

A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Pathways *Across America*

Summer 2017



Pathways Across America

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



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For information about the Partnership for the National Trails System or to learn how to contact any of our partner groups visit the PNTS web site at: www.pnts.org. Unless otherwise indicated, all material in *Pathways Across America* is public domain. 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.

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

- Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
- Appalachian National Scenic Trail
- Arizona National Scenic Trail
- California National Historic Trail
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
- El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail
- Florida National Scenic Trail
- Ice Age National Scenic Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail
- Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
- Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail
- Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail
- New England National Scenic Trail
- Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail
- Oregon National Historic Trail
- Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
- Pony Express National Historic Trail
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail
- Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
- Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
- Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
- Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

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



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic 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.

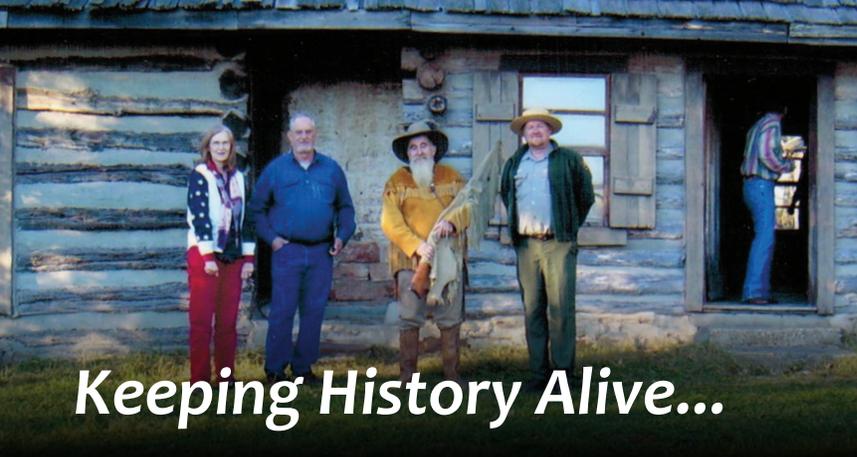
19 National Historic Trails

- 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
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- 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

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

Summer 2017 Pathways Cover photos from top left to bottom right: People camp out to watch the solar eclipse along the Appalachian Trail (courtesy Kathryn Herndon-Powell); Dave Aschwanden, Christie Aschwanden, Dee Friesen, and Ruth Friesen watch the eclipse on the Oregon Trail (submitted by Ruth Friesen); A volunteer works along the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (courtesy pnt.org); Archaeologist Sergio Iruegas of GTI Environmental conducts metal detecting within the Rancheria Grande of the El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT (courtesy Steven Gonzales); Chloe Young, 14, participates in the Pony Express re-ride in Nevada (courtesy PJ Nosek); A flowering cactus along the Arizona Trail’s Mazatzal Passage (courtesy Larry Simkins).

Inside cover photos from left to right: Pacific Northwest Trail Association founder Ron Strickland addresses the 40th anniversary crowd in August (courtesy PNTA); the Snelson-Brinker Cabin along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Missouri over a decade ago—it burned down this July (courtesy Trail of Tears Association); flowers along the Ice Age NST (courtesy Gary Werner).



Hiking • Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

25 Years of the National Trails Community Working Together

Part 3 - THE DECADE FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

By Gary Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System



Continued from the Spring 2017 Pathways Across America.

During 2007-2008, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) collaborated with our Federal agency national trail administrators and leaders of The American Hiking Society, American Trails, and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the National Trails System. As a major element of this celebration these partners developed three Goals for “A Decade for the National Trails” to guide work toward further protecting and developing these trails leading to the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System in 2018.

Goals for “A Decade for the National Trails”

Goal 1: Increase public awareness of the National Trails System and its component trails so that it becomes well known to every citizen and community in the United States.

Goal 2: Complete and enhance the designated National Trails for public appreciation and enjoyment.

Goal 3: Build the capacity of the organizations and Federal agencies involved to better administer, manage, and sustain National Scenic, Historic, and Recreation Trails.

To help achieve **Goal 1** to increase public awareness of the National Trails System, the PNTS (with support from our Federal agency partners) created and maintains a website—**PNTS.org**—providing information about the national scenic and historic trails and the agencies and organizations that develop, manage, and sustain them. In recent years social media has been used to regularly help a new cohort of people connect with the national scenic and historic trails.



“Smart buoys” mark several points along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. (Photo courtesy NOAA)

Much has been accomplished since 2008 toward **fulfilling Goal 2**: completing the trails on the ground. Using the new recognition for the national scenic and historic trails in the land management planning of the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S Forest Service, the PNTS and a number of the individual national trail organizations have participated in the revising of those agencies’ plans. Significantly, the BLM prepared a new resource management plan for the public land between Casper and South Pass in Wyoming, including a protective management corridor several miles wide for the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express National Historic Trails. The Forest Service is in the process of designating a similarly wide management corridor for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail through several national forests in California. The PNTS Advocacy and Policy Committee has been actively monitoring and engaging in these agencies’ land management planning initiatives since 2013.

Considerable progress has also been made during the past decade toward making many of the national historic trails more visible on the ground and in the water and usable by recreationists. The Chesapeake Conservancy has been marking and interpreting the routes that Captain John Smith followed in the waters of Chesapeake Bay with the help of U.S. Coast Guard navigational buoys so that explorers of today can learn about that history of early European settlement of North America. In the Kansas City metro area, walkers and bicyclists can now follow the routes traveled by the emigrants along the Oregon and California and the traders along the Santa Fe National Historic Trails on sections of a developing Metropolitan Greenway System. Meanwhile, segments of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail have been opened for hiking along the shores of Hawaii, and of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail as it crosses the Appalachian Mountains, and of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail across southern Illinois and in northern Missouri. This trend of making recreational components of the national historic trails will likely continue for many years to come.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND—ROUND TWO

During the Obama Administration, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar launched “America’s Great Outdoors” with several dozen public listening sessions throughout the country. Collectively, PNTS staff and trail organization leaders attended many of these sessions advocating for increased effort and funding to protect and develop the national scenic and historic trails.

