

Winter 2015-2016

Pathways *Across America*



Many Steps Forward



Achievements Towards the Decade Goals by Trail Organizations in 2015

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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www.pnts.org

All views expressed herein perspectives of individuals working on behalf of the National Trails System and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the Federal Agencies.

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What is the Partnership for the National Trails System?

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



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

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



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic and 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.

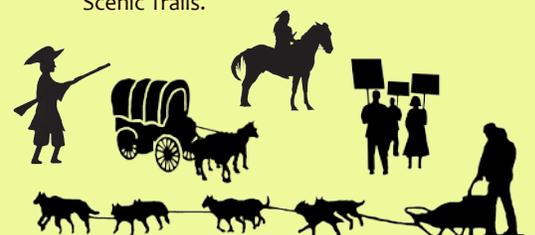
National Recreation Trails

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...

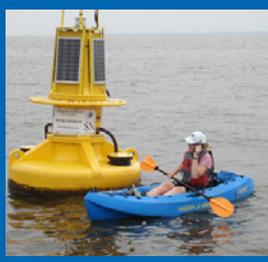


Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, and 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.



About this Special Pathways Edition

This issue of Pathways provides a glimpse of the many great strides made by nonprofit trail partner organizations to support the National Trails System. The achievements represented in this pages, however, are by no means reflective of all that is taking place on the national scenic and historic trails, only the “highlights” submitted by the primary private partner(s) of each trail. This report does not include many of the great achievements of the Federal partners, State, regional, and local public agencies, or many other private organizations that support the trails in a multitude of ways.

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 viewsapes, 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*

Photos of the Winter 2015-2016 Cover

Photos from top left to bottom right: Students participating in the Seeds of Stewardship program along the Arizona NST, courtesy of the Arizona Trail Association; a cyclist along the Natchez Trace Parkway, courtesy Natchez Trace Parkway Association; students traversing the Oregon NHT with a covered wagon, courtesy of the Oregon-California Trails Association; participants in the Saunters program crossing over a stream on the Ice Age NST, courtesy of the Ice Age Trail Alliance; and young women from the Appaloosa Horse Club celebrating the opening of a new segment of the Nez Perce NHT, photo by Karen Heagan, courtesy Nez Perce Trail Foundation.

Inside cover photos, left to right: touring a wayside exhibit along the Santa Fe NHT as part of conference attendance, courtesy Santa Fe Trail Association, a living history event commemorating the return of General Andrew Jackson and his troops up the Natchez Trace after their War of 1812 victory at New Orleans, courtesy of the Natchez Trace Parkway Association, and wintertime splendor along the Ice Age NST by Gary Werner, PNTS.



2015 Partnership for the National Trails System Accomplishments



2015 was an eventful year for the national scenic and historic trails and for the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS). Here are a few major events and accomplishments during 2015:

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Trail Allocations** -- The Omnibus Appropriations Act to fund the Federal government for Fiscal Year 2016 passed by Congress in December included \$450 million of Land and Water Conservation Fund money. In total, it allocated \$20,865,000 of that amount to buy land along five national historic and three national scenic trails. The funded projects are part of a much larger National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal prepared and submitted by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and US Fish and Wildlife Service national trails leaders and the PNTS in August 2014. The same FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act also reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) through Fiscal Year 2018. This was a major bipartisan victory by a coalition of hundreds of conservation and environmental organizations. Throughout 2015, the national scenic and historic trail organizations within the PNTS consistently advocated for reauthorization of the LWCF.
- **LWCF Proposal FY 2017** -- The PNTS assisted the national trails program leaders from those four Federal agencies in preparing another Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal including 72 land acquisition projects worth \$64,208,000 along seven national scenic and six national historic trails. These projects will be considered for inclusion in the President's FY 2017 Budget.
- **Annual Trails Advocacy Event in Washington DC** -- In February 2015, the PNTS and American Hiking Society organized the 16th Annual "Hike the Hill" event. The event brought more than 50 advocates from national scenic and historic trails organizations to Washington, D.C. to urge Congress to provide generous funding for the National Trails System.
- **National Trails Conference** -- In June, the PNTS held the 15th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Franklin, Tennessee. The Conference, hosted by the Natchez Trace Parkway Association and the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, brought together 125 leaders from scenic and historic trail organizations and National Trail Administrators. National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis gave the keynote address and 24 young "Trail Apprentices" participated in all aspects of the conference through funding provided by the Federal agencies.
- **US Forest Service Policy Commentary** -- The PNTS and fellow trail organizations provided comments to the US Forest Service on a new policy to facilitate universal training standards and certification for use of saws by volunteers and agency staff throughout the National Forest System.
- **US Forest Service Public Discussions** -- The PNTS and trail organization leaders participated in a series of public discussions hosted by the US Forest Service, culminating in a "National Trails Summit" in November, to help develop a strategy for adequately maintaining the 157,000 miles of trails in the national forests.
- **Recreation Policies Guide** -- The PNTS developed a policy to guide determination of appropriate recreational uses for each of the national scenic and historic trails by the parties sustaining them.

In 2016 the PNTS and partner trail organizations will help celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service and begin to plan how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and Wild and Scenic River System in 2018. We also expect to help prepare another National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal for LWCF funding in Fiscal Year 2018.

Wishing you fruitful trail making and many opportunities to enjoy the vast, intricate, and diverse beauty along our national scenic and historic trails in 2016!

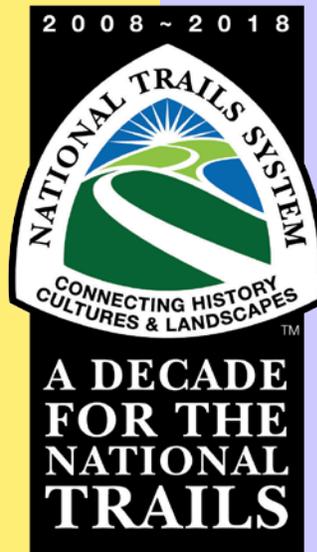
Gary Werner
Executive Director,
Partnership for the National Trails System

Decade Goal 1 – Outreach and Public Awareness

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

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

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



Decade Goal 2 – Resource Protection and Trail Completion

In 2008, as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Congress’ passage of the National Trails System Act, our joy was tempered by the knowledge of how unfinished the Trails System is. Although Congress has authorized 11 national scenic and 19 national historic trails in 41 years – only one – the Appalachian National Scenic Trail – is fully open for the use for which it is intended – an off-road footpath for hikers.

