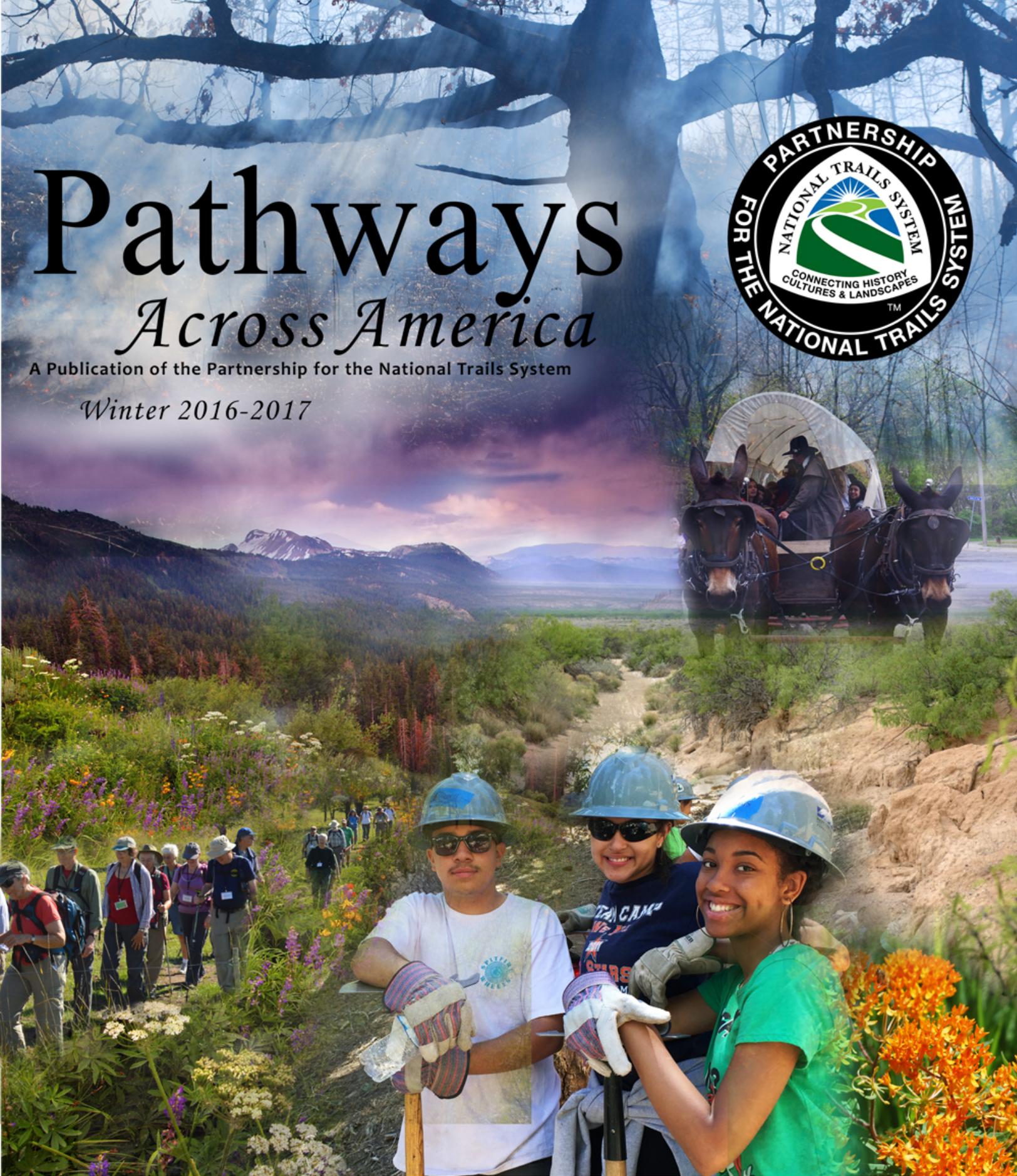


# Pathways *Across America*

A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

*Winter 2016-2017*



**Many Steps Forward**



**Achievements Towards the Decade Goals by Trail Organizations in 2016**

# 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:

**Department of Agriculture:**  
USDA Forest Service

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

**Department of Transportation:**  
Federal Highway Administration



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For information about the Partnership for the National Trails System or to learn how to contact any of our partner groups working on behalf of the trails, visit the PNTS website at:

**www.pnts.org**

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

## 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 that is well-connected to communities, businesses, and civic groups.



**Building Community...**

# The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

## What is the National Trails System?

The National Trails 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.

## 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*

## 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 these 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.

## Photos of the Winter 2016-2017 Cover

About the Winter 2016-2017 Pathways Cover:  
From top left to bottom right: Sunlight through smoke from a prescribed burn for native species restoration along the Ice Age NST, by Gary Werner, PNTS; Agnew Meadow along the Pacific Crest NST by Aaron Doss, courtesy of the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), a covered wagon used for education along the Oregon California NHT, courtesy of the Oregon-California Trails Association; participants in the North Country Trail Association’s (NCTA’s) Annual Celebration on a hike by Dove Day, courtesy of the NCTA; Environmental Charter High School students on trail by Sammy Lyon, courtesy of the PCTA; and Butterfly Milkweed along the Ice Age Trail, by Gary Werner, PNTS.



Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

# 2016 Partnership for the National Trails System Accomplishments



2016 was another 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 2016:

**Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Trail Allocations** – The President’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Budget included \$900 million of Land and Water Conservation Fund money. It allocated \$27,205,000 of that amount to buy land along six national historic and four national scenic trails. Most of 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 2015. As of the end of January 2017, Congress has not yet completed appropriating the money to fund LWCF projects for FY2017. As members of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, the PNTS and its member national scenic and historic trail organizations continued to consistently advocate for permanent reauthorization of the LWCF throughout 2016.

**LWCF Proposal FY 2018** – 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 \$54,832,000 along five national scenic and seven national historic trails. These projects may be considered for inclusion in the President’s FY 2018 Budget.

**Annual Trails Advocacy Event in Washington DC** – In February 2016, the PNTS and American Hiking Society organized the 19th Annual “Hike the Hill” event. The event brought more than 75 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 Scenic and Historic Trails Workshops** – The PNTS worked with the Oregon-California Trails Association, Santa Fe Trail Association, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, National Pony Express Association, and Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation to organize and host a National Historic Trails Workshop in Independence, Missouri in June. The PNTS also worked with the Florida Trail Association and Pacific Crest Trail Association to organize and host a National Scenic Trails Workshop in Pensacola, Florida in mid-November. Each workshop involved about 80 leaders from historic or scenic trail organizations and National Trail Administrators and included eight young “Trail Apprentices” who participated in all aspects of each workshop through funding provided by the Federal agencies.

**Commentary on Federal Agency Planning and Policy** – During the year the PNTS and fellow trail organizations provided comments to the Bureau of Land Management on its Planning 2.0 revision of the basic resource management planning for Public Lands and also on refinement of planning for Westwide Energy Corridors extending across Public Lands from the continental divide to the west coast. The PNTS and Old Spanish Trail Association commented on the proposed Old Spanish NHT Administrative Strategy prepared by the Bureau and the National Park Service. The PNTS also joined the Pacific Crest Trail Association to urge that revised plans for several National Forests in California include a designated management corridor with special management guidelines for the Pacific Crest NST and worked with the Continental Divide Trail Coalition on similar Forest Service planning issues along the Continental Divide NST.

In 2016 the PNTS and partner trail organizations helped celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service and began to plan how to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and Wild and Scenic River System in 2018. To guide this planning the PNTS convened a working group of lead staff from the American Hiking Society, American Trails, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to join with Federal agency staff in developing a strategy to coordinate and focus the efforts of these organizations and agencies.

Wishing you fruitful trail making and many opportunities to enjoy the vast, intricate, and diverse beauty along our national scenic and historic trails in 2017!

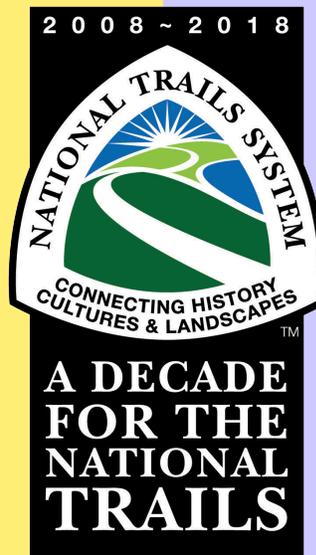
Gary Werner  
Executive Director,  
Partnership for the National Trails System

## 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 when someone who partakes in an educational event comes back to help with trail building, or perhaps, in the case of young children, the investment leads to the long term sustainability and public awareness of the trail. Either way, outreach can be viewed not as taxing the resources of an organization, but as a direct effort towards trail stewardship development.



## Decade Goal 2 – Resource Protection and Trail Completion

In 2008, as we celebrated the 40th Anniversary of Congress’ passage of the National Trails System Act, our joy was tempered by the knowledge of how unfinished the Trails System is. Although Congress has authorized 11 national scenic 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

Created the Next Generation Advisory Council: a 15 member advisory council created to increase youth and diversity along the trail through addressing barriers to employment and recreation, produce a more inclusive narrative of people utilizing the Appalachian Trail, and advise ATC on how to encourage membership, advocacy, and leadership from a younger and more culturally diverse population than our current demographic.

Created the Conservation Leadership Corps (CLC): a critical pathway program created for ATC's Broader Relevancy goal to address the diversity gap seen in public land agencies and environmental organizations.

Created the #myATstory campaign: a multi-media campaign featuring text, photos, and videos shared through social media, email, and online marketing

### PROTECTION

- Acquired the 20-acre Shook Branch property in Tennessee which eliminates a road walk, moves the trail out of sight of two homes, provides an improved crossing of US-321, and improves views of Watauga Lake.
- Acquired the 1292-acre Pennsylvania American Water property. This is phase one of a multi phase, 4600 acre acquisition, which will become part of the relatively newly authorized Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The parcel was acquired with mitigation funds for lost trail values caused by the construction of the 500kV Susquehanna-Roseland transmission line.