One of the programs that resulted from “America’s Great Outdoors” was “Collaborative Landscape Planning.” This initiative encouraged the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to collaborate among themselves and with nongovernmental partners to focus their land acquisition with Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money in large conservation landscapes. During a meeting with the Department of the Interior administrator of this program, PNTS leaders asked if the National Trails System could qualify as a “large landscape.” His answer encouraged PNTS leaders and our agency partners to participate in this program.





Left: The Trail Apprentice group that attended the first conference in 2009 in Missoula, Montana. More than a hundred youths have participated since. (Photo courtesy PNTS)

Right: Kansas City's MetroGreen Plan encourages walkers and bicyclists to follow the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails. (Photo courtesy Steve Rhoades)



From 2012-2017, PNTS staff and trail organization leaders compiled five Collaborative Landscape Planning proposals for land acquisition, each including 50-70 projects along 12-15 national scenic and historic trails for our Federal agency partners to submit for inclusion in the President's annual LWCF budget request. Projects from these proposals were included in the President's 2015, 2016, and 2017 Budgets. Congress appropriated \$27.953 million of LWCF money for land acquisition along six national scenic and six national historic trails for 2015 and \$20.865 million for land acquisition along three national scenic and five national historic trails for 2016. In late April 2017 Congress finally completed the appropriations to fund the Federal government for the rest of fiscal year 2017 with \$400 million of LWCF money, including \$11.455 million for two national scenic and two national historic trails.

Besides funding more than \$60 million of important land acquisitions along national scenic and historic trails, the Collaborative Landscape Planning program has helped leaders of the Federal land managing agencies to appreciate these trails as a system of public lands, not unlike the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System, rather than as just a collection of Congressionally authorized trails.

Fulfillment of Goal 3 has been pursued in several ways to strengthen the capacity of the public/private partnerships sustaining each of the national scenic and historic trails. While increasing its advocacy and policy work, the PNTS also continued to organize the series of biennial national trails conferences begun in 1988 to share information and strengthen the bonds of friendship within the National Trails community.

Beginning in 2008, training workshops were added to the repertoire in the intervening years between the conferences. These workshops, one each in each round for national scenic trails and for national historic trails, were focused on timely issues, challenges, and needs specific to those trails. Successful fundraising approaches, recruitment, training, and organization of volunteers, and ways to make nonprofit boards of directors more effective in securing greater recognition and resources for their organizations are among the topics addressed in these workshops. Best practices in whatever activity or program considered were shared among the workshop participants from organization to organization.

Funding provided by the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Federal Highway Administration has enabled the PNTS to bring youthful "Trail Apprentices" to each of the conferences and workshops since the 2009 Conference in Missoula, Montana. More than a hundred 18-25 year old "Trail Apprentices" have participated in one or more of eight scenic and historic trail workshops and four national conferences. Besides providing a youthful perspective to the topics discussed in these gatherings, a number of the Apprentices gave presentations on projects they had undertaken or otherwise reported on work they had done for their national trail. This has become a very popular program within the National Trails System community.



In 2016, monthly webinars were added to the services provided by the PNTS to the National Trails community. Webinar topics have included new ways to make volunteer programs more successful, youth engagement and community partnership strategies, trail corridor planning and design, and trail land acquisition best practices. These webinars have included staff and volunteers from the member trail organizations of the PNTS and Federal agency trail managers.

To help strengthen our capacity, the leaders of the PNTS undertook strategic planning from 2015 until early in 2017. The new Strategic Plan provides a blueprint for reinvigorating the collective efforts of leaders from among the national scenic and historic trails, for providing more services to the National Trails community, and for using the collective cachet of this community to attract more resources from the private sector to sustain the trails and the trail organizations.

In 2010, the National Trails community achieved one of the major objectives of **Goal 3**: collectively the trail organizations provided more than 1 million hours of volunteer service to help develop and maintain the 30 national scenic and historic trails. This milestone has been surpassed in each of the years since. Since the PNTS began tracking the volunteer contributions of the trail organizations in 1995 we have recorded and reported more than 17 million hours given through 2016 valued at more than \$326 million.

In 2016, in the eighth year of the "Decade for the National Trails" and the 25th year of the collective work of the National Trails community guided by the Partnership for the National Trails System, we began planning for the upcoming 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System in 2018. With our partners from the other major trail organizations and the Federal agencies, we are preparing activities, programs, and events to both commemorate the successes and achievements of the past 50 years and to engage more people and secure more resources to continue the fulfilling work needed to make the National Trails System more complete and beneficial to Americans during the next 50 years.

Pony Express upgrades annual re-ride tracker



Rain, mud, and even some snow didn't stop hundreds of riders on horseback from delivering a thousand letters from Missouri to California in June.

The 2,000-mile trek across eight States in ten days was part of the annual re-ride on the Pony Express National Historic Trail, which commemorates the mail service path used from 1860-61.

But now something else hitches a ride inside the mochila with the envelopes: a GPS locator. That's how people from around the globe track the progress of the route in real-time, 24 hours a day.

The National Pony Express Association (NPEA) and National Park Service (NPS) unveiled new features on the tracker map for the 38th annual event, said NPEA's webmaster Petra Keller, who has been a re-ride participant eight times.

She said even though there have been different versions of a tracking device for the last few years, they've made many improvements to the tracking maps this year, including adding the expected re-ride route, scheduled major exchange locations, and a legend.

The map is also interactive, so you can change the topographic map view and click on the exchange locations to get a detailed schedule of arrival times and places. During the ride, there was another map online that showed rider location updates every 10 minutes.

"We have some design changes that we want to do for next year because of some confusion ... because it's not 100 percent intuitive to realize what those numbers [for clusters of rider locations] mean," Keller said.

They also want to adjust the zoom, refresh, and ping settings, because they are "trying to improve based on feedback," she added.

NPEA even has a National Pony Express Hotline (1-855-809-8589) that gets updated with reports from the map, riders, support staff, and Radio Ham Operators. Stories, photos, and status updates are also added to a "Reports from the Trail" webpage at www.thenationalponyexpress.org.