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

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

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

Decade Goal 3 – Capacity Building

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

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

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

APPALACHIAN TRAIL CONSERVANCY (ATC)



OUTREACH

- **Film-Related Public Relations Events** – Hosted a variety of events to coincide with the premier of *A Walk In The Woods*, a film along the Appalachian NST (A.T.)
- **Community Summit** – Held the first A.T. Community Summit for A.T. Community members and partners to help create an overall future vision for the communities and program. ATC now has over 40 A.T. Communities.
- **Young Adult Advisory Council** – Began a Next Generation Advisory Council composed of 15 young adults.
- **Thru-hiker Registration** – Developed an online voluntary thru-hiker registration system to help trail users identify and avoid peak hike start dates, reducing crowding at trailheads and campsites (*screenshot below*).
- **Visitor Use Management Plan** – Partnered with the Georgia A.T. Club and Chattahoochee NF to complete a Visitor Use Management (VUM) planning process for the A.T. in Georgia with 9 recommendations for management improvements. ATC also began a VUM process with Baxter State Park in Maine to address increasing A.T. use there. ATC's Development staff produced a \$1.2 million case statement to protect the A.T. Hiking Experience.
- **Listening Sessions** – Held listening sessions with the 31 A.T. clubs to gain insights on what they feel they're doing well, their needs, and their perspective on their relationships with cooperative management partners and with A.T. Communities.

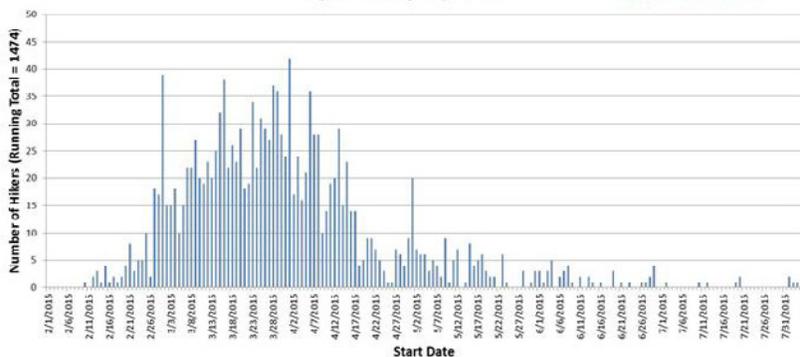
PROTECTION

- **Land Dedication** – The last 100-acre segment of the ~10,000 acre Rocky Fork Tract was transferred to public ownership with a dedication ceremony attended by Senator Lamar Alexander and Regional Forester Tony Tooke.
- **Large Landscape Workshop** – Hosted an A.T. Large Landscape Initiative workshop at the National Conservation Training Center in partnership with the NPS to kick off this new ATC program, with enthusiastic participation by government and nongovernmental partners (*photo of participants below*).

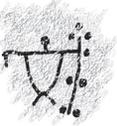
CAPACITY

- **Longevity and Strategy** – ATC completed its 90th year and first year under our new strategic plan.
- **Staff** – Hired a new Director of Landscape Conservation.

2015 A.T. Northbound Thru-Hikers
Registered Through July 15, 2015



ALA KAHAKAI TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ATA), E MAU NA ALA HELE



ALA KAHAKAI
TRAIL ASSOCIATION

E MAU
NA ALA HELE

OUTREACH

- **Aloha Aina Case Study** – ATA cosponsored with Puako Community Association a community shoreline stewardship event at Puako, South Kohala to engage a variety of partners on how to conduct water quality sampling (*photo below right, courtesy NPS*).
- **Na Pe'a Sailing Program** – ATA partnered with the Ala Kahakai NHT and the Nako Foundation for the Na Pe'a Program, which teaches youth how to sail traditional Hawaiian fishing canoes. Youth learned how to gather native woods and shape them into outriggers and masts, lashing, and installing sails. The ATA covered costs to replicate a 200-year old canoe and made it available to Na Pe'a (*photo above courtesy NPS*).
- E Mau Nā Ala Hele worked with the National Park Service to distribute copies of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail Community Management Plan (produced by NPS and the ATA) to community public places.

PROTECTION

- **Acquired Kaiholena Parcel** – Completed acquisition of a 35-acre parcel along "Kaiholena" area of the Ala Kahakai NHT corridor. This area is characterized by a unique cultural and historic significance and a pristine shoreline. The acquisition was made possible through the State Legacy Land Program, private foundations, and the Hawaii Island Land Trust.
- **Legal Development** – Testified and supported a lawsuit that stopped the transfer and movement of a trail by the State and private landowner. This legal success helps to protect all trails throughout the State.
- **Vegetation Clearing** – E Mau Nā Ala Hele partnered with the NPS, the State Nā Ala Hele Trails and Access program, and the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel for a National Trails Day project of clearing vegetation (*photo below left by Barbara Schaefer*).
- **Kohala Coast Development Discussions** – E Mau Nā Ala Hele met with other community members and representatives of developers along the Kohala Coast to discuss and advise about trail treatment in areas scheduled for development.

CAPACITY

- **Strategic Planning Sessions** – Conducted a series of facilitated strategic planning sessions to revise goals and strategies.



ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ATA)



OUTREACH

- **Youth Outreach** – Expanded the Seeds of Stewardship youth outreach program to include 14 schools in 7 communities. The program engages youth with the Arizona Trail experience through experiential, educational, and stewardship outings.
- **Youth Corps** – Developed an introductory youth corps program in partnership with Saguaro National Park for teenage youth participating in the Seeds of Stewardship outings to further educate and inspire the next generation of stewards (*photo top right*).
- **Gateway Communities** – Strengthened relationships with 33 gateway communities and installed Arizona Trail Gateway Community signage at the city limits of two communities.
- **Tourism** – Worked with Arizona Office of Tourism and Visitor Centers throughout the State to promote the Arizona National Scenic Trail.
- **Smartphone App** – Developed a navigational smartphone app for the Arizona NST, with proceeds from the over 1,000 purchased downloads benefiting the Arizona NST.
- **Branded Beverage** – Introduced Arizona Trail Ale in partnership with a brewery located near the Arizona NST. The beer is distributed statewide, with 5 percent of sales benefiting the ATA.



PROTECTION

- **AZT Super Gates and Canopy** – Installed 9 steel gates to protect the trail from OHV abuse and worked with Pima County engineers to fabricate a steel debris canopy for protection where the Arizona NST passes underneath railroad tracks (*bottom photo*).
- **Bear Box Project** – Installed 6 bear boxes near popular camp sites and remote resupply locations to minimize trash, keep rodents out of thru-hiker caches, and protect water bottles from UV damage.
- **Partnership with OHV Clubs/Groups** – formed alliances with Off Highway Vehicle groups and engaged them in collaborative projects in an attempt to minimize motorized abuse of the Trail.



CAPACITY

- **Volunteer Capacity** – Hired a part-time Volunteer Coordinator to manage the 1,600+ trail volunteers and improved the volunteer management database and hours tracking system.
- **Fiscal Sponsorship** – Became a Fiscal Sponsor for Natural Restorations, a newly-formed organization dedicated to cleaning up public and tribal lands to protect wildlife habitat and natural resources within the state of Arizona.



CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY

OUTREACH

- **Urban Speaker Series** – Implemented a speaker series, the *Mamie Parker Journey: Inspiring Youth to Embrace the Chesapeake*, which encouraged 450 Baltimore youth to experience the Chesapeake Bay and explore environmental careers.
- **Youth Canoeing Outing** – Cohosted National Trails Day paddle and educational program for 25 urban Baltimore youth in partnership with the NPS and the Baltimore Department of Recreation and Parks.
- **Online Panoramic Viewscapes** – Partnered with Terrain360 to produce high-resolution 360-degree panoramic images of segments of the John Smith NHT called “Riverview.” The web platform allows viewers to interact with segments of the trail virtually to explore its geography, recreational amenities, and ecological resources (*screenshot at right*).

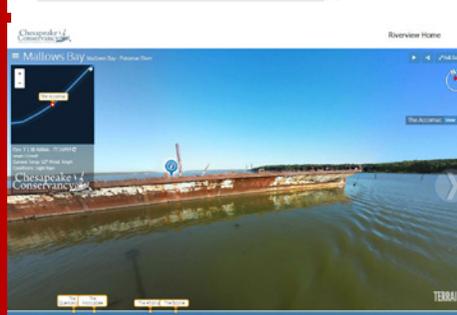


Photo: Terrain360 and Chesapeake Conservancy

PROTECTION

- **Nanticoke River Protection** – Collaborated with partners to conserve 307 acres along the Nanticoke River segment of the Trail and supported the designation of the Nanticoke River corridor as a Federal Sentinel Landscape.
- **James River Conservation** – Partnered with the James River Association and the Commonwealth of Virginia to conserve a 360-acre property along the James River.
- **Public Access Sites** – completed three projects along the trail in Jersey Shore, PA; Port Royal, VA; and at the Oyster House in Tilghman, MD to establish or enhance public launches and access facilities.
- **Viewshed Protection** – Serves as a Consulting Party in the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 review process for the proposal to erect 17 300-foot towers and transmission lines over the James River near Historic Jamestowne and supported efforts to designate that portion of the Trail on the National Register of Historic Places.

CAPACITY –

- **Staff** – Added four program staff, seven conservation technology staff, and one administrative staff.
- **Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition** – Continued urban programming towards regional green infrastructure as a core partner in the Greater Baltimore Wilderness Coalition.



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION (CDTC)

OUTREACH

- **Gateway Communities** – Designated three Gateway Communities in 2015; CDTC was awarded an AmeriCorps Vista Position to support the Gateway Program.
- **Trail Days Event** – Hosted the First Annual CDT Trail Days celebration in Silver City, NM drawing over 250 participants.
- **Outreach Training Event** – Hosted the First Annual CDT Rockies Ruck, drawing 85 CDT enthusiasts for a day-long program to learn techniques and skills for a successful long-distance CDT experience (*photo above*).
- **Informational Events** – hosted 12 informational presentations on the CDT and other hiking trails reaching over 1230 participants.
- **Hikers Shuttle** – Operated the Southern Terminus Shuttle to assist over 257 people in beginning long-distance hikes.

PROTECTION

- **Trail Adopter Program** – Piloted a Trail Adopter Program across the CDT in collaboration with three USFS districts.
- **Volunteer Trail Work Projects** – Hosted seven volunteer projects with onsite training that ranged from new construction (building over three miles of new CDT in the Carson NF), to heavy maintenance and reconstruction.
- **Forestry Intern** – CDTC hosted a summer intern from Yale School of Forestry to help develop a Corridor Protection Policy.

CAPACITY

- **GIS Data Management** – Manages the GIS data in support of the USFS. GIS Volunteers also produced maps for two nonfiction books, administrative meetings and fire protection.
- **LWCF Advocacy** – Worked with local government officials, the LWCF Coalition, and local media to continue support of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- **Superior Trails Challenge Grant** – CDTC won a \$25,000 grant from Michelob Ultra and American Hiking Society in support of the Superior Trails Challenge by garnering over 54,000 online votes.
- **Partnerships** – Strengthened relationships with gateway communities and partners like the Montana Wilderness Association and Colorado Trail Foundation.
- **Membership** – CDTC membership grew from 800 members to 1,235 members in 2015.



EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT ASSOCIATION OUTREACH

- **Educational Videoconferences** – Engaged about 700 4th and 7th grade Texas History students across Texas through the 6th Annual Statewide Videoconference and worked with educators to create 4th grade lesson plans to complement 7th grade lessons developed in 2014.
- **University Course** – The University of Texas at Austin College of Architecture introduced a graduate level course focused on El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT. Students created interpretation for a section of the trail and designed a conceptual pilgrimage site in each segment (*class photo below*).
- **Book Signing** – Association representatives, Steven Gonzales, Joy Graham, and Dr. Lucile Estell hosted a book signing for their new book on El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT.
- **Outreach Event** – Held *El Camino Real de los Tejas: Past and Present* seminar in Laredo, Texas in partnership with the NPS.
- **Tribal Listening Session** – Conducted a tribal listening session with the NPS, Northwestern Louisiana State University, and local tribal leaders.

PROTECTION

- **Archaeological Survey** – Partnered with GTI Environmental, the NPS, and Texas Historical Commission to conduct an archaeological survey at the Association's trail property in far east Texas that uncovered artifacts demonstrating three centuries of use along the road (*photo below right*).
- **Trail Site Planning** – Association director Steven Gonzales and NPS staff met with county representatives to discuss developing Laguna Espantosa as an official trail site.
- **Development Mitigation** – Members spoke to the Texas Region G Water Planning Group in opposition to a proposed reservoir that would inundate a part of the trail in Milam County, Texas.

CAPACITY

- **Interns and Work Study Students** – Hired three interns and two work-study students to assist with mapping, trail studies, and administrative projects.



EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CARTA)

- **Speaker Series** – Sponsored or cosponsored two speaker events in Las Cruces and Corrales, New Mexico. Speakers addressed the Trail's 300-year history, including women's legal rights in Colonial New Mexico; impressions of Northern Mexico and New Mexico as seen through the eyes of an itinerant French painter; Spanish Colonial architecture; and the narrative of a three-year journey along the trail from 1825 to 1828.
- **Educational Tours** – Resumed conducting tours of the Armendaris Ranch in central New Mexico, which features a pristine segment of the Camino Real (*photo at right*).



FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION (FTA)

OUTREACH

- **Youth Outreach** – Partnered with two charter schools to introduce the Florida NST and the importance of trail stewardship to the next generation of trail maintainers, through one and two-day volunteer work parties (photos at right).

PROTECTION

- **Gap Closing Efforts** – FTA continued to track and influence proposals to close the Deseret Ranch and Aucilla/Twin Rivers Gaps to restore more than 85 miles of trail and allow users to access wilderness along the Bull Creek and Tosohatchee Wilderness Management Areas, Twin Rivers State Forest, and Middle Aucilla Conservation Area.
- **Development Mitigation** – Utilizing, in part, the *Partnership for the National Trails System Policy on Energy Generation and Communication Facilities* document, the FTA successfully petitioned against the proposed construction plan of a telecommunications tower.