### CAPACITY

- Hired a Visitor Use Manager to work with ATC staff, clubs, and partners to understand and address visitor use challenges from Georgia to Maine.
- ATC Volunteer Leadership Meeting hosted by ATC and the National Park Service at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV. 51 representatives from 28 of the 31 Appalachian Trail maintaining clubs participated.



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

### OUTREACH

E Mau Nā Ala Hele partnered with a group reestablishing and maintaining the Pālanui Trail, a mauka-makai (mountain to ocean) trail.

### PROTECTION

#### Land Acquisition

ATA, with help from key partners and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, acquired 35 acres of coastal land on the north end of Hawaii island. This land has potential to contribute to community well-being and we are in the process of developing a land management plan to guide public use and resource conservation.

#### Development

E Mau Nā Ala Hele documented development related issues affecting the Ala Kahakai NHT and the Waikoloa Petroglyph Preserve, bringing these issues to the attention of the County of Hawaii Cultural Resources Commission, the State Department of Historic Preservation, and the developer.

### CAPACITY

#### ATA

- Hired an organizational coordinator; developed a website and Facebook page.
- Received a National Park Foundation Active Trails Grant.
- Developed organizational materials (logowear, banners, stickers, etc.).
- Began drafting a Strategic Plan.
- Acquired trail-adjacent property and are developing a management plan for it.

#### E Mau Nā Ala Hele

- 20 percent membership increase.
- Youth Leadership: Makamae Quinn, Partnership for the National Trails System trail apprentice, joined the El Mana Board of Directors and represent the organization at the 2016 National Historic Trails Conference.



## ARIZONA TRAIL ASSOCIATION (ATA)



### OUTREACH

#### Youth

- Engaged over 2,000 youth through Seeds of Stewardship Program.
- Established Youth Corps Program with Saguaro National Park.

#### Signage

- Installed 12 new interpretive trailhead signs.
- Installed five new gateway community signs.
- Bilingual interpretive signage produced for first time.

#### Information

- Three-part Arizona Trail documentary, created in partnership with media, aired statewide.
- Distributed 15,000 maps statewide.
- Distributed 4,500 Junior Explorer Handbooks statewide.

### PROTECTION

Installed 14 new steel gates to protect the trail from motorized use and meet the needs of trail users, especially equestrians and fully-loaded packstock.

### CAPACITY

- Association staff grew by 25 percent, including the hiring an Assistant Trail Director and increasing hours for our Seeds of Stewardship Coordinators, Volunteer Coordinator, and Executive Assistant.
- Hosted four Trails Skills Training workshops for volunteers.
- Organized two volunteer vacations.
- Membership program improved through new incentives and a more comprehensive membership retention strategy.



## CHESAPEAKE CONSERVANCY

### OUTREACH

- The Zimmerman Center for Heritage became the first official visitor contact station. The National Park Service (NPS) provided approximately \$160,000 of a \$1.5 million budget for these improvements, which were also supported by funds from other sources.
- Received funding to develop a Mobile Ranger interpretive station, which will be complete in 2017.

### PROTECTION

- The NPS, Conservation Fund, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources permanently protected 264 acres of land known as Werowocomoco. This success is due, in part, to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- NPS staff will begin a collaborative planning and design process for guiding future management. The process and resulting plan will address visitor use and facilities, interpretation, education, and overall resource protection.

### CAPACITY

A new Communications and Partnership Assistant was hired, a shared position between the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office and the Chesapeake Conservancy.



## CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION (CDTC)

### OUTREACH

- Designated five new Continental Divide Trail (CDT) Gateway Communities.
- Created a CDT Festival in Silver City, NM to celebrate hikers and Gateway Communities.
- Transported 350 plus thru-hikers to Southern Terminus of trail.

### PROTECTION

Supported acquisition of 5,000-acre Alamocito Creek Property, which will take the CDT off 52 miles of highway shoulder. This acquisition was made possible by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Bureau of Land Management.

### CAPACITY

- Completed 2016 CDT Strategic Plan.
- Implemented a CDT Adopter Program.
- Recruited 18 new volunteers and built relationships with three new volunteer partners.



## EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT ASSOCIATION

### OUTREACH

Hosted an international workshop to identify, protect, and develop both El Camino Real de los Tejas and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHTs. Federal and State officials from Mexico and the US attended.



### PROTECTION

The Rancheria Grande Archaeology project began in Milam County, Texas. Private landowners in the Rancheria donated over \$45,000 towards research about the rich Native American and Spanish Colonial history of Texas. The Texas Historical Commission provided an additional \$30,000 in matching funds towards the effort. More Native American artifacts have been discovered here than anywhere else on the trail.



### CAPACITY

- Two students from the University of Texas at Austin participated in the Federal work-study, which resulted in an increase in administrative capacity.
- Increased the number of interns working on a volunteer basis with mapping the trail, and increased the supervision of the development of our Junior Ranger program.

## EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO TRAIL ASSOCIATION (CARTA)

### OUTREACH

New initiatives were created to help promote the history of the Camino Real and raise public awareness about this historic trail. These initiatives include increased social media usage and a bi-monthly newsletter.



### PROTECTION

CARTA ongoing fieldwork in Socorro County, New Mexico continues to yield new information about the various braids of the Camino Real. CARTA volunteers are working with the National Park Service to share their findings.

Mapping and photographing are underway for the portion of the trail adjacent to Socorro and along the Jornada del Muerto, including the ten-mile stretch between Paraje Fra Cristobal and the reliable water at Tusas Springs. Dr. David Love and professional colleagues have conducted fieldwork that is providing new knowledge about the various ages of the lava flows which the trail follows.



# FLORIDA TRAIL ASSOCIATION (FTA)



## 50TH ANNIVERSARY

The FTA celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016. The association joined its members and over 300 Floridians in DeLand, Florida to celebrate this achievement at our Annual Conference.

- Keynote speakers included former National Park Service Director, Fran Mainella, and current US Forest Service Region 8 Forester, Tony Tooke.
- REI was the official conference sponsor.
- State of Florida Governor's Cabinet honored FTA with a resolution noting the Association's 50 years of service to the public.
- A new Florida Heritage Site Marker was placed at the Clearwater Lake Recreation Area in the Ocala National Forest, where the first orange blaze of the Florida Trail was placed in 1966.

## 2016 NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS WORKSHOP

FTA hosted the 2016 National Scenic Trails Workshop in Pensacola, FL along the Northern Terminus of the trail. Over 80 scenic trail representatives were in attendance including eight Partnership for the National Trails System trail apprentices. Topics of discussion included youth and diversity, trail resource protection on public and private lands, and trail safety and maintenance.



# ICE AGE TRAIL ALLIANCE

## OUTREACH

### NPS Centennial Event

Co-hosted the NPS Centennial Celebration at the boyhood home of John Muir. This event drew in over 300 attendees, partners, and presenters while featuring various educational seminars throughout the day.

### Annual Conference

Hosted successful Annual Conference featuring Steven Gonzales, Jay Luetze, and partners from Partnership for the National Trails System. The event featured guided hikes, training seminars, fundraising and awards ceremony.

### Youth Saunters Program

Program numbers grew to 1,749 participants (up by roughly 1,100), reaching 14 school districts. This program works closely with partners at the National Park Foundation for promotions and implementation.

### Community Program

The Ice Age Trail Community program expanded to seven total communities. This program allows the IAT and IATA to become integral components of community planning, increases partnerships with businesses and expands community use of the IAT.

## PROTECTION

418 acres were protected with nine acquisitions that will accommodate 4.1 miles of new trail. The total value of these acquisitions total \$1.45M: Land and Water Conservation Fund \$325,000, State \$660,000, donations \$463,000. There were four acquisition in total that will provide final links for a trail section (i.e. road-to-road or protected land to protected land).



Photo credit: www.dawnkishphotography.com



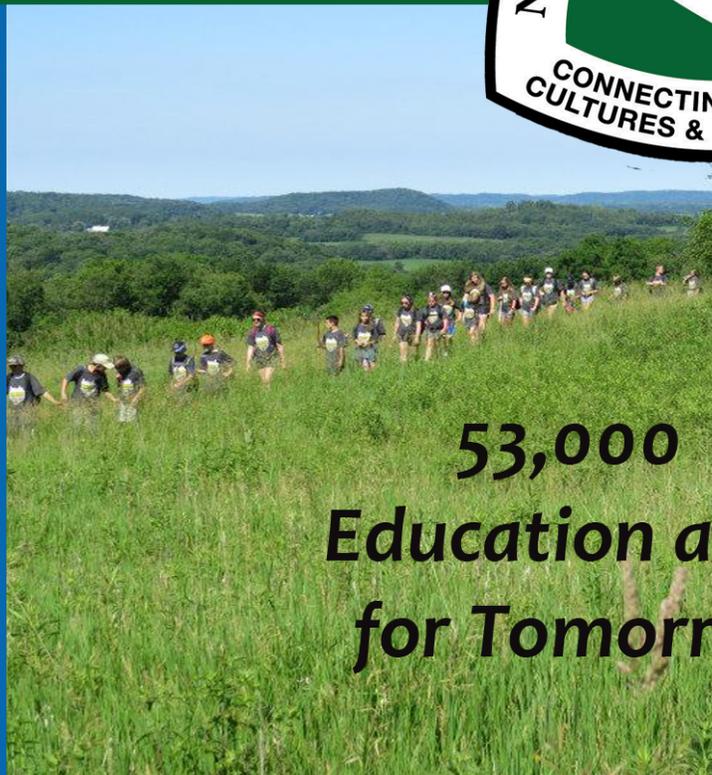


## Lecture Hall

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.