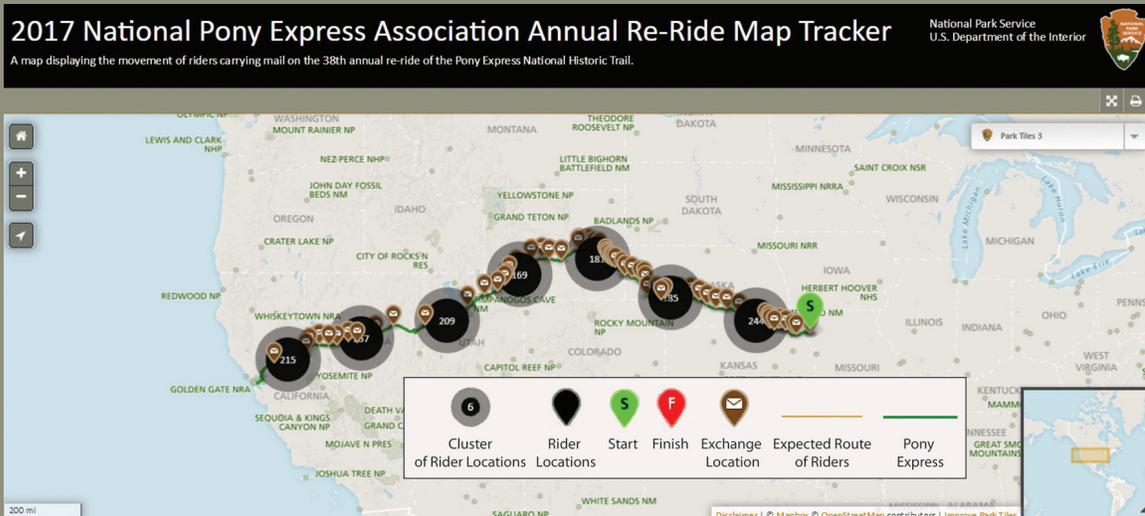
Many of this year's stories told of the bizarre weather conditions, a bear encounter, a runaway (and soon found) horse, and even a marriage on the trail the day before the couple picked up the mail.

Among the riders in California were a few visitors from Czechoslovakia, who are participating in the 2017-18 Czech-Australian-USA Pony Express international ride. The ride started in Prague in May, and some special letters were forwarded to Missouri for the re-ride from June 5-15. The Czech commemorative mail and some NPEA mail will be transported by boat to Sydney by April 19, 2018.

To learn more about the annual re-ride and international ride, visit www.nationalponyexpress.org/annual-re-ride.

"I just wanted to thank everyone for all you did to make the re-ride so successful. It is all of you (horses included) that made it happen and would not be possible without all your support and hard work. I'm sure there [are] more stories to be told around a warm camp fire, swapping tales of victory and defeat. Tales to tell about 'When I rode in the Pony Express!' Thanks for all your dedication and hard work."

- Dean Atkin, NPEA National President



Above: A map at www.nps.gov/poex tracks riders carrying mail on the 38th annual re-ride of the Pony Express NHT.

Below left: Snow from a June storm remains on the Pony Express route in Nevada. (Photo courtesy Sue Cauhape)

Below right: Lisa Agoitia and her horse, Harmony, leave a Lake Tahoe post office. (Photo courtesy Jerry Bestpitch)



Mazatzal restoration transforms Arizona NST

By Matthew J. Nelson, Executive Director of the Arizona Trail Association

Adapted from the article, “Mazatzal Restoration Project,” in the Summer 2017 edition of Arizona Trail News.



Of all the trail projects the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) has undertaken over the past five years, none are as impressive as the Mazatzal Restoration Project.

With support from the Tonto, Prescott, and Coronado National Forests, American Conservation Experience, Arizona Conservation Corps, Arizona Wilderness Coalition, and the dedication of over 100 volunteers, we are proud to announce that the 38 miles of the Arizona National Scenic Trail (AZT) through the Mazatzal Wilderness has been transformed.

Before 2016, this remote segment of the AZT received infrequent volunteer maintenance due to its relative inaccessibility and few visitors due to its degrading trail conditions and reputation within the hiking community as a “scary bushwhack.” In addition, numerous forest fires in the Mazatzal Mountains over the past decade caused significant deadfall and erosion.

The fact that the AZT hadn’t been entirely consumed by nature can be attributed to the hard work of a few dedicated ATA volunteers—Joe and John—who’ve probably spent more time in this mountain range with saws and loppers than anyone alive.

Funds from the National Forest Foundation were matched by Pioneer Title Agency and ATA donors to support conservation corps work within priority project areas, with volunteer work events filling in the gaps. One of these events was a weeklong Volunteer Vacation that saw nine hearty souls clearing logs and beating back thick manzanita, oak, and locust overgrowth along 6 miles of trail south of Horse Camp Seep.

Momentum for trail restoration convinced the Tonto National Forest to dedicate funds to support trail restoration on the AZT as well as its connector trails. With access to the heart of the Mazatzals presenting one of the biggest logistical hurdles, the Tonto funded American Conservation Experience (ACE) to clear the Barnhardt Trail, which provides access from a trailhead located near Hwy. 87 to the Mazatzal Divide. This work was necessary in order to allow safe passage of packstock to deliver food, water, tools, and supplies for backcountry hitches.

Once the Barnhardt Trail was passable, ACE was put to work for seven hitches (one hitch = 80 hours of labor). Then, the Bureau of Indian Affairs funded five hitches of an Arizona Conservation Corps Ancestral Lands Crew consisting of Native American youth to work on these connector trails: Deer Creek, Barnhardt, City Creek, Y Bar, and Two Bar Ridge. Later, the Tonto National Forest received funding from 21st Century Service Corps for two more hitches of Arizona Conservation Corps.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, the ATA wrangled volunteers to help on various segments of the project area through organized trail work days. Some were small groups of backpackers spending three days in the field while others were afternoon events engaging local Boy Scouts. In all, approximately 50 conservation corpsmembers contributed 21 weeks of work in support of the project, and volunteers contributed almost 3,000 hours of service.



Above: Thanks to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers and financial supporters, the Mazatzal Mountains Passage has been transformed. (Photo courtesy Larry Simkins)



What was once an overgrown and barely discernable route through a remote wilderness area is now a path that lives up to its designation as a National Scenic Trail. It no longer requires a GPS device to find the tread and a machete to clear the way, and is now a possibility for equestrians. Nearly 200 downed trees were removed from the AZT during the course of this project, and 73 drainage features were improved or added. Most noticeable, however, is the amount of vegetation that was removed from the corridor.