CAPACITY

- **Volunteer Hours** – increased volunteer hours by 20 percent from the previous year, with 39,796 volunteer hours towards stewardship of the Trail.
- **Volunteer Reporting System** – Continued efforts to refine its volunteer programming and volunteer work reporting system.



ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

OUTREACH

- **Youth Program Expansion** – Continued building the tremendously successful Saunters youth engagement and education program, reaching 14 youth groups in 11 different school districts plus five additional community based groups, resulting in over 3,000 youth volunteer hours. Whether they were day hiking, trailbuilding, or backpacking, program participants were learning through immersion in the landscape and developing an outdoor ethic suitable for the next generation of conservationists.
- **Education Training and Materials** – Held the first-ever two-day Educators Summit for staff development and planning for youth Saunters program and published *A Companion Guide for Sauntering*, a youth-centered field guide that is directly connected to core academic standards.



PRESERVATION

- **Land Acquisitions** – Acquired eight properties for permanent protection, including approximately \$3.2 million worth of properties donated to the Ice Age Trail Alliance. Donated lands will help protect future Ice Age Trail sections by being used as match for public funding or through trade or sale of those lands. Wisconsin's Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, Marathon County, and private funding were used to secure the remaining four properties. All told, more than 500 acres of land and an estimated four miles of Ice Age NST were protected in 2015 (bottom photo).

CAPACITY

- **Trainings** – Held ten separate and unique volunteer training for 165 volunteers on topics such as Camp Chef, Chapter Leadership Skills, Ecological Management, Tread 101, Stonework, Working with Youth, First Aid/CPR, Crew Leader Refresher, Chainsaw Safety, and boardwalk workshops (upper left photos).
- **Engagement of Public Officials** – Worked to engage local and statewide elected officials, with six elected officials onsite at various Mobile Skills Crew events.



Lecture Hall

The National Trails System serves as the ultimate outdoor classroom for thousands of youth across the country.

From studying water quality to retracing ancestral footsteps, from building leadership skills on trail crews to learning healthy habits, programs on the National Trails are creating a foundation for success for the next generation.

Photos, clockwise from upper left: Geology field Trip, New England NST; middle school students on a trail work project on the Florida NST; a youth crew on the Pacific Crest NST; meeting curriculum requirements as part of the Arizona Seeds of Stewardship program on the Arizona NHT; participants of the Picture This! NPS Parks in Focus program along the North Country NST; NET College Network campus outdoor organization leaders at a retreat along the New England NST; iTREC Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom students on the Iditarod NHT; connecting with local wildlife on the Arizona NST; riding on a covered wagon on the Oregon NHT; and participating in the NPS EPIC Patriot Camp program on the Overmountain Victory NHT. Center photo: Saunters participants along the Ice Age NST.



Stage

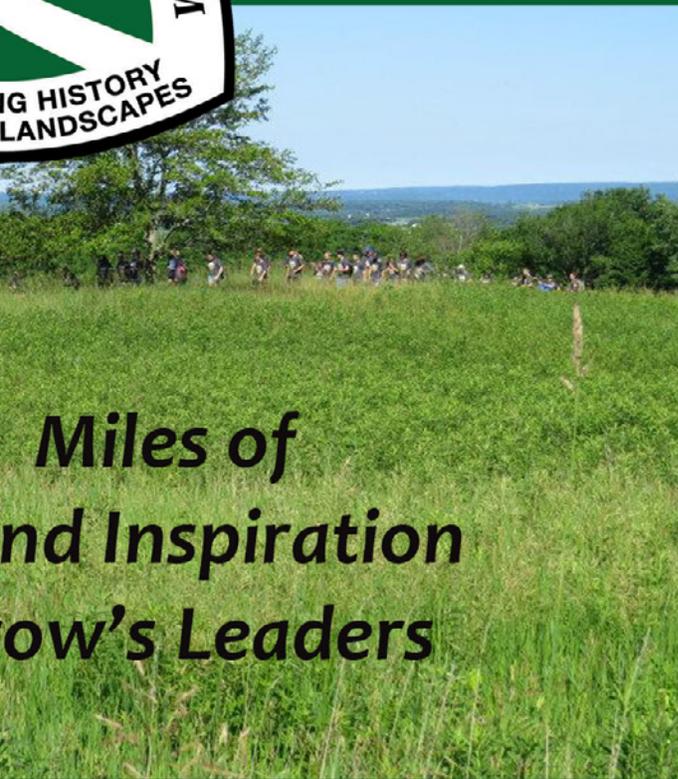
Science





Shop

Studio



Miles of
and Inspiration
ow's Leaders

Lab

Gym





Iditarod National Historic Trail A History



IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE OUTREACH

- **Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom** – The iTREC! (Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom) program is now in its sixth year. The program has trained a total of 80 teachers, providing place-based learning to help youth become lifelong stewards of Alaska’s public lands, natural resources, and cultural heritage. The year-long professional development program has helped teachers engage over 6,500 K-12 students.
- **New Publication** – “Walter Goodwin – Trail Blazer”, edited by Thom Ely and Cherie Northon, includes Goodwin’s first trip reports and original articles, written between 1908-1911, about his work to establish, survey, and mark the overland mail route that is now the Iditarod NHT.
- **Documentary DVD** – Released a DVD, titled *Iditarod National Historic Trail: A History*, which tells the story of the people who built, lived along, and used the Trail through the 20th century as it commemorates the opening of Alaska and the last great American gold rush (*photo at left*).
- **U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree** – Provided Iditarod trail marking sign ornaments for the 2015 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, which came from the Chugach National Forest within the Iditarod NHT corridor. An iTREC! teacher and two students from Girdwood, Alaska attended the Capitol Christmas Tree lighting and visited a Washington D.C. elementary school as Alaska “ambassadors”.

PROTECTION

- **Signage** – Worked with the BLM Iditarod Trail Administrator, to identify the remote Ophir to Ruby and Kaltag to Unalakleet segments as priorities for signage and wayfinding marking, scheduled for installation in 2016.
- **Trail Maintenance** – Completed trail brushing work on portions of the Rainy Pass and Happy River drainage with assistance from the Iditarod Trail Committee. This was the first trail maintenance and clearing work to be accomplished in decades in the area, resulting in safer travel conditions for all trail users.
- **Shelter Cabin Restoration** – Financially supported restoration and insulation of the 1931 historic Alaska Road Commission shelter cabin known as “Don’s Cabin” by the State Iditarod Easement Unit. Winter travelers and Iditarod Sled Dog and Irondog races use the remote cabin for shelter (*photo bottom left*).

