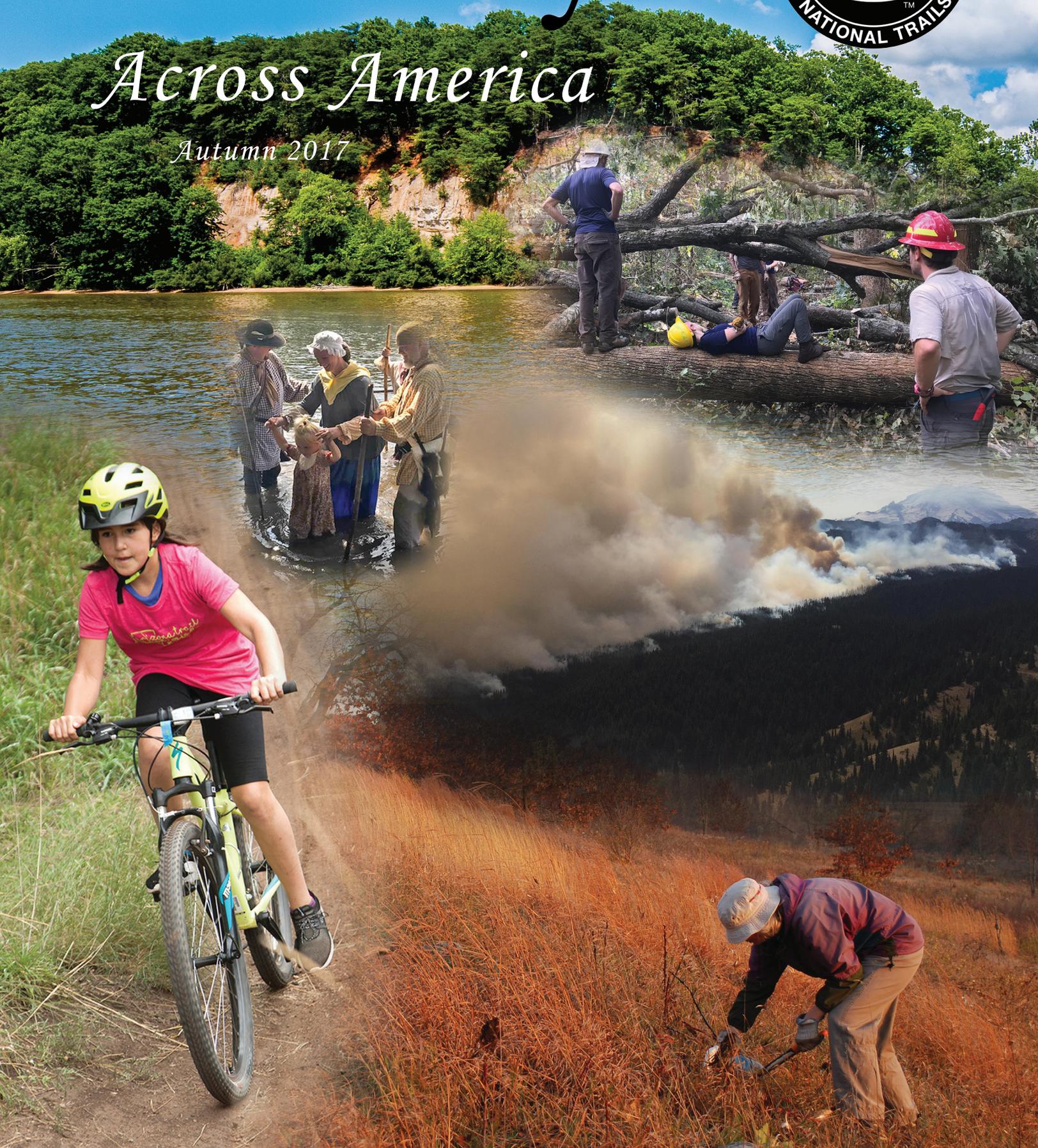


A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System

Pathways

Across America

Autumn 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.pnats.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