The Mazatzal Mountains will always be wild and rugged—the longest stretch of designated wilderness anywhere along the AZT—but thanks to the support of many valuable partners, now there is a clear path through. If you’ve never been, plan a backpacking trip this autumn. There are few stretches of the AZT as unforgettable as the 36 miles between Mount Peeley and the East Verde River.

Trail Safe! video resources for trail volunteers



By Daniel Watson, National Park Service Volunteer Coordinator with the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

Greetings from the Ice Age National Scenic Trail! The colorful logo you see associated with this article is one I hope becomes very iconic for all of us in the very near future. With time, whenever a trail volunteer spots the Trail Safe! logo, it should be as familiar and commonly recognized as your trail's blaze marker.

Allow me to explain what Trail Safe! is all about and how it ties in with the National Park Service's "Operational Leadership" safety program.

For too many years, the National Park Service (NPS) has experienced an extremely poor employee and volunteer safety record—in fact, one of the worst accident and injury rates of among more than 130 Federal agencies. Between the years 2005 and 2010, more than 3,800 employees and volunteers of the NPS were injured on the job to the extent of missing at least one day of work.

In 2008, the NPS developed a different type of safety training program called "NPS Operational Leadership." Operational Leadership is not the typical safety program most of us expect. It doesn't focus on things such as proper handling of specific tools. Instead, it focuses on the human factor of safety. Situational awareness, stress and performance, and effective leadership are just a few of the topics explored. In other words, Operational Leadership adds a behavioral component to our existing safety policies and procedures. Completion of Operational Leadership training is mandatory for all NPS employees, and the course involves two full days of classroom learning facilitated by certified instructors.

Personally, I was so motivated by what I learned in my Operational Leadership training as a student that I went on to become certified as a facilitator. However, throughout my time as a student and as a facilitator, I constantly grappled with the question of how to share NPS Operational Leadership with the thousands of volunteers who build, maintain, and nurture our long distance trails.

Below: A screenshot from the introductory video of Trail Safe! presented by Daniel Watson, left, NPS Volunteer Coordinator with the Ice Age NST.



Because each lesson builds upon the next, and it makes the entire thing more understandable

Trail Safe! Accomplishments

- Won the 2017 NPS Midwest Region "Achieving Relevance in Interpretation—Safety, Health & Wellness" Award.
- Largely factored into the Ice Age NST winning the 2016 NPS Midwest Region George and Helen Hartzog Award for "Outstanding Park Volunteer Program."
- Used by the Washington Office Operational Leadership Program Manager as a training tool for new Operational Leadership Facilitator training courses.
- Offered to all NPS employees (approved by the Washington Office Operational Leadership Program Manager) as a refresher course for Operational Leadership for all parks across the NPS.

How to access Trail Safe!

Visit www.nps.gov/iatr and scroll down the main page to click on the Trail Safe! logo for all eight video lessons.

Questions or comments?

Contact daniel_watson@nps.gov.

Sixteen-hour classroom sessions were not logistically possible. Out of this challenge, Trail Safe! was born. Trail Safe! is a series of eight video lessons that cover all of the core learning objectives found in NPS Operational Leadership. Trail Safe! is something that every trail volunteer can access, without the scheduling nightmares or costly travel for everyone to attend. If you have a home computer, a tablet device, or a smartphone, you can participate in Trail Safe! As long as you can access the internet, you can play the Trail Safe! video series at your convenience.

While the Trail Safe! series does reference the National Park Service, the learning points apply equally to any agency or organization. And nowhere in Trail Safe! do we mention any specific trail—it's just all about trails and trail volunteers. The main production was done on nothing more than an iPhone and a laptop. If enough people start using it and we document the participation, perhaps funding could be justified for some refilming in the future.

Each of the videos run in various lengths from 18 to 40 minutes. The introductory lesson is followed by seven lessons where we have more fun with various movie and TV clips that help illustrate learning objectives. Because there is no in-person classroom facilitation happening, you can binge-watch the entire series in about three hours. Watch it alone or with some of your fellow volunteers and staff members. Small groups can generate discussion on how particular learning points may be important along your chosen stretch of trail. It's up to you ... be creative and have fun with it! When Ice Age NST volunteers verify with me (via email) that they have completed all eight lessons, they'll be mailed a Trail Safe! pin and other job aids.

Trail Safe! is undergoing some updates to bring it into Section 508 compliance with closed captioning and audio description features. I will soon be offering a Trail Safe! "starter kit" to National Trails System (NTS) managers who may be interested in providing it on a trail-by-trail basis for their staff and volunteers. I'll ask for a point of contact to share materials with and also ask that each trail track basic user statistics.

Thank you in advance for not only participating in Trail Safe!, but also for being a safety ambassador by helping spread the word and encouraging others to participate as well! I'll be in touch as soon as we can export the updated versions to interested trails throughout the NTS.

PNTS welcomes two communications coordinators

By Gary Werner, Executive Director of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Greetings from the Partnership for the National Trails System! We now have the services of two new experienced and skilled women to help further and amplify the good work we are all doing to build and sustain our National Trails. Both of them want to know about the many creative projects and activities that your organizations are undertaking, so don't hesitate to contact them.

Samantha Haas is going to carry on the creative work that Julia Glad Pooler has done for nearly a decade to help tell our various stories and share useful information within our National Trails System (NTS) community by taking over Pathways Across America magazine. Leigh Schmidt is going to help us all share our stories with the wider world throughout our NTS 50th Anniversary Year in 2018. She will be coordinating the work we do in this realm within the PNTS with the complementary efforts undertaken by The American Hiking Society, American Trails, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and our Federal agency partners.

Samantha Haas, PNTS Communications Coordinator



Samantha Haas joined PNTS as its part-time Communications Coordinator in July 2017. She will connect with the partner organizations and agencies within the national trails community to compile articles and photos for the quarterly Pathways magazine and the monthly e-Newsletter.

She studied English and art at St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin, and spent the last decade in the journalism field as a community reporter and photographer. She's thrilled to transition into the nonprofit realm with PNTS to learn more about the trail partners and their dedicated volunteers. Samantha lives near the Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Madison. She enjoys spending time outside and hitting trails throughout the state to hike, bike, birdwatch and take photos. If you have any story ideas, she'd love to hear them. And if your organization's leadership changes, let her know so she can update the contact and mailing lists, too.

