals, learn about Santa Fe Trail history, and stay at a different campground each night.



A BUSY SCHEDULE OF DISCOVERY!

Day 1

- Council Grove Historical Sites
- Lost Springs, a popular watering site for Santa Fe Trail travelers of old
- Coronado Quivera Museum to learn about early exploration in Kansas
- Ralph's Ruts

Day 2

- Pawnee Rock, most famous natural landmark on the Santa Fe Trail
- Fort Larned, which protected trail travelers
- Morton County Museum

Day 3

- Point of Rocks lookout spot
- Autograph Rock, McNee's Crossing
- Clayton Lake, site of dinosaur tracks; rangers led stargazing for students

Day 4

- Wagon Mound and Wagon Mound Cemetery
- Fort Union, designed for traveler safety

Day 5

- Pecos National Historic Park, featuring ancient pueblos and Civil War sites

Day 6

- Bandolier National Monument, famous for Pueblo cave dwellings
- Bradbury Science Museum

Day 7

- Santa Fe National Cemetery (Civil War era)
- El Rancho de los Golondrinas living history museum

Day 8

- Santuario de Chimayo church
- Kit Carson Park and Museum

Day 9

- Capulin Volcano National Monument
- Grave site of Marion Russell, child traveler of the Santa Fe Trail who traveled it many times

Day 10

- Boggsville, NM, last home of Kit Carson
- Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site

Santa Fe Trail Trips

Program Inception Year: 1985

(1,500 youth participants to date)

Student Participants per year:
80-85 youth ages 11-12

Program cost per student: ~\$700
(raised by youth-led fundraisers)



Posing next to the carved name of trail traveler F.B. Delgado at Autograph Rock, a sandstone wall engraved by many travelers passing along the Santa Fe Trail in the 1800s.

Bent's Fort, used as a trading post, offers opportunities for students to learn about daily life along the Santa Fe Trail.



Weather permitting, each evening students camp at a different location along the trail, giving youth an opportunity to hone their outdoor skills and teamwork. Veteran trip leaders and elementary teachers Chris Day and Janet Armstead have led Santa Fe Trail Trips for years through rain and shine, so there is always a plan B.



The cave dwellings of Bandolier National Monument were home to the Pueblo peoples for hundreds of years and can only be reached by climbing ladders.



Trying on period garb at El Rancho de Las Golondrinas living history museum.



Clayton Lake State Park is famous for fossilized dinosaur tracks - the OLDEST historical site visited along the trip!



Trail Partner News

New Coordinator for Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Matt McGrath, Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction, Colorado began at the newly created US Forest Service position of Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Coordinator on June 19th. Matt previously worked at the McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area with responsibilities including



resource management planning, overall recreation program management, facility management, wilderness management, and partnership outreach. He brings a wealth of special areas planning and management experience to the project. Matt will be assigned to the regional office and hosted by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie NF at the headquarters office in Everett, WA, and he will be coordinating the comprehensive trails planning for the Pacific Northwest NHT. Adapted from BLM press release.

Jon Knechtel of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, stated, "I'm very pleased to welcome Matt to the Northwest as Trail Administrator of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. I had the privilege of being on the interview team and was very impressed with the quality of applicants for the position. I've met twice with Matt since his start date of June 19th and although he has an intimidating job ahead of him, I firmly believe he'll be the right person for the job."



Arizona Trail Association celebrates State Centennial with Group Focused "Centennial Adventure"

September 15 – October 31, 2011

It's For Everyone – Hikers, Equestrians, Mountain Bikers, Trail Runners, Clubs, Employee Groups, Families and Friends are all welcome!!!



To learn more or to sign up a group, visit:
<http://www.aztrail.org/centennial/adventure.html>

The Arizona Trail Association is participating in Arizona's centennial celebrations with a special "Centennial Adventure," a multi-group effort to traverse all 800 miles of the Arizona Trail. Clubs, employee groups, families and friend groups choose from 100 AZT segments from Mexico to Utah and select the mode (foot, pedal, or hoof). Expedition dates are flexible (September 15 through October 31).