The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

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



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic and Historic Trails

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

National Recreation Trails

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

19 National Historic Trails

- Ala Kahakai NHT
- California NHT
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT
- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT
- El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT
- Iditarod NHT
- Juan Bautista de Anza NHT
- Lewis and Clark NHT
- Mormon Pioneer NHT
- Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT
- Old Spanish NHT
- Oregon NHT
- Overmountain Victory NHT
- Pony Express NHT
- Santa Fe NHT
- Selma to Montgomery NHT
- Star-Spangled Banner NHT
- Trail of Tears NHT
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

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



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...



Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, and Understanding

Strengthening Communities

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



Enhancing

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



Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

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



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



Hiking • Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

Cover photos from top left to bottom right: Fones Cliff is an area of cultural significance for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT (courtesy Peter Turcik); The Georgia Appalachian Trail Club's section is cleared following Hurricane Irma (courtesy Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards); Overmountain Victory Trail Association members during the 2017 Annual March (courtesy OVTA); A wildfire in the Norse Peak Wilderness closed 99 miles of the Pacific Crest NST (courtesy InciWeb); Aryanna Dominguez participates in the Gear Girls program through the Arizona Trail Association (courtesy Hailey Hagerty); Melanie Lord cuts and herbicides sumac stalks to favor native prairie grasses along the Ice Age NST (courtesy Gary Werner). Inside cover photos from left to right: Over 500 students and teachers attend an Overmountain Victory Trail Association reenactment program (courtesy OVTA); Nez Perce Drummers and Dancers perform (courtesy Roger Peterson, USFS); Bottle brush grass seed heads on the Ice Age NST (courtesy Gary Werner).

Help us make the 50th Anniversary generate increasing resources to sustain national trails

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



The National Trails System 50th Anniversary next year provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to focus much greater attention on our national scenic and historic trails and to inspire both our longtime supporters and new friends to contribute more to help us sustain them. Anniversaries inspire recollections of happy experiences of the past and celebrations of accomplishments. We certainly have many successes and much progress to celebrate with our 50th Anniversary commemoration. In over 50 years the National Trails System has grown from two national scenic trails to 11 of them plus 19 national historic trails and almost 1,300 national recreation trails. The national scenic and historic trails span more than 55,000 congressionally authorized miles in 49 States. Through the "railbanking" authority in the National Trails System Act (which became law October 2, 1968), more than 22,000 miles of multi-use rail-trails have been developed in cities and rural areas throughout the country. Our nonprofit trail organizations supporting these trails regularly organize tens of thousands of volunteers who contribute more than 1 million hours annually to help keep them open and enjoyable for the millions of people who travel them.

Just as importantly, we must remind our elected officials and our fellow citizens that all of our national scenic and historic trails are still "works in progress." There is much satisfying work yet to be done to make them fully usable and beneficial to all Americans. For instance, there are more than 4,000 miles of gaps to close to make the national scenic trails the continuous pathways intended by Congress and hundreds or perhaps thousands of significant sites along national historic trails remaining to be fully explored, interpreted, and preserved. While we invite new people to enjoy the many benefits national scenic and historic trails provide and to celebrate the trails with us, we must also ask them to help us further develop, protect, and sustain them. While recognizing 50 years of progress we must resolve to provide the impetus for even greater progress in the next 50 years by using this anniversary to draw more resources, both public and private, toward sustaining the joyful work of trail making. Please help us do this good work of securing more resources during 2018.

Ways to show support for the national trails

- **Purchase** and wear 50th Anniversary merchandise available at www.Trails50.org/shop
- **Organize** 50th Anniversary celebrations along the trails
- **Participate** in the Trails 50th Anniversary Photo Contest that will kick off in winter
- **Attend** the National Trails System Conference October 22-25, 2018 in Vancouver, Washington
- **Contribute** a tax-deductible donation to the Partnership for the National Trails System



For more information, visit www.pnts.org/new/nts50 or sign up for the 50th Anniversary e-News at www.Trails50.org/contact.