MORMON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL



OUTREACH

- **Handcart Treks** – Mormon Trail Association continued support of youth handcart treks, whereby young adults from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) participate in commemorative reenactments, retracing ancestral footsteps along segments of the Trail while pulling handcarts (*photo below*).
- **Visitor Center Volunteering** – Members of the LDS Community volunteer at a variety of sites along the Trail.
- **Outreach Events and Online Resource** – The Iowa Mormon Trail Association holds outreach events along the Trail and maintains online resources devoted to specific sites.



ANZA TRAIL FOUNDATION (ATF)

OUTREACH

- **Web de Anza Online Resource** – Completed Phase 1 of the Anza Colonists Project, a multiyear initiative to expand the Web de Anza (<http://anza.uoregon.edu>) online databases about the colonists led by Juan Bautista de Anza.
- **Streetlight Banners** – Erected Anza Trail streetlight banners to mark the trail in commercial districts in partnership with the NPS. The first banners were placed in El Cerrito, California in partnership with the El Cerrito Historic Society. ATF unveiled the banners on NPS Founder’s Day, August 2015 (*top right photo*).
- **Segment Certification Event** – Partnered with NPS on an event along the Trail in Los Angeles where 500 schoolchildren received their Every Kid in a Park passes. The certification of the LA River Trail as a component of the Anza Trail was announced by the City of Los Angeles.



CAPACITY

- **Academic Resource** – Expanded outreach and interpretation capacity with the publication of *Juan Bautista de Anza: The Governor in New Mexico*, a biography by ATF board member Dr. Carlos Herrera. Dr. Herrera made presentations in California, Arizona, and New Mexico as well as Baja California, and he was as the keynote speaker at the annual Anza World Conference in Pueblo, Colorado (*bottom right photo*).



LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL HERITAGE FOUNDATION (LCTHF), LEWIS AND CLARK TRUST (LCT)

OUTREACH

- **Smartphone App** – LCTHF added 25 Lewis and Clark or Native American-themed visitor centers onto the Next Exit History App's Lewis and Clark Backpack. The resource helps smart phone users explore the story of the Expedition and find facilities and sites.
- **Go Adventuring Resource Expansion** – LCTHF began working on the final planned sections for Kansas, Missouri, and Illinois in the Go Adventuring with Lewis and Clark outreach and marketing initiative. LCTHF also added Nez Perce NHT sites with planned addition of Oregon-California and Santa Fe NHTs sites to brochures and auto route tour sheets (screenshot bottom right).
- **Trail Stewardship Grants** – LCTHF awarded \$56,345 in Trail Stewardship Grants to 14 recipients across the country: one high school district, one museum, two "friends groups", one living history organization and six other nonprofit organizations.
- **Teacher Seminar** – LCT facilitated its second teacher seminar through the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and the University of Montana. The seminar brought educators from around the country together to learn how to incorporate the Lewis and Clark Expedition into their classroom lessons (bottom left photo).
- **History Day Prizes** – LCTHF awarded two National History Day prizes to winners in junior and senior high school divisions.
- **Website** – LCTHF took over updating and upkeep of the Discovering Lewis and Clark Website.
- **Middle School Science Curriculum** – LCTHF worked with the NPS and Lewis and Clark Foundation to bring the Lewis and Clark Field Investigations program national. This program will teach middle school students science aspects of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. LCTHF also worked on curriculum development and site selection.
- **Honoring Tribal Legacies Curriculum Guide** – LCNHT partners worked to support the development of an online curriculum guide incorporating tribal stories and perspectives from a multitude of tribal nations.

PROTECTION

- **LWCF Land Acquisition** – LCTHF worked with the PNTS, BLM, NPS, and other Federal partners to secure a \$1,000,000 parcel of land in Montana under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal and continued advocacy towards LWCF reauthorization.
- **Eastern Legacy Advocacy** – LCT continued to advocate on behalf of the Eastern Legacy of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (route traversed by Lewis and Clark not currently designated as part of the NHT).

CAPACITY

- **Library Enhancement** – LCTHF increased hours of its Library Technician and sent library tech and volunteers to an archives training.
- **Office** – Remodeled the LCTHF office to include a shared conference room with the USFS and other organizations in the building.



NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY ASSOCIATION

- **National Trails Conference** – Assisted with the 2015 National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference in Franklin, Tennessee.
- **Trail Studies** – Conducted studies and evaluations of the trail with experts during the cohosting of the trails conference.
- **Living History Events** – Presented living history events in four States for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 to tell the story of historic events on the trail.
- **Cyclist Ride** – Helped conduct the first 444 mile challenge ride of cyclists from around the world from the northern terminus to the southern terminus of the linear park.
- **Cycling Safety Tests** – Conducted safety testing to determine the colors of clothing and lighting for cyclists most visible to motorists. Provided volunteer support for helping NPS map and clear a section of trail.
- **Public Safety Announcements** – Developed and funded public service announcements for television and radio to improve safety in the park.
- Continued development of cell phone interpretation of sites.



APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB (AMC),

CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARK ASSOCIATION (CFPA)

OUTREACH

- **Youth Outings** – AMC sponsored 30 geology field trips through the Hitchcock Center for the Environment, bringing about 670 students out on the New England National Scenic Trail (NET) to learn local geology.
- **Teen Trail Crew Programs** – AMC brought groups of teenagers out to work on NET.
- **College Outing Club officers' Retreat** – AMC enhanced the NET College Network by bringing together outdoor student organization officers for a retreat (bottom photo).
- **Middle School NET Club** – CFPA facilitated the establishment of the King Phillip Middle School New England Trail Hiking Club to encourage middle school students out on the trail. The program will document the experiences of participants with video.
- **Hike Series** – CFPA continued to offer the NET Rambles hike series.
- **Letterboxes** – CFPA introduced a series of letterboxes along the NET in Connecticut, part of a tradition of letterboxing, whereby enthusiasts follow clues to hidden boxes.
- **Sensory Walks** – Facilitated a series of sessions on the NET led by artist Bibi Calderaro focusing on human connection to place through in-depth walking experiences.
- **Artist-in-Residence** – Partnered with Centennial Artist-In-Residence Xio Xiomaro for a photographic exploration and presentation of the NET.

PROTECTION

- **Strategy Meetings** – CFPA facilitated town/partner meetings on trail corridor protection.
- **Easement and License** – Participated in negotiations for a 0.3 mile-trail easement and several property licenses.
- **GIS Habitat Analyses** – Through a partnership with a Wesleyan University GIS course, university students are completing section-by-section habitat analyses of the NET with each new round of students tackling a different section.

CAPACITY

- **Chapter Expansion** – Established a new Berkshire Chapter Committee and Trail Crew structure centered around the NET within the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC).
- **Training** – AMC facilitated a Trail Skills and Leadership Training for Berkshire Chapter leaders involved with the NET.
- **Equipment Trailer** – Purchased a tool trailer and equipment for trail projects.
- **Staff** – AMC hired a Trail Projects and Volunteer Coordinator for Massachusetts.