53,000  
Education a  
for Tomorrow

## Stage



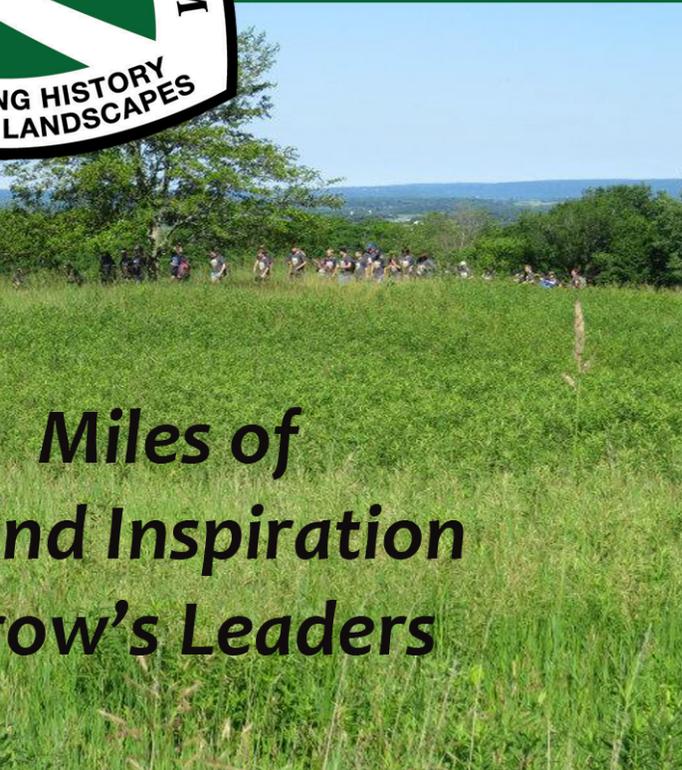
## Science





Shop

Studio



Miles of  
and Inspiration  
ow's Leaders

Lab

Gym



# IDITAROD HISTORIC TRAIL ALLIANCE

## OUTREACH

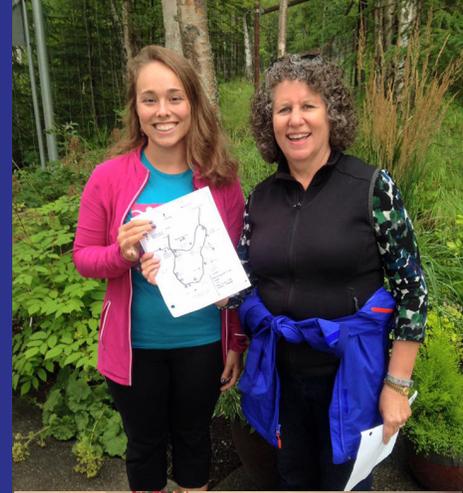
Provided information and booklets on the history of the Iditarod Trail to each checkpoint during the Iditarod Dog Sled Race along the thousand mile race trail. Schools in each of the checkpoint communities also received a packet of information on the INHT.

## PROTECTION

Municipality of Anchorage placed an easement on the lower Iditarod Trail from Old Town Girdwood to Rowan Lane. The easement protects the Trail from development pressure in the ski resort community and provides an important segment to the trail which is being re-established in Girdwood.

## CAPACITY

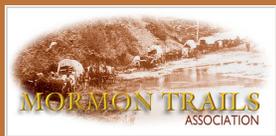
The IHTA participates in the PICK.CLICK.GIVE program. Individuals can make a donation to the IHTA when they file for their annual Permanent Fund Dividend. The IHTA is one of many organizations across Alaska that are part of the PICK.CLICK.GIVE program.



# MORMON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

## OUTREACH

- **Handcart Treks** – The 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

The Anza Trail Foundation supported NPS throughout the centennial and other trail partners by developing and providing new Anza Trail stickers, pins, and bandanas for outreach events and by entering into a cooperative agreement for the Anza Trail Color Guard to participate in commemorative events.



Highlights of the NPS Centennial include:

- New interpretive waysides were installed at the Yuma Territorial Prison overlooking the Colorado River and on the East Wetlands Trail near the historic Anza Crossing of the Colorado River in addition to new trail signs.
- A new bilingual wayside, Families on the Move, was installed at Red Rock Village north of Marana, AZ.
- Laney College architecture students in Oakland, CA designed and built a parklet commemorating the Anza Expedition.
- 1,200 new NPS Junior Rangers were sworn in at Anza Trail centennial events.

## PROTECTION

In cooperation with the National Park Service, the East Bay Regional Park District certified 163 miles of the Anza National Historic Trail. Visitors enjoy views of the Carquinez Strait and other sites as they travel the trail. Thirteen interpretive signs, produced as part of a NPS Challenge Grant, dot the trail.



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

## OUTREACH

### LCTHF

- Sponsored two \$1,000 prizes for the 2016 National History Day competition in Washington, DC
- Continued to provide grant money to sign the Eastern Legacy segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail; LCT also supports this effort
- Awarded \$56,512 in grants to 11 organizations through our Lewis & Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment grant program

### LCT

Organization hosted the third Lewis and Clark Trust Seminar, providing 31 teachers K-12 with a no cost week long study of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Teachers from 18 States and two international schools attended the 2016 seminar.