The ATCA Kick-Off Signature Event will be held the weekend of Saturday and Sunday September 24 & 25, 2011 at the Mormon Lake Village area during the Arizona Trail Association's Rendezvous weekend—all groups are invited.

Registration now open for the Santa Fe Trail Association 2011 Symposium

DODGE CITY, KANSAS ~
SEPTEMBER 22 - 25, 2011

"Forts Mann, Atkinson, and Dodge: Halfway on the Santa Fe Trail"

All Trails lead to Dodge City for the 2011 Santa Fe Trail Symposium, September 21 - 25, 2011, as we celebrate 190 years on the Santa Fe Trail, 150 years of our Kansas Statehood, and the 25th Anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail Association.

For additional information: email jim.sherer@yahoo.com or call 620-227-7377.

This year's symposium will include a opening ceremony in the new Magourik Conference Center and a series of speakers presenting on the historical significance of area forts and Dodge City history. Participants will be able to tour Dodge City, Fort Dodge, and Boot Hill Museum.

Please note that Symposium Registration is now available online. You can access it by going to the SFTA web page www.santafetrail.org and going to the Last Chance Store item.



Nez Perce National Historic Trail Releases Educational Outreach Activity Book

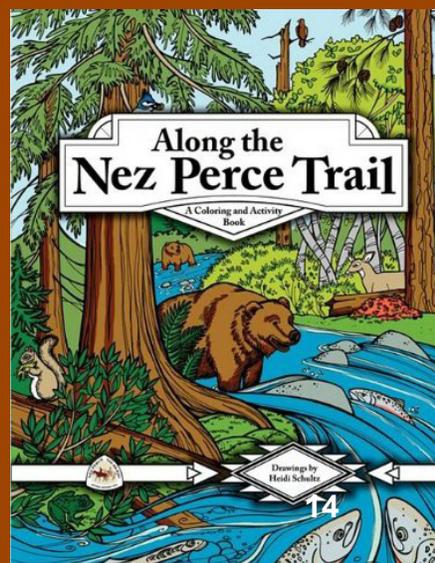
OROFINO, ID – A publication titled *Along the Nez Perce Trail – A Coloring and Activity Book* will soon be available for sale at U.S. Forest Service offices, National Park Service offices, and other retail outlets along the Nez Perce National Historic Trail. This 40-page book provides information about wildlife and the landscape along the 1,170 mile Nez Perce National Historic Trail.

Along the Nez Perce Trail: A Coloring and Activity Book has been reprinted and is now available. Wholesale orders can be placed through Ingram Book Company. The ISBN number for "Along the Nez Perce Trail" is 978-0-914019-61-9.

This book produced in conjunction with Recreation Solutions and Discover Your Northwest (DYNW) provides youth with information about the plants and animals they will encounter while they travel the Trail.

The book also includes information about Nez Perce names and a pronunciation guide. It retails for \$6.99 plus tax and is also available through the DYNW website: www.discovernw.org/nezperce.

Proceeds from the sale of the book go toward educational and interpretive services along the Trail.





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

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Trails Events Calendar Autumn - Winter 2011

September 2011

September 2-4	PCT Days	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Cascade Locks, OR	www.pcta.org/general/events/pcta-days.asp
September 22-25	Santa Fe Trail Symposium	Santa Fe Trail Association	Dodge City, KS	www.santafetrail.org
September 23-25	Arizona Trail Association Annual Members Rendezvous	Arizona Trail Association	Mormon Lake Lodge, AZ	www.aztrail.org
September 23-October 7	Annual March to Kings Mountain Reenactment	Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Abingdon, VA to Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC	www.ovta.org

October 2011

October 2-5	Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference		Fort Wayne, Indiana	www.cityoffortwayne.org/publicworks/matag-conference.html
October 3-6	16th Annual Trail of Tears Conference & Symposium	Trail of Tears Association	Cherokee, NC	www.NationalTOTA.org
October 13-16	National Land Conservation Conference	Land Trust Alliance	Milwaukee, WI	www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally/rally

February 2012

February 11-16	Trails Advocacy Week- Hike the Hill 2012			
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