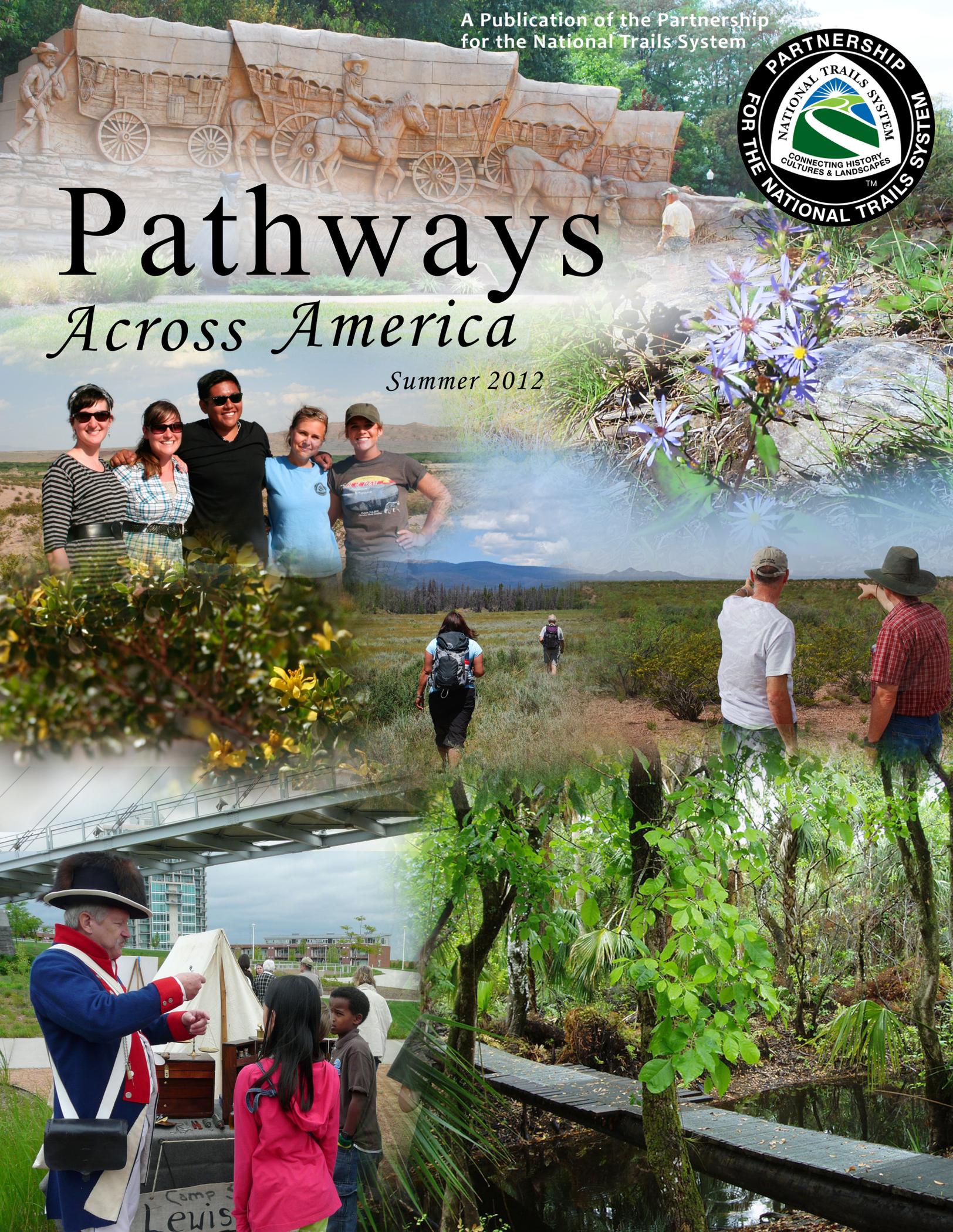


A Publication of the Partnership  
for the National Trails System



# Pathways *Across America*

*Summer 2012*



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

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

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

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Arizona National Scenic Trail

California National Historic Trail

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

Florida National Scenic Trail

Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Iditarod National Historic Trail

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail

Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail

Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

New England National Scenic Trail

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

North Country National Scenic Trail

Old Spanish National Historic Trail

Oregon National Historic Trail

Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail

Pony Express National Historic Trail

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail

Santa Fe National Historic Trail

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route  
National Historic Trail



## Building Community...

# The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

## What is the

## National Trails System?

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



### Categories of National Trails:

#### National Scenic & Historic Trails

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

#### National Recreation Trails

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

## 19 National Historic Trails

Ala Kahakai NHT

California NHT

Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

Iditarod NHT

Juan Bautista de Anza NHT

Lewis and Clark NHT

Mormon Pioneer NHT

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Old Spanish NHT

Oregon NHT

Overmountain Victory NHT

Pony Express NHT

Santa Fe NHT

Selma to Montgomery NHT

Star-Spangled Banner NHT

Trail of Tears NHT

Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route NHT

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



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



## Keeping History Alive...



## Preserving Biodiversity

# System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

### Strengthening Communities

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



### Enhancing Access

to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and community outreach efforts.



### Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



## 11 National Scenic Trails

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

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



Hiking • Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

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## THE PATHWAYS COVER

The Summer 2012 *Pathways Across America* cover depicts a blend of national scenic and historic trail views and activities. At the top is a stone mural of the Oregon Trail pioneers, located at the Pioneers Park in Kansas City, MO. Beneath are flowers from the Minnesota region of the North Country NST (see page 4), and the five youth together are the trail apprentices who attended the 2012 NHT workshop (see page 5). At the bottom left corner, with a modern-day bridge crossing the Missouri River in the background, members of the Lewis and Clark Trust educate youngsters about the explorations of Lewis and Clark through that very area at the official press meeting announcing their new organization (courtesy LCT see page 7). In the center, two parallel pictures follow the Rocky Mountain range from south to north, with the center photo taken along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park and the photo on the right shows part of Jornada del Muerto on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, an example of a National Historic Trail visible segment that can be followed by hikers today on the ground. The bottom right corner shows a footbridge on the Florida National Scenic Trail Southern Ocean to Lake Segment (by Robert Coveney, courtesy of the FTA).

# About this Issue of Pathways:

## A Letter from PNTS Executive Director Gary Werner



This issue of *Pathways Across America* is mostly devoted to reports on several initiatives and activities either underway or recently concluded that are significant steps toward achieving/realizing Goal Two of the “Decade for the National Trails.” Goal Two focuses on protecting the rights-of-way of the national scenic and historic trails and their natural and cultural resources while also making the trails available for people to use. Here is a brief sketch of some of these major developments reported in more detail in the following pages.

Making national historic trails visible and available for people to walk in urban and rural settings was the focus of this year’s National Historic Trails Workshop held in Socorro, New Mexico. Interpretation – “telling the stories of the trail” – a traditional emphasis of work on these trails was only one of several elements to trail making that were explored as means to make historic trails relevant and important features of the communities and rural landscapes they cross through. The approach presented in this Workshop provides a new way to understand the necessary work to be done to preserve the resources and the meaning of national historic trails. The location of the Workshop also provided an opportunity to explore the connections between El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and the Sevilleta and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuges and recognizing the key role played by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in protecting critical national historic (and scenic) trail resources.