## PROTECTION

### LCT

Continued to mark significant points along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail with 12-inch diameter X 1-inch thick brass National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration disks. The disks are entered in the NOAA database and can be used by engineers as well as marking the site for future generations of explorers along the trail.

## CAPACITY

### LCTHF

- Initiated an Amazon Gift Card membership campaign.
- Hired a new Ad Sales Manager and Administrative Assistant.
- Trained staff and volunteers in Library and archives and held an Archives Blitz with archivist help from Yellowstone National Park.
- Increased the Library Technician's hours to almost full-time.



## NATCHEZ TRACE PARKWAY ASSOCIATION

## OUTREACH

- Assisted in mapping and assessing segments of the trail in Tennessee and Mississippi, as well as improving trail sites along the Natchez Trace Parkway in Alabama and Mississippi.
- Partner REI, with community support from Vanderbilt University, University of North Alabama, Millsaps College, Hands On Nashville, and Boy Scouts of America, helped the Association and NPS collect GPS data to improve a digital map of the trail, which will be utilized to develop a trail volunteer program.
- REI supplied a grant that was used to help purchase trail maintenance equipment.

## PROTECTION

- A quarter mile segment of the roadbed of the historic Natchez Trace was restored.
- Trail events were hosted on four segments of the trail along the Natchez Trace Parkway, and involved local communities in hikes, assessments, and mapping events

## CAPACITY

- Partnerships with Vanderbilt University and the University of North Carolina were strengthened.
- Formed a new partnership with Millsaps College.



## CONNECTICUT FOREST AND PARK ASSOCIATION (CFPA)

### OUTREACH

Initiated the New England Trail (NET) Poet-in-Residence program, developed an intro video, and hosted a residence kick-off event.

### PROTECTION

- Secured trail easement on 0.3 miles of trail in northern Connecticut.
- Secured Trail License Agreement with extraction company landowner.
- Completed major trail relocation on Chauncey Peak in Meriden, CT.

### CAPACITY

- Hired a Field Coordinator.
- Hosted first trail construction crew with the Student Conservation Association for one month.
- Hosted 15 public work parties and skills trainings.
- Expanded the work schedule of the volunteer Rock Stars Crew.



## OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION (OSTA)

### OUTREACH

- A seven mile long, Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) recreational retracement trail and trailhead was formally dedicated and signed via a partnership between OSTA, the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Interpretive Association of Western Colorado, Mesa County, and the City of Grand Junction.
- Signage of most of an 88-mile segment of the OSNHT in Iron and Garfield Counties in Utah was completed.
- The Nevada Chapter of OSTA continues its remarking project with replacement of numerous original concrete trail markers. Over twenty Eagle Scout projects have been facilitated in this effort.
- OSTA actively participated in meetings and field planning for an OSNHT Recreation and Development Strategy requested by Emery County, UT and led by the BLM. Like other such plans along the OSNHT, this Strategy will propose signage, interpretive information, and recreational opportunities.



### PROTECTION

- The OSNHT Co-Administrators—the NPS and the BLM— issued a draft Comprehensive Administrative Strategy (CAS) for the OSNHT. This Strategy, akin to a Comprehensive Management Plan, was thoroughly reviewed by OSTA and extensive comments were submitted to the agencies. The issuance of a final CAS is foreseen in 2017.
- During 2016, major victories for protection of the OSNHT on Federal public lands were achieved, including BLM deferral of oil and gas leases, and common varieties of mining actions in the Trail corridor. OSTA participation in Federal compliance assessments dramatically increased.

### CAPACITY

A new OSTA Chapter, the Agua Mansa Chapter, was formally established by 32 charter members in the Riverside/Colton/San Bernardino area of Southern California. Agua Mansa/La Placitas de los Trujillos/San Salvador de Jurupa was an 1840s settlement on the banks of the Santa Ana River founded by emigrant New Mexicans who traveled over the Old Spanish Trail.



## NEZ PERCE TRAIL FOUNDATION (NPTF)

### OUTREACH

NPTF offered a two week auto/camping education tour event that covered the entire length of the trail. All major historic sites and Nez Perce National Park locations were included.

### PROTECTION

Major land acquisition was initiated by the Bureau of Land Management for land in close proximity to the trail.



## NORTH COUNTRY TRAIL ASSOCIATION (NCTA)

### OUTREACH

- Over 5,000 individuals joined the Hike 100 Challenge to celebrate the National Park Service's Centennial Anniversary. 1,768 hikers succeeded, hailing from 28 States plus Canada.
- Recorded an average of 30-40 percent more website visitors than 2015, with over 21,000 unique visitors in August alone.
- There was a greater than 200% increase in Instagram followers and a 24 percent increase in Facebook followers.
- 275 individuals attended the annual Celebration in Fargo, North Dakota, making it the biggest to date.