Contact Samantha: communication@pnts.org (No longer use pntscommunications@gmail.com.)



Leigh Schmidt, Trails 50 Communications Coordinator



Leigh Schmidt joined PNTS in 2017 as the Trails 50 Communications Coordinator. She will be bringing together trail partners from across the country to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act of 1968.

Leigh studied English and journalism at James Madison University in the Shenandoah Valley, where she first discovered a love of the outdoors. She has worked with a variety of nonprofit organizations, with roles including event coordination, education, marketing, and community outreach. She is excited to bring that experience to the National Trails System. In her free time she can be found volunteering, hiking, and planning her family's next National Park trip.

Contact Leigh: communications@trails50.org



Farewell Note from Julia Glad Pooler

Dear Pathways Readers: I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to all of you trails volunteers, staff, and enthusiasts for all that you have been doing to protect, build, promote, and bring to life the national scenic and historic trails. Over the last eight plus years of working with the Partnership for the National Trails System, I have been continually inspired by the enthusiasm, collaboration, and commitment that everyone I have worked with in this trails community has shown.

Because of your involvement, the next generations will be better able to celebrate their heritage and discover the beauty of the land. As a parent of three young daughters and as a Girl Scout leader, I treasure the opportunity to build on all of your success in making the trails outdoor classrooms and playgrounds. Thanks to all of you, pristine wilderness experiences will continue to be available, and the legacy of our nation's history stays vibrant and relevant to today.

I want to thank Gary Werner, the executive director of the PNTS. His decades of steadfast dedication to trails and building community speak on their own of his vision. He somehow manages to be a gentle fighter, a philosopher-builder, and an unassuming champion. He loves and appreciates the people he works with and the places he endeavors to protect with a warm intensity, and he continually walks the talk of building understanding, cooperation, and respect.

Although I will miss working with so many of you to share your many contributions and trails innovations as editor of Pathways Across America, I look forward to continued involvement with trails through special projects when the opportunity arises. I wish Samantha Haas, the new editor of Pathways, as much fun in sharing your successes as I have had! It has been such an honor working with all of you in stewardship of the National Trails System. Hope to see you on a trail!



NCTA executive directorship changes hands



Above: Bruce Matthews retired as Executive Director of the North Country Trail Association on July 31st. Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA Director of Trail Development, took over the role August 1, 2017. (Photo courtesy Lowell's First Look)

www.facebook.com/pg/northcountrytrail/videos

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) appointed a new Executive Director, Andrea Ketchmark. She started her position August 1, 2017, following Bruce Matthews' retirement on July 31.

Ketchmark spent the last eight years as NCTA's Director of Trail Development, where she worked with volunteers and partners across the North Country National Scenic Trail. Prior to that she worked as Volunteer Programs Manager with the American Hiking Society. She's excited to step into the role that Matthews held since 2007.

In a farewell video greeting from Matthews, he detailed some of NCTA's accomplishments in his tenure with the organization.

- Built almost a thousand new miles of trail
- Membership and volunteers reporting their hours are up about 40 percent
- Governance board has grown and is focused on policy/development efforts

"To be able to be a part of the North Country Trail community has been a huge, huge privilege for me," he said. "The relationships that we build among ourselves as we build the trail, as we maintain the trail, are deeply meaningful, and they need to be maintained."

Ketchmark shared some of her goals in a news release and said her challenge will be "sustaining our success and figuring out what it means to take us to the next level."

- Advocate for public land and trails to protect natural resources
- Engage new audiences through efforts like the Hike 100 Challenge
- Build on financial strength to meet growing and changing needs of the trail

The Partnership for the National Trails System welcomes Ketchmark and thanks Matthews for his work with the NCTA and National Trails System.

LCTHS accepting grant applications this fall

Submitted by Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation



The Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation is accepting grant applications for its Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment (LCTSE) through October 1, 2017, and its Burroughs-Holland/Bicentennial Education Fund (Burroughs-Holland Fund) through November 1, 2017. We are granting more than \$40,000 this year in the LCTSE fund and \$2,500 in the Burroughs-Holland Fund.

Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment fund

The LCTSE fund provides grants focused on projects that preserve, protect, and interpret the natural, historic, educational, and cultural resources of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail and Eastern Legacy Route. Available grants range from \$1,000 to \$7,500.

Ideal projects enhance public access, enjoyment, or knowledge of significant Lewis and Clark sites; protect, preserve, or restore threatened Lewis and Clark sites or resources at Lewis and Clark sites; involve partners, tribes, or youth groups; are sustainable and maintainable. The application deadline is October 1, 2017.

Burroughs-Holland Fund

The Burroughs-Holland Fund grants support programs for kindergarten to 12th grade students. These programs may include, but are not limited to, educational activities that get children out on the LCNHT, interpretive programs, and projects that connect people to the Lewis and Clark story. The grants range from \$500 to \$1,000.

Anyone developing projects listed above may apply including non-profit 501(C)(3) organizations, heritage organizations, tribal cultural centers, youth organizations, friends' organizations, schools, etc. The application deadline is November 1, 2017.

How to apply

Application forms and more information can be found on the organization's website:

www.lewisandclark.org/grants

Donate to a fund

To donate to a fund, visit:

www.lewisandclark.org/join

Or send a check to:

LCTHF

PO Box 3434

Great Falls, MT 59403

PNTA, first end-to-end hikes mark 40 years

By Jeff Kish, Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association



On a foggy summer morning in the Puget Sound, Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) enthusiasts from all over the country joined the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) to celebrate two historic milestones, the 40th anniversaries of the founding of the PNTA and the first five end-to-end thru-hikes of the PNT.

The celebration took place August 5, 2017 along the trail in Washington's Deception Pass State Park, and it included two guided interpretive hikes on segments of the PNT, a pop-up trail history exhibit, an amphitheater film screening, and a special presentation by Ron Strickland, PNT and PNTA founder.

This year's thru-hikers rubbed shoulders with early PNT pioneers, and curious locals met trail enthusiasts who traveled in from far and wide. Several generations of PNTA board members, staff, and volunteers came together to celebrate the creation of not only a world-class long distance trail, but also the dedicated community that fosters it.