Trail making now underway at the New Fork River crossing on the Lander Road cutoff of the California National Historic Trail will enable visitors to walk through this important trail site. This project is also significant because it sets a new standard for mitigation for the destruction of other sections of the historic trail by development involved in extracting natural gas. Fruitful collaboration among the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon-California Trails Association, several energy companies, and local historical societies has resulted in permanent preservation of this important river crossing. Future mitigation for damage done to trail resources should focus first on the preservation of other sections of the trail rather than only settling for some money to do more interpretation.

Another collaborative venture has acquired an important section of the Kohala Coast along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. The 35 acre parcel is adjacent to Lapakahi State Historical Park. This is the first parcel purchased to protect a section of Hawaii’s national historic trail.

One of the outcomes of the “America’s Great Outdoors” initiative has been a new emphasis among federal agencies to collaborate to conserve large ecological landscapes. Over the past several years the Partnership for the National Trails System has reminded agency leaders repeatedly how national scenic and historic trails pass through and can link together most of these landscapes. In May we were invited to submit a proposal for Land & Water Conservation Funds in the Fiscal Year 2014 budget under preparation. For the first time the National Trails System was recognized as a large landscape worthy of protection in its own right. The proposal submitted includes scores of parcels to purchase valued at \$61 million along 7 national scenic and 4 national historic trails. Until now only acquisitions for a few of the individual scenic and historic trails have been funded. The recognition of this National Trails System proposal changes the dynamic and puts the whole System on the “map” of potential systematic protection by the federal agencies.

The US Forest Service has released several plans and proposals that could have profound impacts on the management of several scenic and historic trails. The draft plan for the Shoshone National Forest in Wyoming will determine whether the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and the Nez Perce National Historic Trail will be managed as simple travel routes or as corridors with their landscape settings protected. The US Forest Service in Florida has proposed making major changes in the routing of the Florida National Scenic Trail that could change the nature and character of the trail. The impacts of these two proposals likely will not be confined to just the three trails directly affected by them. Anyone in the National Trails System community who is concerned about the preservation of the quality of the landscape settings and route integrity of our national trails should comment to the Forest Service on these plans.

For many years the North Country Trail Association and the National Park Service have sought to make several important relocations to the route of the North Country National Scenic Trail. One would extend the eastern end of the trail into Vermont to connect with the Long Trail and the Appalachian National Scenic Trail to link together these major hiking trails. The other would extend the routing, begun in Michigan, to follow at or near the shores of Lakes Michigan and Superior by moving the Trail to the “Arrowhead” of northeastern Minnesota. A bill has been introduced in Congress to accomplish this relocation. Champions of any of the national scenic and historic trails would be welcomed co-sponsors of H.R. 5980 and S. 3319.

These projects are all examples of some encouraging new tools, new opportunities, and new approaches we have been given to advance the protection of our scenic and historic trails and their landscape settings and to put more of them on the ground so more people can enjoy, appreciate, and help us take care of them. It behooves all National Trails System leaders to learn more about these opportunities and to find ways to make good use of them for their own component of the System.

Fruitful trail stewardship!



# Ala Kahakai Trail Association Acquiring Critical 35 Acres of Oceanside Trail Land



This trail success  
corresponds to

Decade Goal #2  
PROTECTION



## Ala Kahakai Land Acquisition

The Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) is in the process of securing 35 acres of land bordering a section of the Ala Kahakai NHT trail in Kaiholena. This achievement was made possible by the tireless efforts of the Kohala Community, the staff of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (ALKA), Trust for Public Lands and ATA. To understand the significance of this property, it is important to have a perspective of why this acquisition was valuable to the Ala Kahakai Trail.



Kaiholena is located in the far north on the island of Hawaii. Adjacent to the property is an established State Historical Park, Lapakahi. The ALKA runs through the park, traverses near the coastline moving south and runs through Kaiholena. The Kohala coast is extremely valuable, as are all coastal properties in Hawaii. There are many large resorts along this coast line boosting property valuation. Though resort development is not an immediate threat at Kaiholena, such development would be likely in the future without adequate protection.



The ATA and the National Park Service (NPS) realizes that the optimum protection for our trail is to have buffering properties under our control or with nonprofit community groups. The ideal situation would be to have the buffer extend by acres rather than feet, keep the area in conservation with no buildings as its constraint, and keep the integrity of the view plane whenever and wherever possible. We also believe that strong community involvement for segments of the trail is essential in maintaining positive growth while still protecting this fragile resource. Both ATA and NPS are always vigilant in pursuing any and all leads to foster either acquisition or partnership of parcels along the trail corridor that would benefit the health and protection of the trail.

The acquisition process has taken many months and the commitment of many parties. There were numerous community meetings in which the spirit of the people was singular for the protection of the site. The community gave written and oral testimony to government agencies and funding sources to encourage them to see the future good of preserving this property. A site visit by the Legacy Land Board, a State commissioned board whose sole purpose is to fund acquisition of land, saw the benefit of preserving this parcel and eventually approved the nomination for funding. Earlier this year, the State Land Board gave final approval for funds making the acquisition closer to reality. The concluding steps are the signature of the Governor and the securing of the cost share portion of the total funding. Once the 35-acre parcel has been purchased, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association will hold the deed to the land. The majority of funds were raised by the Legacy Land Conservation Program through Department of Land and Natural Resource for the State of Hawaii.

Many groups have been key to this acquisition success, including the Kohala community; Laura Kauakua, Trust for Public Lands; Legacy Land Board and the State Department of Land and Natural Resources; County of Hawaii; our ATA Board; and Aric Arakaki, Superintendent of AKNHT and his staff who prove on a daily basis the importance of working together and making plans on paper, footprints on the ground. Mahalo to all.

Submitted by Kaleo Paik, Ala Kahakai Trail Association

**Photos: Top Right: The ocean view from a segment of the Kaiholena acquisition. Top left: an early scouting effort of the property in 2009. Bottom: The ATA board of directors at work. Photos courtesy of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and the NPS.**



# 5-Year Trends - A Federal Perspective

In 2006, six Federal agencies signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) pledging to work together on 24 tasks to enhance the National Trails System. The MOU lasts for 10 years – so the end of 2011 marked the midpoint of the agreement. Many MOUs are just “agreements to agree,” and not much happens as a result. In this case, not only are there 24 tasks to work on together, but one of them is an annual report which we have pledged to develop each fall. Both the MOU and the 2011 annual report are available on [www.nps.gov/nts](http://www.nps.gov/nts).

	2006	2011	% change
Number of national scenic trails	8	11	+ 38 %
Total mileage of national scenic trails	~14,600	~16,750	+ 15 %
Number of national historic trails	16	19	+ 19 %
Total mileage of national historic trails	~31,850	~37,150	+ 17 %
Number of national recreation trails	957	1,154	+ 21 %

In these five years (2006-2011), the National Trails System has grown significantly (see Table 1).