### PROTECTION

- The North Country Trail Route Adjustment Act passed the Senate. Although it didn't advance any further, the NCTA will continue to advocate for its implementation.
- Continued to work on potential acquisition projects in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.
- The NPS reviewed and responded to 20+ management or development projects on or along the trail: six new cell tower proposals, five proposed energy development and transmission projects, eight US Forest Service management proposals directly affecting the NCT, a proposed shooting range, a highway project, and multiple land management planning processes.

### CAPACITY

- Signed renewed Memorandum of Understanding between the National Park Service (NPS), US Forest Service, and the North Country Trail Association for the management of the trail, further strengthening the relationship.
- Increased membership by 26 percent.
- Implemented the NPS Trail Safe program, a unique online safety initiative, based upon NPS Operational Leadership training, where the human factor of safety is explored.
- Secured funds to develop Crew Leader curriculum and training programs in 2017.
- Completed a Trail Town Handbook, hosted a webinar, and embarked on two local planning programs to further develop our Trail Town program.

## OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

### OUTREACH

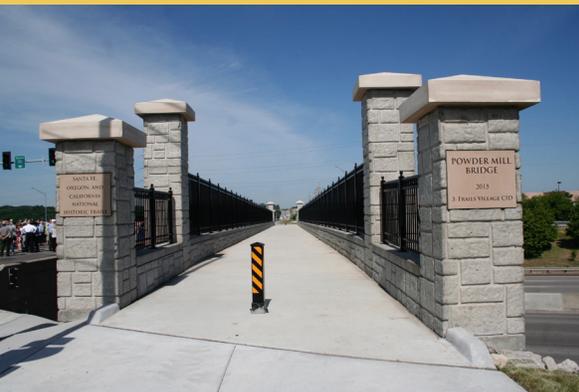
- Worked with Shoshone-Bannock Tribes in Idaho to stage first ever convention on a reservation.
- Expanded educational outreach by presenting OCTA youth journal project at the National Council on Social Studies conference.
- Continued 3-Trails project that will bring 47 miles of hiking and biking trail to the Kansas City area in the corridor of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California Trails.
- Hosted the Partnership for the National Trails System's National Historic Trails Workshop in Independence, MO, opened the nation's first pedestrian bridge over an interstate highway built for historic trails, and dedicated a new bronze Oregon Trail medallion.

### PROTECTION

- Hosted the annual swale cleaning party in Fernley, Nevada, removing trash and other debris from the California Trail.
- Began process of installing auto tour route signs along the multiple routes over the Sierra into California.
- Finished signing the entirety of the Kansas City area with auto tour route signs by finishing off the Kansas side (Missouri was completed in 2015).

### CAPACITY

- Hosted annual symposium in St. George, UT.
- Worked with chapters in Utah, Nebraska, California/Nevada, Idaho, and Oregon/Washington to utilize the National Park Service's auto tour route signing program as a way to engage local communities in an effort to increase membership.
- Began planning for the first even convention in Iowa at Council Bluffs in an effort to establish a new chapter.
- Continued offering GIS training to people interested in mapping trail corridors.



## OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### OUTREACH

Visitor outreach totaled 14,000 interpretive contacts during the annual historic reenactment March to Kings Mountain. Reached an additional 8,000 interpretive contacts in year-round interpretive programming.

### PROTECTION

Continued to complete additional master plans along the trail corridor. On-the-ground greenway trail systems continued to expand on-the-ground sections of trail.

### CAPACITY

Built new grassroots partnerships with multiple agencies, other non-profits, youth organizations, historical societies, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, and Society of Sons of the American Revolution along the 330-mile trail corridor.



## PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION (PCTA)

### OUTREACH

Of the 98,721 service hours on the PCT, 21 percent or 20,731 hours, were from youth programs including American Conservation Experience and National Civilian Community Corps.

### PROTECTION

Acquired the 245-acre Landers Meadow property thanks to over 1,000 private donors. It is the first property acquired by PCTA as an organization to help protect the trail.

### CAPACITY

Hired a director of communications and marketing, a position funded by a \$250,000, three-year grant from the Vancouver, Washington-based M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust. This position will strengthen all aspects of PCTA's work including recruitment and outreach.



## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

### OUTREACH

- Developed a new Communications Plan.
- Funded a Western Washington University internship to develop an Interpretive Plan for the trail.
- Staffed tables and presented at more than a dozen community events across the region.
- Expanded the website and increased social media presence to provide pertinent trail information to trail users and enthusiasts.

### PROTECTION

Worked with the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council, regional planning committees, and local land managers to identify opportunities for securing long-term access for, and stewardship of, the trail corridor.

### CAPACITY

- Hired a new Executive Director and added a Communications Manager to the team.
- Funded a University of Idaho internship to collect data on grizzly bears in the Purcell and Selkirk mountains. The data will be used to develop knowledge on how two federally designated priorities, the grizzly bear recovery and the trail, can coexist.