Attendees enjoyed activities throughout the day, such as cross-cut saw demonstrations, interactive displays in the history exhibit, a presentation on the development of the PNT interpretive plan, and plenty of socializing in the Base Camp beer garden. The evening events were held in a rustic amphitheater, under a canopy of old growth, in front of a scenic backdrop that included views of the Deception Pass Bridge—an iconic landmark of the Pacific Northwest Trail.

PNTA President Charley Carpenter and Executive Director Jeff Kish kicked the evening off by welcoming Strickland to the stage for a presentation on PNT history and his vision for the future of the trail. Afterwards, guests listened with fingers crossed as Strickland and Kish raffled off gear that was generously donated by leading outdoor gear manufacturers in support of PNTA operations.

As the sun set over the Puget Sound, Alex Maier presented his film, "A Sense of Direction," which documented the 2015 season from a thru-hiker's perspective. Several of the characters featured in the film had gathered in the audience to relive their adventures as they unfolded in front of an enthralled audience on the big screen.

Although great care was taken to honor the history of the Pacific Northwest Trail, including the many volunteers that labored for decades to give us the trail that we enjoy today, the evening's events turned a gaze toward the future, and challenged members of the audience to consider how they will become a part of the legacy of the PNT.



Above: PNTA 40th anniversary guests enjoy a screening of "A Sense of Direction."



Center: PNTA's new logo created in 2017.

Right: PNTA Executive Director Jeff Kish (left) and founder Ron Strickland (right) emcee the evening raffle.

(Photos courtesy Miguel "VirGo" Aguilar)



Highlights from 1977

- An early version of the Divide-to-Pacific pathway across Montana, Idaho, and Washington had been cobbled together after six years of exploration and route selection.
- The Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) was incorporated as its primary advocates.
- The first five Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT) pioneers completed end-to-end thru-hikes of the trail, proving the route.
- The National Trails System Act was amended to list 22 new trails for consideration to be added to the National Trails System, and the PNT was among the bunch.

Road to becoming a National Scenic Trail

A 1980 report through the Departments of Agriculture and Interior determined that while the PNT "would have the scenic and recreational qualities needed for designation as a National Scenic Trail ... its construction was neither feasible nor desirable," primarily due to projected costs of land acquisition and construction along the 1,200-mile corridor. Despite the discouraging news, the PNTA persisted.

Throughout the following decades, the trail was scouted, current conditions were inventoried, volunteers were recruited, local support was rallied, new tread was constructed, signs and blazes were installed, and a dream began to take shape as reality. For three decades, the trail that "would cost too much to build" was being built by the PNTA's countless dedicated volunteers, and in 2008, all the hard work began to pay off. That year, Norm Dicks and Maria Cantwell introduced new Pacific Northwest Trail legislation to Congress.

The following spring, Congress would pass the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009, and President Obama would sign it into law. The PNT is now the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

ELCAT conducts Rancheria archaeological project

By Steven Gonzales, Executive Director of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association



Above: This 1768 Spanish map illustrates the path of the Camino and the location of the Rancharia Grande in historic times.

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT) received a Texas Preservation Trust Fund grant from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for their Rancharia Grande archaeological project in Milam County, which is about 75 miles east of Austin. The matching grant, awarded in October 2016, is funded by the THC at \$30,000 for a total of \$60,000 toward the project.

Working to highlight the history of Rancharia Grande, ELCAT and archaeological firm GTI Environmental have been conducting archaeological investigations in the Rancharia since late 2016, and many exciting discoveries are taking place. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department has also filmed the archaeological efforts in the Rancharia for their weekly PBS series, and the segment will air in January 2018.

Historical perspective

The earliest history of Colonial America is intrinsically linked to early Texas history, which represents shared ideas of liberty between Spanish, French, and English colonists. The history of the United States begins in early Texas history as much as it does in the 13 American colonies. The story of the Rancharia Grande rivals the narrative of Plymouth Rock and Jamestown, and all three with the Spanish Missions ranchos of La Provincia de los Tejas are equally responsible for the successful colonization of North America.

The Rancharia Grande represents the largest conglomeration of Native American and European groups that assisted in the transportation of goods, soldiers, ammunition, funding, and cattle to the American Revolutionary war effort. Social and economic ties were required to pass safely along El Camino Real de los Tejas through Rancharia Grande territory; without good relations with the 23 nation groups, our national narrative might have been very different than it is today.

Archaeological findings

In the fall of 2016, an extensive swale of the Camino was discovered on the Conner property within the Rancharia. Known as the Conner Swale, the remnant is several hundred feet in length and is in alignment with the official National Park Service trail line. The Conners have since cleared the undergrowth and restored the swale to its historic setting. They have guided tours of their property, in conjunction with the Texas Master Naturalists, and they anticipate incorporating Camino history and viewing of the swale into their tours.

Even more exciting, in March 2017, evidence of multiple Native American dwellings were discovered on the Bauman property, which is adjacent to the Conner property.

According to GTI Environmental: "(GTI has) found the archaeologically documented presence of midden deposit, a raised rectangular-shaped low-rise slightly above the surrounding native village landscape ground elevation, and evidence of multiple domestic dwellings located on the low-rise ... While (GTI) hoped it might find limited evidence of domestic structures, (they) did not anticipate encountering this type of evidence in sandy soils. (GTI) not only found the evidence of village homes in the sandy soils, (they) believe, based on archival research, that the spatial pattern of domestic dwellings resembles the village setting in Fray Damián Massanet and Domingo Terán de los Ríos' 1691 Entrada Map. The discovery of house patterns made (everyone) very excited, because it is significant for Rancharia Grande and for archaeology in Texas."

Beyond the archaeology, three property owners within the Rancharia Grande have certified their properties as official sites on the trail via the Landowner Certification Program (LCP) of the National Park Service—National Trails Intermountain Region. Combined with Apache Pass' certification in 2012, Milam County now has the largest conglomeration of private landowners anywhere on the Camino Real who are taking part in the LCP.

The Rancharia and its role in the history of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail cannot be understated, and through partnerships with private landowners, State and Federal agency partners, and the nonprofit trail association, the archaeological effort is a model of the partnerships intended for within the National Trails System Act.