We have a number of ways to help you show and share your love for national scenic and historic trails through the 50th Anniversary year and beyond. You can show your support for the National Trails System by purchasing and wearing 50th Anniversary buttons, patches, hats, and shirts. Plan on joining other leaders and activists from the various national trails in commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System during co-located conferences October 22-25, 2018 in Vancouver, Washington. Help organize 50th Anniversary celebrations along your national trail throughout 2018. If you enjoy taking pictures of your favorite places along our national trails you can participate in a Trails 50th Anniversary Photo Contest. To find out more about these and other opportunities to join in the 50th Anniversary fun and keep current on new opportunities, visit www.pnts.org and www.Trails50.org.

You can also directly support the National Trails System and the work of planning and organizing activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Partnership for the National Trails System in the enclosed envelope or at www.pnts.org. Although the Federal agencies involved with the National Trails System continue to provide funding for *PATHWAYS Across America* and are helping to fund some of the activities and events planned to commemorate the National Trails 50th Anniversary, this funding does not cover all of the costs the Partnership is incurring to provide the quarterly magazine, monthly e-News, and monthly webinars about critical topics nor to lead the planning for 50th Anniversary activities. To use the 50th Anniversary to increase both public and private funding support for the National Trails System we plan to increase our advocacy with Congress and expand the circle of corporations and individuals supporting the national trails. We cannot use any Federal funding to engage in either of these activities. We rely on tax-deductible contributions from generous supporters to enable us to lead and organize advocacy and collective fundraising for our national trails community and to close the gaps in the funding for the services we regularly provide to share and distribute useful information throughout the national trails community. Please help us continue to provide these services through your financial contribution.

Have a delightful winter enjoying our national trails!

LWCF Coalition launches #SaveLWCF initiative

Adapted from a LWCF Coalition news release



In October, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Coalition launched the #SaveLWCF initiative to highlight the successes on the 52nd year of LWCF in 52 places in States and territories over the next year. The Coalition will be spotlighting conservation and recreation success stories, drawing attention to LWCF's looming expiration, and increasing public support for Congress to act before America's most important conservation and recreation program expires on September 30, 2018.

LWCF is America's most important tool for meeting communities' conservation and recreation needs, from iconic national parks, trails, and wildlife refuges, to sacred battlefields and historic sites, to working forests and critical habitat, to neighborhood playgrounds and recreation facilities. LWCF does not use any taxpayer dollars—it is funded with revenues paid to the government from offshore oil and gas drilling. This is a critical investment not only in our quality of life, but in American jobs. Outdoor recreation, conservation and historic preservation activities contribute more than a trillion dollars annually to the U.S. economy, supporting 9.4 million jobs.

LWCF has always been a bipartisan vision, and as a result, it has funded the most extensive network of open spaces in the world to camp, hunt, fish, hike, swim, and play. Our nation's unique history and culture are available for our children and grandchildren to experience and enjoy. But there is much history still to preserve and our public lands and trails remain unfinished, vulnerable to loss and development that block access and ruin the visitor experience.

Lack of access is the number one reason hunters stop hunting. Trails remain unconnected. Forests as well as historic battlefields are being lost to suburban sprawl at an alarming rate. LWCF investments made every year in every part of the country are the answer to these issues, but they require certainty and consistency. Securing permanent funding and reauthorization for LWCF is one sure way we can work together to get good things done for everyone across the country.

To learn more about the initiative, visit www.lwcfcoalition.com/lwcf52weeks.