## NATIONAL PONY EXPRESS ASSOCIATION



### OUTREACH

Conducted Annual Re-Ride of the Pony Express Trail from Sacramento, California to St. Joseph, Missouri, June 15-25, 2016. Commemorative letters were carried in the Mochila along the 1,966-mile route thanks to hundreds of riders, horses, and members. The Annual Re-Ride is the longest event held annually on a historical trail in the nation.



### PROTECTION

Utah Division worked with Eagle Scouts on a project to repair and restore trail markers for the National Pony Express Trail. The project included ten scouts and eight leaders.

## POTOMAC HERITAGE TRAIL ASSOCIATION



### OUTREACH

- Eight Eagle Scout projects took place, which resulted in a total of 8,000 feet of new trail
- Provided testimony at highway widenings to integrate associated trails with existing scenic trail.
- Installed 30 informational signs on the trail in Northern Virginia.

### PROTECTION

- Initiated litter cleanups along Potomac Heritage corridors in Loudoun County, VA.
- Arranged for installation of trash cans at trailheads along the trail.

### CAPACITY

- Purchased major equipment for trail maintenance and construction.
- Welcomed three new board members.
- Continued to keep an active facebook page, conducted a major overhaul of web page, and welcomed a new web master.



## SANTA FE TRAIL ASSOCIATION



### OUTREACH

- Began planning for a commemoration in 2021 of the 1821 opening of the Santa Fe Trail to trade by William Becknell.
- Hosted a Geocaching project, "Geo Tour on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail".
- Cosponsored the 18th biennial Rendezvous history seminar of the Santa Fe Trail, focusing on Women on the Santa Fe Trail.
- Completed a three-panel informational kiosk at the Jackson County Salem Park, Independence, MO.
- Provided assistance to NPS on the media tour project.
- Held an Education StoryMaps Workshop, focused on using the information from the SFTA's Jr. Wagon Master program to create StoryMaps on [www.arcgis.com](http://www.arcgis.com).
- Co-hosted the Partnership for the National Trails System's National Historic Trails Workshop in Independence, MO and the dedication of the Powder Mill Bridge.
- Provided weekly "e-mail blasts" to stay in contact with the membership and to provide information to new contacts.
- Published four issues of our quarterly publication, Wagon Tracks.
- Recognized individuals who were associated with the Santa Fe Trail during its historic period, or in modern times have made a significant contribution to, an impact on, or preservation of the trail.

### PROTECTION

- Participated in the Fort Carson Mitigation Projects Advisory Committee in the interest of cultural resources along the Santa Fe Trail in the Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site in Southeast Colorado
- The Preservation Committee developed a Wind Energy policy.
- Continued to work with the National Park Service (NPS) in all trail States to add Santa Fe National Historic Trail segments to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Worked with the NPS to promote their Certification Program and provided input and documentation.

### CAPACITY

- Held a workshop to expand the number of volunteers for committee level work and to train members in computer safety, membership, and retention and growth.
- Continued the Geocaching Task Force to expand the number of volunteers, gain exposure to the geocaching community, and gain new members.





## STAR SPANGLED BANNER NHT

### OUTREACH

- Continued to develop a partnership with Baltimore City Public Schools to support the Kids in Kayaks program.
- Rangers and volunteers of the Fort McHenry Guard living history program traveled to sites along the Trail and marched through Washington D.C. to share the stories of the Chesapeake Campaign and the Star-Spangled Banner.
- Trail partners from the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy, Sierra Club, National Aquarium, and National Park Foundation joined rangers in launching the Every Kid in a Park initiative at Fort McHenry NMHS.



### CAPACITY

Secured funding and began planning of a Trail Stewards program to be piloted in the spring of 2017. The program will provide teacher professional development in place-based education, student field trips on land and water, and facilitation of a community based service learning project with each participating school. Teachers were recruited from schools Trail-wide.

## NATIONAL TRAIL OF TEARS ASSOCIATION

### OUTREACH

- Received 2016 National Park Foundation Active Trails Grant to support the Remember the Removal ride in partnership with the Cherokee Nation. The Trail of Tears Association provided support for the grant proposal and ride. A National Park Service Centennial event was held in June 2016 in Waynesville, MO, to support the ride.
- Installed 80 signs marking 36 miles of the trail from the Tennessee border to the Mississippi River.
- Site identification signs placed for the Crider House Tavern and the Trail of Tears Commemorative Park.



### PROTECTION

- Eleven removal era historic buildings were located and documented, including the significant 1836 Crider Corn Crib.
- Several national register nominations were made.



**2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act. Join in on the commemoration.**

### STAY IN THE KNOW

- Learn more at [www.trails50.org](http://www.trails50.org)
- Follow us on social media at Trails 50   

### GET INVOLVED

- Join a trail supporting club or organization
- #Findyourtrail and get outdoors



Pathways Across America  
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In 2016,  
the nonprofit partners  
of the 30 national scenic and  
historic trails contributed over  
**1,029,000**  
volunteer hours worth over  
**\$24,256,654**  
towards stewardship  
of our nation's public lands,  
ecosystems, and cultural  
heritage.