With these new scenic and historic trails (and trail organizations that come with them), the number of officially recognized volunteer hours per year grew significantly from 659,750 to 846,150, a 28% increase. Over these five years, the participating Federal agencies registered 3.3 million volunteer hours worth approximately \$66 million.

Tracking the funding stream that made these accomplishments possible is tough since each Federal agency budgets and finances their trails in a different way. In addition, many of these projects were the result of challenge cost-shares, special funds, interagency transfers, and other supplemental programs.

Other trends over these five years are less precise and quantifiable, but still important. These include:

- The number of websites (and website “hits”) providing retail visit information is growing.
- The number of threats from proposed wind farm and solar array projects is growing.
- Each year more trails have a data steward on staff and more sophisticated GIS services.
- The major energy-related threat may be, in fact, new electric power transmission lines.

Similar data is not available for the national recreation trails (NRTs). However in this period, our nonprofit partner, American Trails has enhanced the NRT database so that it now includes a rich array of information about most of the NRTs registered over the years, including maps, contact information, directions for finding each trail, and photos. For more details about NRTs check out [www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/](http://www.americantrails.org/nationalrecreationtrails/).

One important section of each MOU Annual Report is “Innovations,” a chance for each trail office to report on the new and creative non-quantifiable actions that are taking place to enhance their trails. Each year we have reported on dozens of these. Rather than try to summarize any trends among these actions, we recommend you look at the 2011 Annual Report to get a flavor of the current variety and creativity of these additional actions. They include outreach to youth, educational services, land exchanges, special events, tribal involvement, community health initiatives, interagency links, and significant resource protection.

Another important section of each year’s annual report is “Unmet Needs.” Despite all the accomplishments, what remains still to do to come closer to completing each trail and making it presentable as a coherent visitor experience? By the end of 2011, trail offices estimated that about 7,750 miles of trail remain yet to be built (3,500 for national scenic trails and 4,250 for national historic trails).

## Results of Collective Partnership Efforts 2006-2011

- 48,580 acres of land and water were protected by non-Federal partners and agencies
- 11,986 acres of land and water were protected (acquired) by Federal agencies
- 2,151 miles of substandard trail were brought up to standard
- 1,852 miles of trails were constructed or reconstructed,
- 800 new structures (bridges, boardwalks, shelters, etc.) were built or rebuilt
- 676 miles of new trail were built, and
- 180 trail sites and segments were certified.
- 3,540 compliance actions
- 967 trailwide meetings or conferences
- 639 new partnership agreements

Along the national historic trails, another 7,200 miles of roadways (equivalent to a round-trip across the U.S.) remain to be marked and mapped as auto tour routes. And hundreds of trail-related resources (with estimates ranging from 350 to over 1,000 each year) remain endangered and in need of protection.

The key data that are missing from our annual reports pertain to those served. How many people visited these trails? Who are they and where are they from? How much did they spend while visiting the trails? We have no universal and commonly-agreed upon methods yet for measuring visitor use at this point. Hopefully we can correct this in the second half of our 10-year MOU.

What will happen in this second half of the MOU as we approach the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System in 2018? Can we match the accomplishments of the first half of this decade in an era of more restricted budgets? Will partners be as generous with land protection and volunteer involvement? Will more trails be added to the System? You can help us write this history so that these accomplishments are even more impressive over the next five years.



Steve Elkinton has served as Program Leader for the National Trails System in the National Park Service since 1989 and chairman of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails since 1991. He can be reached at [steve\\_elkinton@nps.gov](mailto:steve_elkinton@nps.gov).

# FHWA Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21): Significance for the National Trails System

The Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21) was enacted July 6, 2012. MAP-21 extended the Federal-aid highway program unchanged through September 30, 2012, and authorized new provisions effective October 1, 2012, for Federal fiscal years 2013 and 2014. National Trails interests should become aware of how MAP-21 may affect their interests; MAP-21 may benefit National Trails through the Federal-aid highway program or Federal lands program.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is posting information, including a Q&A, fact sheets, presentations, legislation, funding tables, and webinars at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/).

## Overview of MAP-21

MAP-21 created a unified program for Federal lands transportation facilities, Federal lands access transportation facilities, and tribal transportation facilities. The Federal Lands Transportation Program combined the Park Roads and Refuge Roads programs, and added the Forest Service, Corps of Engineers, and Bureau of Land Management. The Federal Lands Access Program provides access to the Federal lands on infrastructure owned by States and local governments. The Tribal Transportation Program provides for projects that improve access to and within Tribal lands. MAP-21 included "trail" within the definition of Federal lands access and transportation facilities.

MAP-21 authorized a new Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) to replace the Transportation Enhancement (TE) Activities, and allows a setaside of funding for the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The TAP is authorized at over \$800 million for each of FY 2013 and 2014. Some TAP eligibilities remain similar to TE (pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, rail-trails, historic preservation and rehabilitation of historic transportation facilities), some were changed (vegetation management, archaeology), and some were eliminated (scenic or historic highway programs, transportation museums).

MAP-21 also amended the Surface Transportation Program (STP) to allow any projects eligible under the RTP or TAP to be eligible for STP funds. STP projects in highway rights-of-way must be treated as highway projects, but projects not in highway-rights-of-way may use "Common Rule" procedures under 49 CFR Part 18.

MAP-21 eliminated discretionary programs, such as the Transportation, Community, and System Preservation Program, and eliminated funding for the National Scenic Byways Program.

Most transportation planning and project selection requirements remain the same, but there will be more emphasis on performance-based planning.

MAP-21 amended the environmental review process, providing for earlier coordination, greater linkage between the planning and environmental review processes, using a programmatic approach where possible, and consolidating environmental documents.

National Trails interests should become aware of how MAP-21 may affect their interests. FHWA is posting information at: [www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/MAP21/).

Article information gathered by PNTS from FHWA websites in discussion with FHWA's Trails and Enhancements Program Manager.

Information about the Recreational Trails Program can be found at:

[http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/) (website shown below).



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration

## MAP-21 & Implications for Variations by State

The RTP funding setaside for each State is the same as the FY 2009 amount (unless the State opts out). MAP-21 did not amend the RTP as a program; requirements and provisions remain unchanged, including how States administer the RTP.

MAP-21 allows the Governor of the State to opt out of the RTP if the Governor notifies the Secretary [of Transportation] not later than 30 days prior to apportionments being made for any fiscal year (September 1).

- If a State opts out of the RTP, the funds remain as Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funds within the State.
- States that opt out of the RTP lose the ability to use RTP funds for State RTP administrative costs for the fiscal year because those funds are tied to apportionments for a fiscal year.
- Recreational trail projects will be broadly eligible for the TAP. However, the State would have to treat all trail projects using TAP funds as projects on a Federal-aid highway, which includes highway contracting and wage rate requirements.

# America's Great Outdoors Initiative: Implications and Opportunities for the National Trails System

Since the “America’s Great Outdoors: A promise to Future Generations” report was released in February of 2011, Federal agencies and private partners alike have pursued a variety of initiatives to address the goals and ideology outlined in the report. For the National Trails System, a few approaches have particular relevance, including the report’s outlining of a need to focus on interagency Federal collaboration, large landscape protection, corridors for wildlife, and youth involvement. Two significant approaches that related to the National Trails System include Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (see next page column and map) and the Collaborative Interagency Conservation Strategy for Federal Land (at right).