Right: Sergio Inuegas of GTI Environmental conducts shovel tests in the Rancharia Grande while being filmed by Alan Fisher of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for its PBS series.

(Photos courtesy Steven Gonzales)





Historic cabin along Trail of Tears NHT burns down

By Deloris Gray Wood, President of the Missouri Chapter Trail of Tears Association, Board Member of the Trail of Tears Association
Adapted from the article, "Oldest building in old Crawford county, Snelson Brinker Cabin, burns July 4," in TheSalemNewsOnline.com.

A historic structure along the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail in Missouri burned down July 4, 2017.

Very little remains of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin, the oldest building in old Crawford County. Located near Steelville along Hwy. 8 about two miles east of Marmamec Spring Park-Massey Iron Works, it was built for Levi Lane Snelson in 1824, served as the Old Crawford County Courthouse in 1834, and was later purchased by John B. Brinker in 1837.

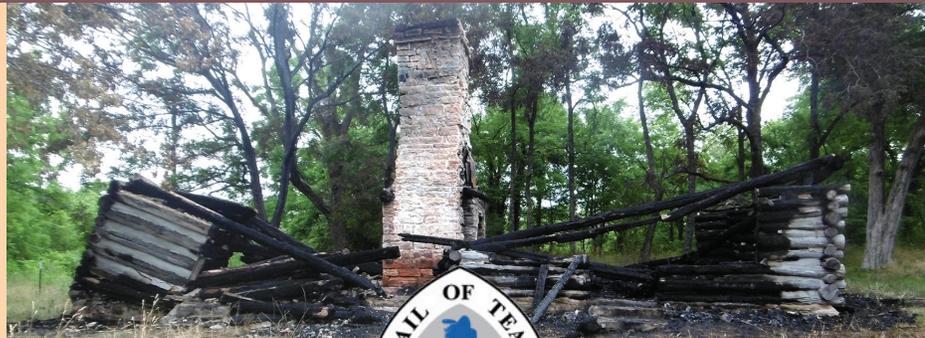
The character of the property has drastically changed with the rubble around the chimney, where the hearths of both sides of the chimney are now exposed to the sun. The shake roof is gone, the doors and windows are gone, and most of the logs are charred, with the east and west walls leaning. The cause of the fire is under investigation.

More than 10,000 Cherokees were removed across old Crawford County in 1838-39, and they passed Snelson-Brinker Cabin as a witness house or camped on the Brinker property or in the valley on both sides of Meramec River. The B. B. Cannon Detachment, which camped at the Meramec River on December 5, 1937, is the group that established the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. They were also removed by the military before the Cherokees started removing their own people in 1937-38 in what became known as the Cherokee Trail of Tears.

Until recently, the Pete and Patti Vanetta family were volunteer cabin and property keepers for over a quarter of a century. Pete, called "The Mountain Man," had his heart and soul in the property; protecting it from vandals and parties, especially on holidays like Halloween, Christmas and the Fourth of July. The Vanettas made a showplace of the property, and people visited from all over the world. Bikers would take a break; school buses would pull in with school kids and unload; weddings and family picnics were held; people met in secret. One could always visit 24/7/365 without having to pay a cent to take a walk or visit inside the cabin or take a photo of the cultural resources on the property, like the smokehouse above the fruit cellar, toilet, or cemetery.

In October 2006, the National Park Service certified the Snelson-Brinker Cabin and the Marmamec Spring Park-Massey Iron Works as part of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. But before it burned this year, the beautiful site had grown up in weeds and was essentially abandoned. A week after the fire, a group came to study the charred remains of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin to gather preliminary ideas on how to salvage the history and place. They plan to discuss their needs assessment with a NPS National Historic Trail Cultural Resources Specialist and a team from the Middle Tennessee State University Center for Historic Preservation.

To learn more about the Trail of Tears NHT, visit www.nps.gov/trte.



The Snelson-Brinker Cabin before (Top of page) and after (Above) a fire destroyed it.

Right: Steelville native Erin N. Whitson, a doctoral student in archaeology at Binghamton University, points out a burned out area of the cabin to Dr. Steve J. Dasovich, anthropology professor at Lindenwood University, and Dr. Steve Belko, executive director of the Missouri Humanities Council.

(Photos courtesy Deloris Gray Wood)



Views of the solar eclipse from the trails on August 21



Above: Isaac Lammers remains still while peering at the solar eclipse along the Oregon Trail near Casper, Wyoming. (Photo courtesy Ruth Friesen)

On August 21, 2017, hundreds of thousands of people converged on America's public lands, including its scenic and historic trails, to witness a total solar eclipse. It was the first time in 99 years that an eclipse swept from coast to coast over the U.S.

To watch the DOI's "Eclipse Across America" video, visit <http://bit.ly/2vrfUIb>. To see more submitted photos from the trails, some of which were in the path of totality, visit www.pnts.org.



Above: The solar eclipse as seen from National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, Wyoming. (Photo courtesy Craig Douglass)

Left: Campers watch the display at Siler Bald, Nantahala National Forest along the Appalachian Trail, North Carolina. (Photo courtesy Kathryn Herndon-Powell)



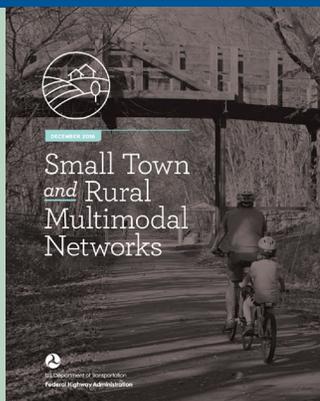
Federal Highway Administration publishes Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks resource

Compiled from the FHWA website

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) published Small Town and Rural Multimodal Networks, a resource for transportation practitioners in small towns and rural communities.

It applies existing national design guidelines in a rural setting and highlights small town and rural case studies. It addresses challenges that are specific to rural areas and focuses on opportunities to make improvements despite the geographic, fiscal, and other challenges that many rural communities face. It includes several concepts applicable to National Scenic and Historic Trails, including paths along highways, access to small towns, and highway crossings.

To view this and other FHWA featured publications, visit www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bicycle_pedestrian/resources.