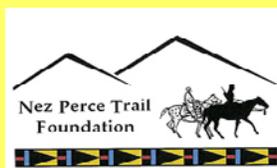
NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION

OUTREACH

- **Educational Summer Tour** – Conducted the 13th annual Educational Summer Tour that takes teachers and others on the Nez Perce NHT from Wallowa, Oregon to Big Hole Battlefield in Montana. The program helps instructors identify and develop lessons that can be incorporated into the classroom as a way of spreading Nez Perce history to students throughout the region. (Photos at right and below by Karen Heagan taken during the Educational Summer Tour, featuring Jim Zimmerman as "C.E.S. Wood" and tour leader Duane Heglie with Karen and Kat Wapato.)
- **Tamkaliks Celebration Support** – Sponsored totebags holding traditional items given to Women Warriors at the annual Tamkaliks Celebration in Wallowa, Oregon.
- **Academic Research** – Conducted research on the untold story of the Redheart Band's incarceration at Ft. Vancouver.

CAPACITY

- **Social Media** – Revamped the Foundation's website and focused on social media presence on Facebook and Instagram.
- **Financial Sustainability** – Successfully focused on and rebuilt the Foundation's finances.



NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION (NCTA)

OUTREACH

- **Online Outreach** – Significantly increased web and social media traffic in 2015, adding new interactive maps that feature photo/story social media aggregation. Hikers can upload photos and stories linked to the trail coordinates where the photo/story occurs.
- **Youth Outreach** – Supported the Picture This! Program in Battle Creek with the NPS Parks in Focus program, which brought inner city kids to the North Country NST. One outcome was a beautiful exhibition of nature photography shown locally (*photo below*).
- **Interpretive Panels** – Completed template designs for interpretive panels in seven States for local use by Trail Towns.



PROTECTION

- **Route Approval** – After years of NCTA advocacy, New York State has approved an official route for the NCNST through the Adirondack Park. This special Forest Preserve, larger than Yellowstone National Park, has been constitutionally protected as “Forever Wild” since the late 1800s. The North Country NST through the Adirondacks will be one of the crown jewel experiences in hiking the Trail.
- **Acquisition Progress** – NCTA is partnering with The Conservation Fund for a major acquisition project in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

CAPACITY

- **Volunteer Trainings** – Conducted ten separate and unique volunteer training events for 165 volunteers including Camp Chef, Chapter Leadership Skills, Ecological Management, Tread 101, Stonework x2, Working with Youth, First Aid/CPR, Crew Leader Refresher, Chainsaw Safety x2, and boardwalks.
- **Engagement of Elected Officials** – In addition to VIP trainings, considerable efforts were made to include grass-roots engagement of local and statewide elected officials. Six elected officials were onsite at various Mobile Skills Crew events.
- **Chapter Capacity** – Revised chapter leadership handbook and conducted webinars about chapter leadership and GPS data collection.
- **Staff** – Moved GIS Coordinator from part-time to full-time and added a Marketing and Communications Coordinator and a new Regional Trail Coordinator for Michigan.



OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **Three Trails Conference** – Cosponsored the first combined NHT conference with the Santa Fe Trail Association and the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association in Santa Fe, NM.
- **Public Engagement Events** – Conducted numerous public outreach events, including the second annual Old Spanish Trail Days in Barstow, California, which hosted youth groups and over 1,000 participants. Other events included an Old Spanish Trail cookout, auto tour, and wagon rides on Iron County, UT portions of the Trail.



Mule packing demo during an OSTA outreach event.

- **Old Spanish Trail Day** – Obtained a resolution from the California State Legislature proclaiming the first Saturday of each succeeding October as Old Spanish Trail Day.
- **New Publication** – Completed a multiyear project for a new publication, *Driving the Old Spanish Trail in Utah and Arizona*.

PROTECTION

- **New Signage** – Formally sanctioned and uniform NPS signage of the Old Spanish NHT is progressing, with signs going up in Santa Fe, NM, planned and funded in Mesa County, CO, and planned for the Mohave Desert, CA, and Iron County, UT.
- **1960s Signage Partnerships** – Replaced and rehabilitated markers on the Old Spanish Trail in Nevada with multitude of partners and over 600 youth and adult volunteers. Over nineteen Boy Scout Eagle projects related to this effort have been achieved.
- **Trail Protection Initiatives** – Evaluated and reviewed various public land actions and private land developments including energy development issues, transmission lines, and land management plans. Positive protection effects have been achieved on the Mohave Desert portions of the Trail in CA, in Iron County UT, and elsewhere.

CAPACITY

- **University Collections Partnership** – Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gerald R. Sherratt Library at Southern Utah University designating its Special Collections Unit as a repository for Old Spanish Trail scholarship and historical material.
- **Trail Verification and Routing** – Improved trail verification techniques and refined mapping to facilitate identification and advocacy towards valuable trail segments, including work on the Fishlake Cutoff route in Utah.
- **Member Award** – Vice-President Paul Ostapuk received a lifetime achievement award from PNTS.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **Online Resources** – Partnered with the National Frontier Trails Museum and Independence, Missouri School District to use the new OCTA website for curriculum development and also established a new OCTA Journals website.
- **Youth Wagon Train** – Supported an excursion of a 33 junior high students as they drove a wagon train (*photo above*) through the deserts of Nevada and over the Sierra into California in an program through their school. All of the students then participated in the OCTA convention and became OCTA members.
- **Social Studies Conference Outreach** – Participated in the National Council on Social Studies conference in New Orleans to inform hundreds of teachers and administrators of the wealth of educational resources developed by OCTA.
- **Symphony on the Trail** – Sponsored and facilitated a performance of the Topeka Symphony Orchestra of period and trail-themed music for over 2,000 people at Alcove Spring Historic Park along the Oregon NHT in partnership with the Marshall County (KS) Arts Council.
- **3-Trails Corridor Project** – Continued progress on the 3-Trails Corridor project in Kansas City, working to build a 40-mile retracement trail in the historic trail corridor in the Kansas City metro area featuring the Oregon, California, and Lewis and Clark NHTs.
- **Interns** – Worked with the Utah BLM to host three interns to help inventory and protect the Hastings Cutoff.
- **Boy Scout Eagle Projects** – Facilitated several Boy Scout and Eagle Award projects at trail sites.

PROTECTION

- **Public Input** – Provided media input towards and media coverage for the Boardman to Hemingway project in Oregon and Idaho.
- **Placemaking Grant** – Won the Kansas City Area Realtors Association “Placemaking Grant” to enhance Cave Spring.
- **Dam Project Input** – Seeking “consulting party” status for the J-2 Reservoir project in central Nebraska.
- **Development Mitigation** – Advocated for and achieved a location reassessment and future impact assessment for a Nebraska Public Power District transmission line planned to traverse an area of historical importance.

CAPACITY

- **Fundraising and Membership** – Achieved the best internal fund-raising effort in OCTA history and overall membership growth.
- **Convention** – Drew over 400+ attendees to a convention in Lake Tahoe.