Lathrop Bayou longleaf pine habitat, USFS photo.

## America’s Great Outdoors Vision Statement

*Americans envision a future in which:*

*All children, regardless of where they live, have access to clean, safe outdoor places within a short walk of their homes or schools, where they can play, dream, discover, and recreate.*

*Americans participate in shared responsibility to protect and care for our unique natural and cultural heritage for the use and enjoyment of future generations.*

*Rural lands--our working farms, ranches, and forests--are conserved and restored through incentives and partnerships.*

*Our national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, and other public lands and waters are managed with a renewed commitment to sound stewardship and resilience.*

*Our natural areas and waterways, whether publicly or privately owned, are reconnected, healthy, and resilient and support both human needs and the wildlife that depend on them.*

*Communities work together to restore and protect healthy rivers and lakes to provide recreation opportunities and to contribute significantly to a vibrant economy.*

## Collaborative Interagency Conservation Strategy for Federal Land

Collaborative Interagency Conservation Strategy for Federal Land is an initiative centered around providing increased land protection for critical areas around the United States. The conservation strategies focus on high-priority landscapes as specific project areas to bring many initiatives and partners together for species and landscape protection. Rather than requesting Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies on what could be a more scattered approach, these collaborative strategies attempt to select high-priority landscapes where leverage and local partnerships are well-established, organized, and able to provide substantial leverage to the Federal investment.

The six project areas originally identified for FY13 were referred to as Crown of the Continent, Southern California-Mediterranean Coast to Desert Systems, Southwestern Desert, Southern Rockies, Pacific Northwest, and Long Leaf Pine. Of those six areas, Longleaf Pine and Crown of the Continent were selected by an interagency technical review committee to be part of President Obama’s proposed FY13 budget. (See Spotlight on Longleaf Pine Landscape below). The other areas are not currently active. However, for FY14, ten landscapes, including several of the original six, were selected for further consideration, including the National Trails System (see NTS proposal information on adjacent page).

## Spotlight: The Longleaf Pine Landscape (GA, FL)

The Longleaf Pine project area was selected for inclusion in the President’s FY13 budget as a prototype location based on existing interagency partnerships in the area. Landscape level land acquisition partnerships between the USFWS, USFS, and the State of Florida for the protection and expansion of critical wildlife areas and corridors and the Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) corridor have been ongoing for nearly 20 years. The St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge currently manages 612 acres of USFS lands and 300 acres of State lands for the FNST. The development of acquisition plans by the agencies have been based on Florida wildlife habitat gap analyses, recovery plans, other Florida and Federal natural resource assessments and initiatives, and local government and general public input.

This specific proposal has allowed these long-time partners to focus on the most critical needs of each agency in support of their shared priority of longleaf pine ecosystem conservation and restoration and endangered and threatened species recovery. The lands selected for this proposal were the highest priority for each unit to protect critical habitat, improve management, and fulfill our obligation to our conservation partners who have come forward to secure these tracts for our purchase. Over 99% of the lands in the Longleaf Pine proposal would be purchased from private conservation organizations currently holding the land specifically for Federal acquisition.

## PNTS & Federal Interagency Trails Council Submit FY14 LWCF Landscape Acquisition Proposal

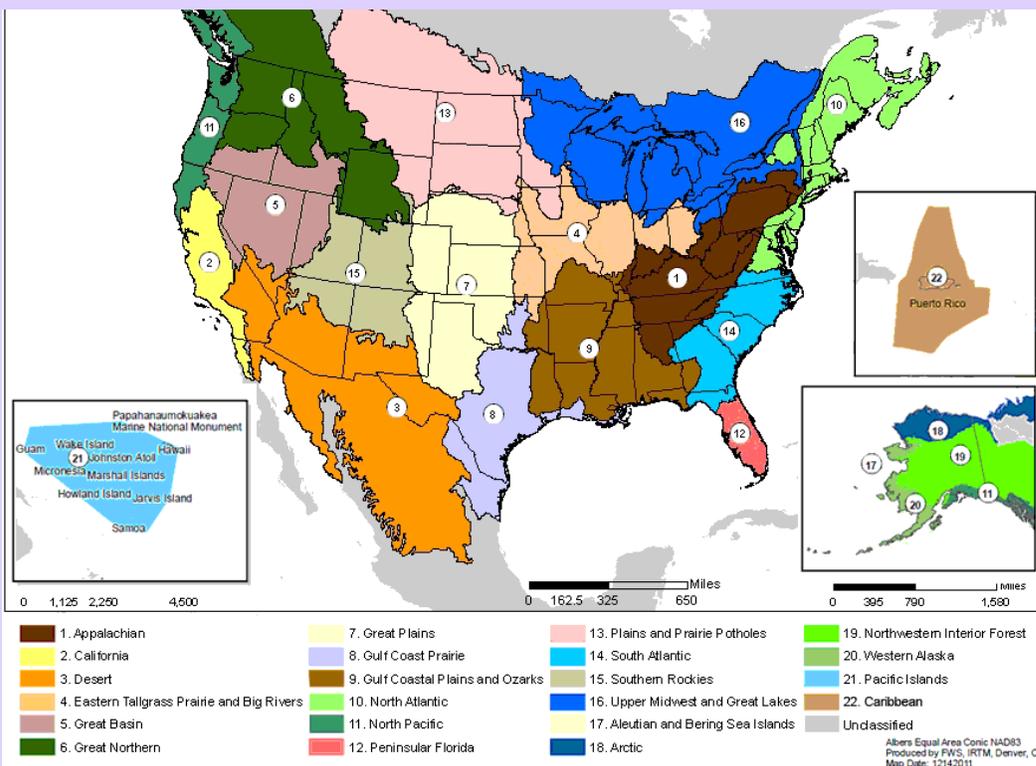
Building on February meetings between the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and various land acquisition officers of the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the four Federal agencies submitted a comprehensive land protection package on May 25 through a Collaborative Landscape Component Pre-Proposal for FY 2014 Land and Water Conservation funds (LWCF). The pre-proposal, including 12 of the 30 NSTs and NHTs, was chosen in June as one of ten finalists to submit a full Collaborative Landscape Proposal (CLP). By selecting the NTS pre-proposal to compete for LWCF, the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture were, in effect, asking, for the first time in a generation, “What are the land protection needs of the National Trails System?”

The response of the four agencies, submitted on August 10, is a \$61 million package of about 120 parcels in 17 states and 31 Congressional Districts along 11 national trails and every ecological biome in the US. Parcels vary in size from 1 to 3,129 acres. Some come in bundles, completing gaps along certain trails. Some help protect fragile cultural resources. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application are impressive, and perhaps, an example to be followed in future Federal efforts of all kinds. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a multi-year, strategic, comprehensive land protection program for the entire National Trails System.

On August 20 we learned that the NTS proposal has been passed on to the final selection group of bureau directors and offices of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior. The informal feedback we received is that our proposal is “strong” and “unique”.