Refuge Week theme highlights 50th anniversary of Trails Act

Compiled from the National Wildlife Refuge System internal newsletter, "News from Washington"

This year's National Wildlife Refuge Week will be observed from October 9-15, 2017. The theme is, "Celebrate America's rivers and trails by finding your way to a national wildlife refuge."



On refuges you can walk, stalk, saunter, hike, bike, float, paddle, slither, hop, prowl, serve, and learn alongside our nation's wild and majestic wanderers (birds, mammals, fish) who call these unique places home. The theme highlights the unique ways that people can recreate on refuges and the diverse wildlife they may encounter.

The "Find Your Way" campaign, which runs through October 2018, celebrates the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

To learn more about the anniversary and to #findyourtrail, visit www.trails50.org.

PNTS seeks Volunteer Program Committee members

Are you interested in discussing best practices for volunteer recruitment, tracking, and recognition? Join the Partnership for the National Trail System Volunteer Program Committee!

If someone in your organization who works with volunteers would like to take part in this committee, please contact Leanna Joyner (Appalachian Trail Conservancy) at ljoyner@appalachiantrail.org or Luke Jordan (National Park Service) at luke_jordan@nps.gov.



Longtime trail champion, Forest Service Chief Tidwell retires

Adapted from U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture news releases and Florida Trail Association's August E-Blaze

U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell retired from his position September 1, 2017. Tidwell's distinguished 40-year career was characterized by his climb from a firefighter to a District Ranger and Forest Supervisor to the head of the U.S. Forest Service, leading more than 30,000 employees working in all 50 States plus Puerto Rico. He was appointed Chief of the Forest Service on June 17, 2009.

Jaime Schmidt, National Trail Program Manager with the U.S. Forest Service, said, "Chief Tidwell has long been an outstanding advocate and champion of trails—from launching the Forest Service's series of national 'Trails Connect!' dialogues with partners and employees, to instigating and leading development of the Forest Service's new National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System."

Some of his other accomplishments include increasing collaboration with the Forest Service working with States, tribes, private landowners, and other partners for landscape-scale conservation. These efforts have helped increase the benefits Americans get from their national forests, as well as helped provide rural communities with economic stability. Tidwell also focused on building a safe and inclusive agency characterized by mutual respect and fairness. He was particularly dedicated to improving safety measures to better protect the lives and wellbeing of employees, especially firefighters. Moreover, he played an instrumental role early on in drawing attention and public support to confront the increasing severity and costs of wildfires and their residual impacts on the agency's lands stewardship.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue praised Tidwell, saying, "From the start, we have relied on Chief Tidwell's experience and counsel, drawing on his years of experience both in the field and in Washington. The Forest Service will miss the benefit of his knowledge but we wish him well on his retirement after more than 40 years of service with the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Perdue said Tidwell "leaves a legacy and has also paved the way for the next leader." Tony Tooke, who has worked for the Forest Service since age 18 (most recently as the Regional Forester for the Southern Region), was recently sworn in as the 18th Chief.



Tom Tidwell

Recent U.S. Department of Interior political appointees

Senior Leadership

- David Bernhardt—Deputy Secretary
- James (Jim) Cason—Associate Deputy Secretary, Office of the Deputy Secretary
- Todd Willens—Assistant Deputy Secretary, Office of the Deputy Secretary
- Vincent DeVito—Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy

Assistant Secretaries

- Doug Domenech—Assistant Secretary of Insular Affairs
- Scott Cameron—Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget
- Andrea Travnicek—Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Katharine MacGregor—Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management
- Aurelia Skipwith—Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Office of the Secretary

- Scott Hommel—Chief of Staff to the Secretary
- Steve Wackowski—Senior Advisor for Alaska Affairs
- Elinor Renner—Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Luke Bullock—Advance Representative to the Secretary
- Lori Mashburn—White House Liaison
- Amanda Kaster-Averill—Advisor
- Russell Roddy—Director of Scheduling and Advance
- Aaron Thiele—Advance Representative
- Caroline Boulton—Special Assistant to the Secretary
- Natalie Davis—Special Assistant to the Secretary

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, Parks

- Marshall Critchfield—Advisor
- Brian Pavlik—Special Assistant, National Park Service

Office of the Solicitor

- Ryan Nelson—Solicitor for the Department of the Interior
- Gary Lawkowski—Counselor to the Solicitor
- Daniel Jorjani—Principal Deputy Solicitor
- Joshua Campbell—Advisor
- Richard Goeken—Deputy Solicitor for Parks and Wildlife

Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs

- Micah Chambers—Deputy Director
- Blake Deeley—Advisor

Office of Communication

- Russell Newell—Deputy Director
- Heather Swift—Press Secretary
- Alex Hinson—Deputy Press Secretary
- Eli Nachmany—Writer
- Laura Keehner Rigas—Communications Director

Office of External Affairs

- Timothy Williams—Deputy Director
- Steven Smith—Advisor, Intergovernmental Affairs
- Jason Funes—Assistant

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Greg Sheehan—Deputy Director

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- Alan Mikkelsen—Deputy Commissioner

www.doi.gov/whoweare/orgchart/



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 Partnership for the National Trails System
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 Madison, WI 53703

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Trails Events Calendar 2017

September 24 - October 7	OVTA Annual Re-enactment of the Campaign to Kings Mountain	Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Alexander's Ford, NC	www.ovta.org
October 5-8	OSTA National Conference: <i>Pathways From the Past Lead to the Future</i>	Old Spanish Trail Association	Barstow, CA	www.oldspanishtrail.org
October 9-15	National Refuge Week: <i>Celebrate America's Rivers and Trails by Finding Your Way to a National Refuge</i>	National Wildlife Refuge System	Nationwide	www.fws.gov/refuges
October 13-15	South Regional Conference: <i>Kissimmee River Restoration and the FNST</i>	Florida Trail Association	Tequesta, FL	www.floridatrail.org
October 16-18	Trail of Tears Conference and Symposium	Trail of Tears Association	Pocola, OK	www.nationaltota.com
October 21	ELCAT Annual Membership & Board Meeting	El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association	Goliad, TX	www.elcaminorealdelos-tejas.org
October 28	NTPA Annual Meeting	Natchez Trace Parkway Association	Kosciusko, MS	www.natcheztrace.org