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **March to Kings Mountain** – Held the Annual March to Kings Mountain reenactment, engaging over 10,770 people through interactive events at a multitude of sites along the trail. Of those who participated in the outreach events, over 8,500 were school children (*photos at right*).
- **Year-Round Youth Programming** – A new cooperative agreement with the National Park Service, which recently hired a new Chief of Interpretation, provided for year-round outreach programs along the trail corridor communities and schools.
- **Support of EPIC Patriot Camp** – OVTA member and reenactor Steve Ricker supported the NPS EPIC Patriot Camp, which engaged students in hands-on activities and creative-writing exercises as they forded rivers, acted out historical encounters, and dressed in period attire.



PROTECTION

- **Master Plan Progress** – Master Plans through the NPS and the involved communities were completed to bring on-the-ground trail from Lenoir, NC to Morganton, NC and from Morganton, NC to Lake James, NC. Additional plans were launched including a land acquisition plan and a master plan of on-the-ground trail from Elkin, NC to W. Kerr Scott Dam, NC.

CAPACITY

- **Volunteer Hours** – OVTA members contributed over 7,400 volunteer hours towards stewardship of the trail.

PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **Wild Marketing Plan and Website** – Established an ad-hoc team of staff and volunteers to leverage the increased public and media interest inspired by the movie *Wild*. The team rolled out an online microsite including personal stories, hiking information, and safety guides, and it issued other movie-specific promotional materials to dovetail with the movie's release.
- **Youth Engagement** – Partnered with a variety of entities to engage youth with trail work. This included the Environmental Charter High School and Middle School in Los Angeles, American Conservation Experience (*photo below*), AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps, Forest Youth Success, New Currents Outdoors, Outward Bound, and Boy Scout troops.
- **Membership** – Over 4,000 new members joined in 2015.
- **Online Presence** – Website received 7.7 million page views by 1.8 million individual users in 2.8 million sessions and Facebook “Likes” increased from 67,786 to more than 100,000.

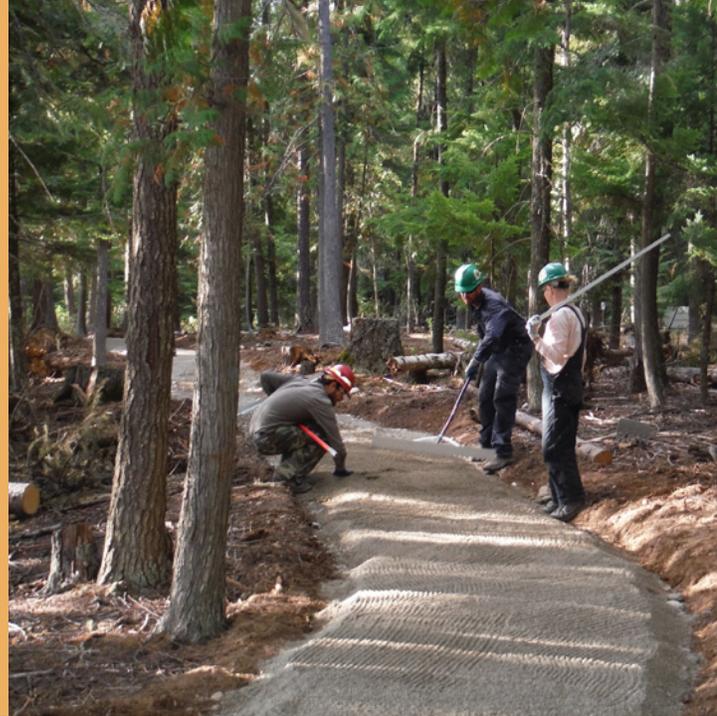


PROTECTION

- **Plum Creek Land Purchase through Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – The USFS acquired 908 acres from The Trust for Public Land to permanently protect the PCT corridor on the Mount Baker-Snoqualmie and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests in Washington.
- **San Geronio Wilderness Land Purchase through LWCF** – The Mojave Desert Land Trust successfully completed the sale of 224 acres in Southern California to the BLM, protecting views for more than a mile of the PCT through the San Geronio Wilderness.
- **Sierra Buttes Realignment** – Continued a multiyear project to relocate a 16-mile section of trail in the Tahoe National Forest away from a road to create a greater sense of remoteness for hikers and horseback riders.
- **Echo Summit Relocation** – Collaborated with the USFS towards a new alignment for the trail at Echo Summit in the Eldorado National Forest to minimize exposure to the sights and sounds of busy Highway 50, increase safety, and provide views of Lake Tahoe.
- **Trail Adoption** – 1,669 miles of the PCT adopted by community-based volunteer groups.

CAPACITY

- **Hiring of Land Protection Director** – PCTA hired Megan Wargo as its first full-time staff member dedicated to working on land acquisition along the trail to ensure permanent protection of the entire trail corridor and viewshed.
- **GIS Mapping Capacity** – Purchased ESRI's ArcGIS software licenses to collect and maintain spatial data on land ownership, trail maintenance, and trail users to easily display information about the trail on maps.
- **GIS Intern** – Hosted its first GIS intern from the University of Idaho to help develop and populate PCTA's geo-database and prepare an organizational work plan for the GIS System.
- **Hiring of Major Gifts Officer** – PCTA hired Mark Waters as major gifts officer in 2015 to engage with donors to increase the organization's capacity and to provide financial resources for future land protection.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **Youth Summer Program** – Engaged approximately 100 elementary school kids in the “Experience the Wild” summer experience.
- **Passport Program** – the Pacific Northwest NST became part of the National Parks Passport Program.
- **PNT Trail Days** – Hosted PNT Trail Days, a public outreach event, in Oroville, Washington.



PROTECTION

- **Accessible Trail** – Built an ADA accessible trail for the Colville National Forest along the corridor of the Pacific Northwest NST. The ten-week construction project linked two campgrounds used by thru-hikers of the Pacific Northwest NST (*photo above*).
- **SKY Ranger Corps** – The SKY (Service-Knowledge-Youth) Program engaged about 45 young people in trail work along the Trail.



CAPACITY

- **Advisory Council** – Representatives from PCTA became part of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Federal Advisory Council, which brings together a myriad of public and private partners and supporters of the Trail.
- **Trail Alerts Fire Resource** – Introduced a Trail Alerts website page to identify wildfire perimeters and provide safety and authority contact information.

NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION OUTREACH

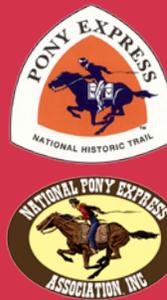
- **Annual Re-Ride** – Conducted its annual *Re-Ride of the Pony Express Trail* from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. This event takes ten days to complete, with riders traveling non-stop by horseback 24 hours a day. Commemorative letters were carried in the Mochila along the 1,966 mile route using hundreds of riders, horses, and crew.
- **Signage** – Worked with regional park and transportation public entities on Trail signage from Shingle Springs to the town of El Dorado in California.
- **Event Outreach** – Promoted the Trail during the annual Pedal the Plains ride in Colorado. Association members reached out to the crowd of over 1,400 people in full Pony Express attire, distributing information and maps of nearby historical Trail markers.