Throughout this process, PNTS provided valuable assistance as a contractor to the Federal agencies by assisting with organization and communication, and by providing technical advice and expertise. While PNTS was a key partner in this process, we did not make recommendations or decisions regarding which parcels should be included in the final CLP. These decisions were made entirely by Federal agency staff.

## US Fish and Wildlife Service Landscape Conservation Cooperatives



## Landscape Conservation Cooperatives

The Department of the Interior, lead by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), has designated 22 Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) nationwide to improve collaboration in those distinct areas across a range of critical land issues, including species protection, water issues, agricultural implications, invasive species, and climate change.

*The conservation challenges of the 21st Century are more complex than ever before. In addition to those the [FWS] previously confronted at the local level, widespread threats such as drought, climate change, and large-scale habitat fragmentation are complicating [FWS] efforts to plan and conduct conservation. These complex threats don't just affect isolated places or individual species, but entire landscapes and multiple resources simultaneously.*

*These challenges are too large for the Service or any single organization to meet alone. It will take a combined effort involving many public and private organizations to deal with the landscape-scale issues facing us all. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) provide a forum for States, Tribes, Federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and other groups to work together.*

*LCCs are applied conservation science partnerships with two main functions. The first is to provide the science and technical expertise needed to support conservation planning at landscape scales – beyond the reach or resources of any one organization. Through the efforts of in-house staff and science-oriented partners, LCCs are generating the tools, methods, and data managers need to design and deliver conservation using the Strategic Habitat Conservation (SHC) approach. The second function of LCCs is to promote collaboration among their members in defining shared conservation goals. With these goals in mind, partners can identify where and how they will take action, within their own authorities and organizational priorities, to best contribute to the larger conservation effort. LCCs don't place limits on partners; rather, they help partners to see how their activities can “fit” with those of other partners to achieve a larger, more lasting impact.*

Adapted from the US Fish and Wildlife Service website at:

<http://www.fws.gov/landscape-conservation/lcc.html>

# An overview of the National Historic Trails Workshop May 2012 ~ Socorro, New Mexico



Socorro, New Mexico provided an ideal setting for the 2012 National Historic Trails Workshop to explore several major opportunities relevant to NHTs. The workshop focused on four of them: Large Landscape Conservation Initiatives, Greater Collaboration with the US Fish and Wildlife Refuges, NHTs recreational opportunities, and approaches for making national historic trails visible and usable “on the ground” in both urban and rural settings. From the bus trip down El Camino from the Albuquerque airport to the conference center, to exploration of the urban sites in Socorro, and to visits to rural trail segments, workshop participants were able to view a wide range of trail settings, interpretation opportunities, and potential trail developments.

Using El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro as a field laboratory, Steve Burns Chavez (NPS) guided workshop participants through two field exercises to evaluate the opportunities and challenges of both preserving the remnants of the NHT and developing it as a visible recreational resource. Participants were placed in one of five working teams that were supplied with maps, aerial photos, critical questions to answer, and a tool box of resources, and were told they represented a particular trail stakeholder. Each group was charged with the task of creating a plan for identification, development, and protection of the trail from the viewpoint of their stakeholder identity. Each stakeholder group presented their findings to the rest of the workshop participants to inspire a multi-faceted discussion on ways to make historic trails “on the ground” more real, relevant, and usable.

The third day of the workshop combined two new focus areas for National Historic Trails: increased partnerships with US Fish and Wildlife Refuges, and the Department of Interior’s growing emphasis on large landscape preservation projects. At El Bosque de Apache National Wildlife Refuge, representatives from the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Land Management described the current status of their large landscape conservation initiatives, highlighted important policies and management considerations, and discussed how the historic trails community can foster crucial cultural resource preservation as a component of the large landscape and wildlife conservation efforts already underway. Since several of its most pristine segments lie within the two national wildlife refuges (NWR) north and south of Socorro, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT provided an intriguing example for closer collaboration that can be adapted for other NHTs that cross NWRs. Leigh Anne Vrandenburg, the executive director of the Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR, also described the work of her organization to support the NWR and discussed ways to collaborate with CARTA. The group also learned about and discussed implications of important current projects, such as the BLM Lander Comprehensive Management Plan in Wyoming, the BLM’s Healthy Landscapes Initiative, and the proposed SunZia high voltage transmission line in New Mexico.

The 2012 National Historic Trails Workshop continued the PNTS practice of including young adult trail apprentices in all aspects of the workshop program. Five young adults, three of whom attended the 2011 National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference, contributed their own trails experiences and perspectives throughout the workshop. Their valuable participation, as well as many aspects of the workshop, was made possible by the continuing financial support of USFS, BLM, NPS, FHWA, and FWS.

A special thanks to the host organization, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA), particularly Tom Harper, who orchestrated much of the workshop logistics, Jere Krakow, Steve Burns Chavez (NPS), and the NPS National Trails System Intermountain Region Office, who coordinated much of the workshop content. The PNTS thanks Shawn Gillette (FWS) and the staff of the Bosque del Apache NWR, Steve Elkinton (NPS), Karen Prentice and Jane Childress (BLM), Christopher Douwes (FHWA), Paul Harden, Tisa Gabriel, Dr. Ben Brown, Dr. Michael Bletzer, Ricardo Berry, Anna Appleby (CARTA), and the many others who made this workshop a success.



# Mitigation Project Puts Historic Trails on the Ground

Lander Trail - New Fork River Crossing - Historical Park

Submitted by Clint Gilchrist, Sublette County Historical Society



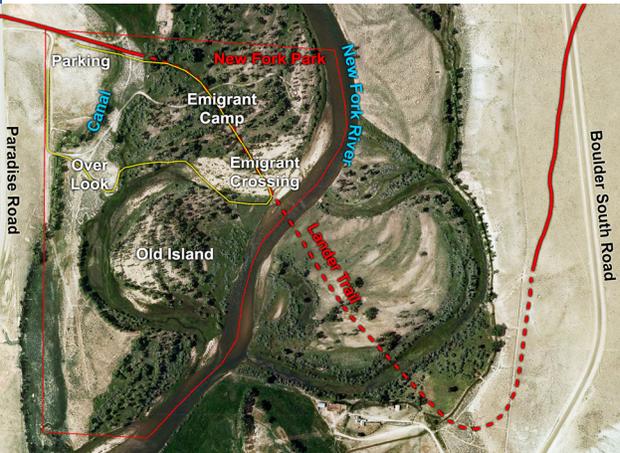
This trail success helps achieve Decade Goal #2 PROTECTION



Emigrant camp area of the park with replica emigrant wagon. Photos submitted by Clint Gilchrist.

Unique mitigation agreements involving industry, government, and nonprofit organizations have resulted in the preservation of a significant historical site on the Lander Wagon Road (commonly known as the Lander Trail and part of the California National Historic Trail) through development of an 82 acre historical park in Wyoming where the emigrant road crosses the New Fork River. While many mitigation grants received in exchange for the loss of historic trail lands typically involve funds for interpretation or signage, this mitigation project is particularly significant in that it preserves a critical river crossing and establishes an on-the-ground historic trail experience easily accessible to the public.

Natural gas development of the Pinedale Anticline in southwestern Wyoming has impacted the visual setting of the emigrant Lander Trail on public lands. Rather than mitigating each individual well and disturbance, the cumulative effects have been mitigated in this larger, more effective, project. The property, which will be owned, developed, and maintained by the Sublette County Historical Society (SCHS), was funded Through the agreements with U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM), SWEPI LP (Shell), Ultra Resources (Ultra), and PacifiCorp (Rocky Mountain Power). Other interested parties involved in the negotiations included the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), National Park Service – Long Distance Trail Office, Alliance for Historic Wyoming (AHW), Sublette County Historic Preservation Board, and the Lander Trail Foundation (LTF).



Aerial view of the park. Yellow line denotes planned 1 mile walking path. The first segment down to the overlook will be accessible, but the remainder of the trail will be primitive, leaving the natural setting. Future plans are to develop a group area adjacent to the overlook.

The Lander Trail is a 256 mile cutoff from South Pass to Fort Hall and is part of the California National Historic Trail. Frederick Lander documented 13,000 emigrants using the trail in 1859 alone.

The New Fork River crossing was one of the most difficult on the Lander Trail, and because it followed an 18-mile waterless desert, the crossing was also a camp site for most emigrants. River corridors were later prized homestead sites, so almost all river crossings are now on private land. With preservation and development of the New Fork Park, visitors will now be able to visit a major river crossing and camp site.

The natural setting at the park remains undeveloped and is very much like what emigrants experienced 150 years ago. The goal is to leave the area as untouched as possible, so development of park facilities will be minimal. A parking lot will be developed at the entrance and the rest of the property will be accessible only by a one-mile walking trail with interpretive signs.

Development continues in 2012 and the park will be open to visitors in 2013. More than a dozen organizations have been involved in purchase and development of the Park. With administrative funding from the Wyoming Community Foundation and Sublette County Historic Preservation Board, a team of 8 college aged volunteers from the Wyoming Conservation Corp spent 10 days at the site building pedestrian bridges, fences, and fishing access.

The trail office of the National Park Service has donated staff to develop the site and interpretation plans for the park and have already been to the site on three different occasions. The LTF is also aiding interpretation development. The Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund and Sublette County Historic Preservation Board have provided funding to purchase and install entrance, orientation and interpretation signs. Sublette County Road and Bridge department will build and maintain the access road and parking lot. With funding from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund, USU Archeological Services and volunteers from the Upper Green River Basin Chapter of the Wyoming Archeological Society conducted an initial archeological survey.



Left: USU Archeological Services and Volunteers from Green River Basin Chapter of the Wyoming Archeological Society conducting initial metal detecting survey; some of the metal artifacts found on old island.

# Introducing The Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

## A New Partner of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail.



With an official opening press conference in Omaha, Nebraska on April 19, 2012, the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. was launched to further the stewardship of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and the story of the Corps of Discovery.

The press conference took place at the National Park Service's Midwest regional headquarters, which also serves as the offices of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. National Park Service staff, including Mark Weekly, the superintendent of the Lewis and Clark NHT, organization trustees, reenactors, and local youth were present for the press conference. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the story of Lewis and Clark through a series of exhibits presented by supporters dressed in period attire.

*Photos and information submitted by Jim Mallory.*



### About the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

Unlike most of the trail stewardship organizations that serve the National Scenic and Historic Trails, the Lewis and Clark Trust is pursuing a business model that is not based on dues-paying members. Instead, those who wish to support the programs and activities of the Lewis and Clark Trust are considered investors, with returns based on programmatic results and development. Investors can choose to support the Lewis and Clark Trust mission through investments in either the General Operating Fund or the Program Fund. The organization is not to have any paid staff; instead trustees work on behalf of the organization at their own expense and are not reimbursed for any out-of-pocket costs incurred to guarantee that at all investor funds are used for programs and activities.

Currently, the Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc defines its programs and activities as: (1) Completion of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and (2) securing funding for the Meriwether Lewis Educational Center at the Lewis Site on the Natchez Trace Parkway, (3) along with a number of smaller short term projects that require less financial outlay. All of the projects are measurable and benefit all people.

The organization is founded by several Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation members to complement that long-standing organization by specializing in private fundraising. The founders of the organization, including Jim Mallory, Stephanie Ambrose Tubbs, Bryant Boswell, Lorna Hainesworth and Richard Prestholdt, aim to contribute their backgrounds in finance, accounting, law, and sales and plan to expand the organization's network of advisors further with Trustees selected by skill sets needed to operate its more business-oriented model. The Trustees have already begun to reach out to other organizations focused on tourism, health and recreation, and preservation of natural and cultural resources to form partnerships.

Several of the founding members of the Lewis and Clark Trust have been regularly involved with the Partnership for the National Trails for many years as part of their previous work with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. The Lewis and Clark Trust became an official member of the Partnership for the National Trails System in its own right at the February 2012 PNTS board meeting.

For more information about the Lewis and Clark Trust, contact Stephenie Ambrose Tubbs at 406-465-5707 or Jim Mallory, 859-278-7723.



This trail development supports  
**Decade Goal #3  
CAPACITY**

# Continental Divide NST: New Organization Forms, Collaborates with Local Conservation Partners

By Teresa Martinez, Continental Divide Trail Coalition.



This trail progress corresponds to

**Decade Goal #3  
CAPACITY**

When the Continental Divide Trail Alliance (CDTA) closed its doors in early 2012, it left some uncertainty as to how the CDNST public-private partnership would evolve without a lead nonprofit partner to work with the public agencies on behalf of the Trail. Understanding the importance of the volunteer construction efforts, many local and regional groups stepped in and assumed responsibility for overseeing over 40 projects planned by CDTA for the 2012 season. Groups like the Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC), the Colorado Trail Foundation (CTF), New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO), Montana Wilderness Association (MWA), Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), Rocky Mountain Youth Corps (RMYC), and Montana Conservation Corps (MCC), along with many small volunteer led groups of former CDTA volunteers, in New Mexico and Wyoming, all contributed to the ongoing efforts to ensure volunteer and youth engagement in the Trail continued despite the absence of a national trail organization.

Photo by Jon Fielder.



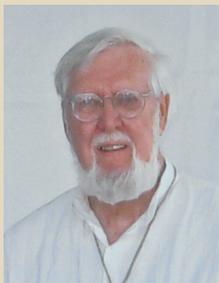
Even with the contributions of these many dedicated organizations, there is still a need for a central voice to represent not only these groups and the many individual Trail supporters and volunteers across the globe, but to give the Trail a united voice. Inspired to ensure that the legacy of work and accomplishments of the former organization and its volunteers, staff, and supporters continue on, former CDTA staff, volunteers and supporters began building a new national organization to work on behalf of the Trail and the Trail's community.

On June 12, 2012, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) was established by Bryan Martin, Teresa Martinez, Kerry Shakarjian, and Josh Shusko, with the support of an advisory team composed of a broad spectrum of former CDTA volunteers and supporters, Trail supporters, and most important of all, Trail users. CDTC's "soul" mission is the Trail and its inspiration is to continue the vision initiated by CDTA and to build a national voice for the Trail and ensure all areas of Trail protection, promotion, and stewardship are fully realized.