PROTECTION

- **Trail Maintenance** – Repaired washed out access roads and cleared brush to improve access to the Trail.

CAPACITY

- **Downtown Partnership** – Partnered with Nevada Day Store and Trading Post to provide a regular venue for NPEA representatives to connect with visitors to the downtown section of Carson City.
- **Meet and Greets** – Hosted a series of Meet and Greet events at a local restaurant in Reno and held a campout to encourage new membership.



POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION PROTECTION

Trail Segment Advocacy and Construction –

Successfully advocated for funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation for two key trail segments in McLean, Virginia, totaling nearly one mile, and for studies for a third link. Although construction of an asphalt trail will not begin until 2019, PHTA volunteers have already cleared and opened a 0.9 mile natural surface trail along this route outside the sound wall of the Capital Beltway, connecting to two natural surface segments.



SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH

- **Media Tour Project** – Partnered with NPS to provide assistance on their Media Tour project.
- **Three Trail Corridor Project** – Provided assistance to the Three Trails Corridor Project to align activity trails with the national historic trails in the Kansas City metro area.
- **Symposium** – Partnered with Bent's Old Fort NHS to host the 2015 Fur Trader's Symposium.
- **Kiosk** – Dedicated a 3-panel interpretive kiosk at the McPherson Museum in Kansas.
- **Youth Outreach** – Funded a variety of chapter-level educational projects, worked with NPS on the Junior Wagon Master educational booklet programs along the SFNHT, initiated a youth photo contest, and facilitated a youth performance at the Three Trails Conference (*top photo*).
- **Academic Outreach** – Funded a Scholarly Research Grant, provided speakers for programs on Santa Fe Trail related topics, and hosted educational programs and tours.
- **Boy Scout Partnerships** – Assisted Boy Scout troops working to earn the National Historic Trails patch and facilitated trail-focused Eagle Scout projects.
- **Geocaching** – Maintained a GeoTour and held a geocaching task force to gain exposure to geocaching community and expand membership.
- **Signage** – Consulted with NPS and the Cimarron National Grassland about signage and visitor usage and began a survey of the Flint Hills Chapter Area to create a sign plan for four counties in Kansas.



PROTECTION

- **Mitigation Support** – Assisted the Fort Carson Mitigation Projects Advisory Committee concerning cultural resources of the Santa Fe Trail in the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Southeast Colorado.
- **Energy Infrastructure Advocacy** – Worked with energy companies to protect Santa Fe Trail segments and collaborated with the NPS to add Trail segments to the National Register of Historic Places and promote the NPS Certification Program.
- **Trail Preservation Awards** – Provided awards to landowners who preserve segments of the Trail.

CAPACITY

- **Workshops** – Hosted trainings discussing mapping techniques and NPS-accepted interpretation practices.
- **Communications** – Continued to publish a quarterly publication, *Wagon Tracks*, and sent out weekly membership emails.

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY NHT



OUTREACH

- **Walking Classroom** – Volunteers supported the Walking Classroom program hosted by the NPS. The program was a combination reenactment march and educational program, specifically targeted at young adults from around the country. This journey aimed to provide participants with a closer look at the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the story behind the Selma to Montgomery NHT. Participants took a guided journey including a reenactment of a mass meeting, an evening lecture with civil rights leader Bernard Lafayette, a memorial program for martyrs of the movement, a commemorative program, and the walking of portions of the 54-mile national historic trail. The event culminated with the march to Alabama State Capital and rally (photo below).



STAR SPANGLED BANNER NHT



OUTREACH

- **Fort McHenry Interpretation** – Volunteers, including living history reenactors, support interpretive efforts at the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

W3R-US (Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT)

OUTREACH

- **L' Hermione** – To celebrate the arrival of the French frigate L'Herminette along the eastern seaboard, W3R-US collaborated with the NPS to support pierside cultural events, exhibitions, and educational programs highlighting American/French alliance history, the NPS Centennial, and the W3R NHT.
- **Urban Youth Education** – Presented the role of 1st Rhode Island Regiment African-American soldiers in supporting America during the Revolutionary War to a classroom of elementary students.
- **Wilderness Canoemobile** – Participated in Wilderness Canoemobile program in the Delaware Valley, which exposed hundreds of urban students to the natural, historic, and cultural resources in the Delaware River Valley and the contributions of the 1st Rhode Island Regiment, of predominantly African American soldiers.
- **Banners** – Developed a pair of blue canvas banners in partnership with the NPS to mark the Trail.
- **Wayside Markers** – Installation of W3R banners and wayside markers in New York.
- **Trail Maps/Brochures** – Developing trail maps to support NPS tourist guide brochures.

PROTECTION

- **Collaborative Landscape Conservation Proposals** – Prepared two Collaborative Landscape Conservation proposals identifying priority W3R preservation projects: a Revolutionary War Cemetery in Fishkill, New York and an encampment site in Maryland.
- **GIS Partnership** – Partnering with the NPS and the University of Rhode Island to launch a trail GIS program to build a robust geospatial database and online interactive maps.
- **LWCF Advocacy** – Advocated for reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

CAPACITY

- **Website Revisions** – Worked to update W3R-US website to reflect growth and plans for the future.
- **Historic Research** – Conducted historic research to inform State-level trail publications and outreach.
- **Partnership Development** – Worked to develop relationships with the Independence Seaport Museum, the Navy League in Philadelphia, and in other places including New York City and France, all of whom participated in the Hermione Voyage 2015.

NATIONAL TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION

OUTREACH



- **Conference** – Conducted an Association Conference and Symposium which drew approximately 200 registrants from a broad cross section of scholars, local elected officials, Tribal officials, singers, and storytellers, and Association members. The conference included wayside exhibit dedications (photo below), a grave site marking ceremony, tribal stories, music, food, presentations, and field trips.
- **Remember the Removal Bike Ride Events** – Hosted wayside exhibit dedications for interpretive signs to coincide with the Remember the Removal Bike Ride conducted jointly by the Cherokee Nation and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. These events brought together Cherokee bike riders, State legislators, local elected officials, TOTA members, NPS officers, and historical organizations.

CAPACITY

- **Workshop** – Hosted a two-day workshop for over 20 Chapter officers, directors, volunteers, and representatives from tourism promotion organizations. The workshop covered nonprofit organizational management and tools for creating a media kit to spread a uniform message across different media outlets.



Pathways Across America
Partnership for the National Trails System
222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13
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In 2015,
the nonprofit partners
of the 30 national scenic and
historic trails contributed over
1,070,000
volunteer hours worth over
\$24,750,000
towards stewardship
of our nation's public lands,
ecosystems, and cultural
heritage.