CDTC's current focus is taking the time to build the strong foundation that will support the organization not only today but for many years to come. However, it will soon begin protecting and promoting the Trail directly, by building the community needed for long-term construction and stewardship of the Trail.

## Don Kucera of Anza Trail Coalition Receives AAHS Award

In recognition for his long-standing dedication to southwestern history and the Anza National Historic Trail, the Arizona Archaeological and Historic Society (AAHS) has recently awarded Don its 2012 Victor Stoner Award for Outstanding Contributions to Public Archaeology or Historic Preservation.



Since 1990, Don has been a driving force in the establishment and interpretation of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail in Arizona. He has been the Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona (ATCA) Coordinator for Pima County since 1990, was President of ATCA for three years, and is currently an ATCA state board member and Vice President for Interpretation.

He has been actively involved in the Amerind Foundation, Archaeology Southwest, the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum, the Arizona State Museum, the Southwestern Mission Research Center, the Archaeological Conservancy, and the Western National Parks Association. He has also been a member of the Arizona Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission and a volunteer for the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (Arch-Expo).

## Public Input Sought for Florida NST Official Route

This coming September, the US Forest Service will begin its public process to evaluate the official route of the FNST. The Florida Park Service is hosting open houses for public comment on the plans for the Florida Greenways and Trails System and the Florida Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The Florida Park Service has invited the USFS to participate so they can receive public input on FNST routing alternatives.



The USFS will present its ideas for the official route of the FNST and receive public feedback at a series of six public open houses. The Florida Trail Association will be at these open houses, and the national trails community is encouraged to participate as well. The FNST's public agency partners need your input for direction for the FNST, the Florida Greenways and Trails System and outdoor recreation in Florida.

View the proposed FNST map at: [www.usda.gov/fnst](http://www.usda.gov/fnst) and comment at [http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS\\_Plan/default.htm](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/gwt/FGTS_Plan/default.htm).

### Public Open Houses

Tallahassee, Sept. 12; 4-7 p.m. EST  
Florida DOT Headquarters Auditorium

Panama City Beach, Sept. 13; 4-7 CST  
Panama City Beach Senior Center

Palatka, Sept. 18; 4-7 EST  
Ravine Gardens State Park Auditorium

Sanford, Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. EST  
Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens

Sarasota, Sept. 25; 4-7 p.m. EST  
Sarasota County Public Works

Boca Raton, Sept. 26; 4-7 p.m. EST  
Sugar Sand Park Community Center

FTA/USFS Meeting Listening meeting about the Western Corridor  
Sept. 8; 1-3 p.m. EST  
Whispering Pines Park, Recreation Bldg Inverness, FL



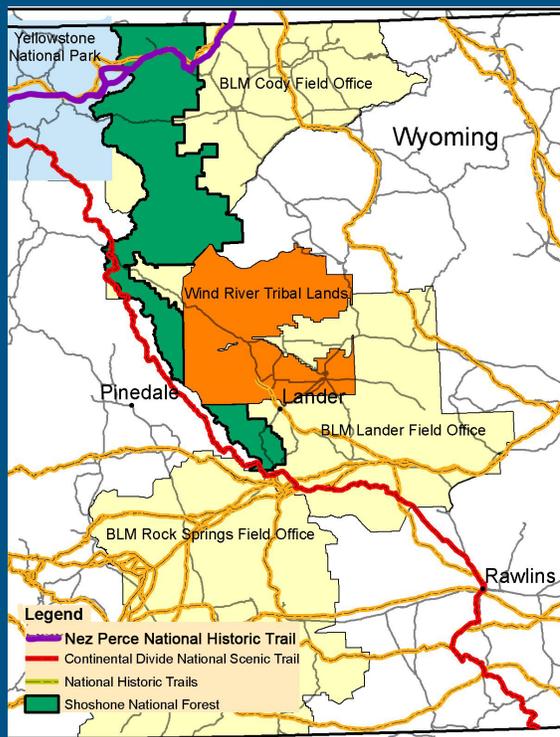
## Shoshone Forest Plan 90-day Comment Period Opens August 4<sup>th</sup>

The revised Shoshone Forest Plan is likely to be precedent setting affecting how other Forest Plans and BLM Resource Management Plans will address National Scenic and Historic Trails in the future. Your review and comments can make a difference in the final Forest Plan direction.

Send comments to:  
[shoshone\\_forestplan@fs.fed.us](mailto:shoshone_forestplan@fs.fed.us) or  
 Shoshone National Forest Plan Comments  
 808 Meadow Lane Avenue  
 Cody, WY 82414

### Important Dates for the Revision Process

- August 4 - 90-day public comment period opens
- September 24 - Public meeting: Cody, WY Big Horn Federal Savings Bank, 1701 Stampede Ave, 5 - 7 p.m.
- September 25, 2012 Public meeting: Dubois, WY Headwaters Art & Convention Center, 17 Stalnaker St, 5 - 7 p.m.
- September 26, 2012 Public meeting: Lander, WY Pronghorn Lodge, 150 East Main St, 5 - 7 p.m.
- September 27, 2012 Public meeting: Thermopolis, WY Big Horn Federal Savings Bank, 643 Broadway St, 5 - 7 p.m.
- November 1, 2012 End of 90-day public comment period
- Summer 2013 Release of Forest Plan & Final Environmental Impact Statement
- Winter 2014 Record of Decision



# Shoshone Forest Plan Revision

The Shoshone National Forest, in January 2012, provided the public an opportunity to review and comment on a preliminary draft of the revised Forest Plan. Unfortunately, and in contrast with adjacent proposed and existing BLM Resource Management Plans, the preliminary draft Shoshone Forest Plan provides minimal protection for National Scenic and Historic Trails.



This trail issue is an opportunity for  
**Decade Goal #2 PROTECTION**



The preliminary draft Shoshone Forest Plan for the Nez Perce National Historic Trail (NPNHT) described a very limited heritage goal. Instead, the Forest Plan needs to prescribe clear direction to protect cultural landscapes along the NPNHT corridor and recognize the trail with the same level of consideration as National Historic Trails were addressed in the proposed BLM Lander Resource Management Plan. In addition, the NPNHT corridor needs to be identified on Forest Plan maps as a unique, discernible Management Area.

The draft Forest Plan identifies a Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDNST) Management Area with acceptable, but limited goals. However, the draft Plan inappropriately describes suitable uses for CDNST related roads and trails as “nonmotorized bicycles,” “wheeled motorized on designated routes,” “over-snow motorized” and “temporary road construction.” The effects of this direction would lead to substantially degraded hiking, equestrian, and nonmotorized winter recreational use experiences along the CDNST corridor. Instead, hiking and horseback riding roads and trails suitable uses should identify hiking and horseback riding as the principal recreational uses. The Forest Service should locate the CDNST corridor in undeveloped areas to the extent possible. In addition, the CDNST corridor location needs to be identified on Forest Plan maps as a unique discernible Management Area.



Proposed Forest Plan management standards for the CDNST describe that, “Existing snowmobile use is allowed. New sections of the Trail will not be located coincidentally with snowmobile trails.” The effects of this direction would be to mandate that snowmobile use continue on the current CDNST travel route and would preclude snowmobile routes from being considered for the relocation of the CDNST corridor in the future. This standard would protect snowmobiling opportunities, but not the Congressionally designated CDNST. The Forest Plan describes that, “Where possible, new or relocated sections of the Trail will be located within areas mapped with a Recreation Opportunity Spectrum setting of primitive or semi-primitive nonmotorized. Instead, the revised Forest Plan is required by regulation to make integrated land use allocation and management decisions through this Forest Plan revision process and not at some time in the future.”

Draft Forest Plan management guidelines for the CDNST state, “Manage for the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class of the Management Area in which the Trail occurs.” Another guideline states, “Manage for the Scenic Integrity Objective of high to very high in Primitive and Semi-Primitive Opportunity Spectrum areas and moderate to high in Routed Natural areas.” Apparently, the Forest Service intends for the unmapped CDNST Management Area to adopt recreation and corridor management prescriptions of mapped Management Areas even in cases where these prescriptions are fundamentally incompatible with the nature and purposes of a National Scenic Trail. Instead, the Forest Service through this revision process should locate the CDNST corridor in undeveloped areas and prescribe direction for the CDNST corridor that reflect and support the nature and purposes of this National Scenic Trail.

More Information is available at the Revision Project website:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/shoshone/home/?cid=stelprdb5199919>



# North Country National Scenic Trail Route Change Proposals

Submitted by Bruce Matthews, Executive Director, North Country Trail Association



This trail effort is an example of Decade Goal #2 PROTECTION

Fans of the North Country National Scenic Trail are excited by recent developments that can bring the trail one step closer to completion. For many years the North Country Trail Association and its partners have been trying to add three trails in Northeast Minnesota to the designated route, and more recently to extend the eastern terminus to meet the Appalachian NST in Vermont. Both of these will require Congressional approval.

## Connecting the North Country to the Appalachian

On the eastern end of the NCNST a move is afoot to correct what any glance at the map would show as an error in not connecting two major long distance hiking trails, the North Country and Appalachian NSTs. In the planning that occurred as a result of the passage of the National Trails System Act in 1968, the original proposed route for the NCNST did connect with the already established Appalachian Trail in Vermont. However concern in the 1970s about over-use of mountain trails, and most notably Vermont's Long Trail, led the Long Trail's volunteer organization, the Green Mountain Club, to prevail on then Vermont Governor Salmon to write to the Interior Secretary opposing any plan to connect the trails in Vermont. As a result, the plan submitted to Congress for the North Country Trail's eventual 1980 approval sets its eastern terminus at Crown Point, NY.

Today that original opposition has disappeared, and the Green Mountain Club is now on record supporting the connection of the NCNST and ANST in Vermont. A feasibility study recently completed on behalf of the NPS looked at a number of potential routes/corridors, and identified a preferred corridor connecting Crown Point through

*“With both of these re-route bills in the Congressional hopper, NCTA will be advancing the vision of those who have been imagining and visioning that the National Scenic Trails would eventually feature a combined “sea-to-sea route.” If past experience is any indication, however, getting these bills through Congress will take much endurance and fortitude.”*

Middlebury, VT and on eastward into the Green Mountain National Forest, connecting with and sharing about 20 miles of the Long Trail before reaching the AT at Maine Junction.

With the expected final sign-off on the plan and EIS, the NCTA will approach Vermont's Congressional delegation requesting their introduction of a bill authorizing the route change. NCTA has been cultivating these relationships for a number of years in anticipation.

## Northeast Minnesota (Arrowhead Reroute)

When planning for the North Country National Scenic Trail was being done in the 1970s, much of what is now known as the Superior, Border Route, and Kekekabic trails were largely unknown and unconstructed. Planners at that time traced the North Country Trail corridor as a more or less direct route between Duluth and Grand Rapids, MN (a corridor which, upon examination, is pretty much 80 miles of featureless spruce and tamarack bog). Minnesota's trail aficionados soon created a different alternative as they conceived and began building three trails in Minnesota's northeastern “arrowhead.” The Superior Hiking Trail follows the northern shoreline of Lake Superior, almost 300 miles connecting Duluth with the Canadian border. The Border Route Trail picks up at the northern end of the SHT and extends 65 miles along the Canadian border into the Boundary Waters, where it ends. The route is then covered by the 41 miles of the Kekekabic Trail through the Boundary Waters Wilderness. As such, these three trails created about 400 miles of superb hiking experiences easily qualifying for consideration as a National Scenic Trail. The NPS and NCTA began working with the volunteer groups of each Minnesota trail to garner local support for adding the Arrowhead trails to the NCNST.

The size of the reroute dictated the need for Congressional approval. A NPS plan was approved in 2005 and since then the NCTA and others have grown local support and sought the requisite approval. In the last (111th) Congress, bills were introduced in both House and Senate, but neither made it into law. Trying again in the current Congress, members of the NCTA have succeeded in securing the introduction of H.R. 5980 and S. 3319, by Congressman Collin Peterson (MN-07) and Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar. Currently, the NCTA and NCTA's volunteers are scrambling in seeking additional co-sponsors and to try to secure committee action on the bills before time runs out. Based on the current climate in Congress, NCTA is hoping to get the bill included in the omnibus packages likely to be considered once the 2012 presidential election is over. More background information may be found at the NCTA website, northcountrytrail.org.





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 Partnership for the National Trails System  
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## Trails Events Calendar Autumn - Winter 2012-2013

### September 2012

September 22-25	Santa Fe Trail Symposium	Santa Fe Trail Association	Dodge City, KS	<a href="http://www.santafetrail.org">www.santafetrail.org</a>
September 23- October 7	Annual March to Kings Mountain Reenactment	Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Abingdon, VA to Kings Mountain National Military Park, SC	<a href="http://www.ovta.org">www.ovta.org</a>

### October 2012

October 2-5	Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference		Fort Wayne, Indiana	<a href="http://www.cityoffortwayne.org/publicworks/matag-conference.html">www.cityoffortwayne.org/publicworks/matag-conference.html</a>
October 3-6	16th Annual Trail of Tears Conference & Symposium	Trail of Tears Association	Cherokee, NC	<a href="http://www.NationalTOTA.org">www.NationalTOTA.org</a>
October 5-7	Arizona Trail Association Annual Rendezvous	Arizona Trail Association	Mormon Lake Lodge, AZ	<a href="http://www.aztrail.org">www.aztrail.org</a>
October 13-16	National Land Conservation Conference	Land Trust Alliance	Milwaukee, WI	<a href="http://www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally/rally">www.landtrustalliance.org/training/rally/rally</a>
October 27	Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association Annual Meeting	Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association	Albuquerque, NM	<a href="http://www.caminorealcarta.org">www.caminorealcarta.org</a>

### February 2013

February 11-15 (Tentative)	Trails Advocacy Week - Hike the Hill	PNTS, American Hiking Society	Washington, DC	<a href="http://www.pnts.org">www.pnts.org</a>
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