Media gathers for the press conference in support of LWCF's full funding and permanent reauthorization. (Photo courtesy Scenic America)

Save the Date

2018 National Trails System Conference
Vancouver, Washington
October 22nd-25th, 2018



Photo Credit: (L-to-R) 1,3 Visit Vancouver USA — 2 NPS



2018

HIKE THE HILL



WASHINGTON D.C.
FEBRUARY 11 - 14



OIA produces Outdoor Recreation Economy reports

Adapted from Outdoor Industry Association news releases, reports, and Headwaters Economics website

In 2017, the Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) released the largest and most comprehensive national and State-level reports on the Outdoor Recreation Economy. OIA also produced a State Funding Mechanisms for Outdoor Recreation report, prepared by the independent research nonprofit Headwaters Economics. These reports show that outdoor recreation is an economic powerhouse in the United States, supporting over 7.6 million American jobs and each year generating more than \$887 billion in consumer spending, \$59.2 billion in State and local tax revenue, and \$65.3 billion in Federal tax revenue—and it is poised to grow.

When leaders invest in outdoor recreation, research shows that it can also reduce crime rates, improve educational outcomes, and lower health care costs. Therefore, OIA urges elected policymakers to take the following actions: • **Protect** America's lands, trails, and waters, the assets that are the foundation of the outdoor recreation economy. • **Adequately fund** State and local parks and trails to make them attractive and accessible to families and friends seeking to get outside. • **Raise awareness** of the importance of the outdoor recreation economy and promote it as part of community and public health policy and programming. • **Develop and plan** urban areas in a way that every citizen can get outside and recreate within 30 minutes of their home. • **Support policies** that encourage outdoor innovators to start businesses.

However, Federal funding that traditionally has supported outdoor recreation at the State and local level, through programs such as the Recreational Trails Program and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, has an uncertain future. In addition, parks and recreation areas in many States are facing budget cuts from State general funds, and revenue from entrance and user fees cannot self-fund agencies that struggle to keep up with operations. To address these issues, OIA's report includes strategies employed across the country, best practices for funding outdoor recreation at the State level, and detailed case studies of seven States. Characteristics of the strongest programs include: • **Dedicated revenue** through constitutional amendment or statute. • Broad coalitions of **support**. • **Flexibility** to fund diverse geographies, community types, and project outcomes. • The ability to **leverage funds** and statewide goals. • Strong **public engagement**, accountability, and transparency throughout the process.

When we invest in the foundation of the recreation economy—our public lands, trails, and waters—there is compounding return in the form of healthier communities, healthier economies, and healthier people.



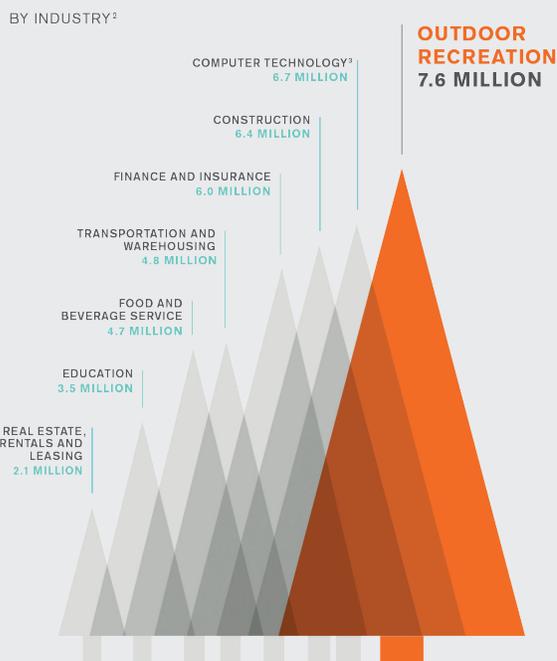
To view the State funding report, visit <https://headwaterseconomics.org/economic-development/state-recreation-funding>.

To view the outdoor recreation economy reports and interactive map for each State, visit <https://outdoorindustry.org/advocacy>.



The nation's outdoor recreation economy generates:

Job Comparison



7.6 MILLION

AMERICAN JOBS

\$59.2 BILLION

IN STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE

\$65.3 BILLION

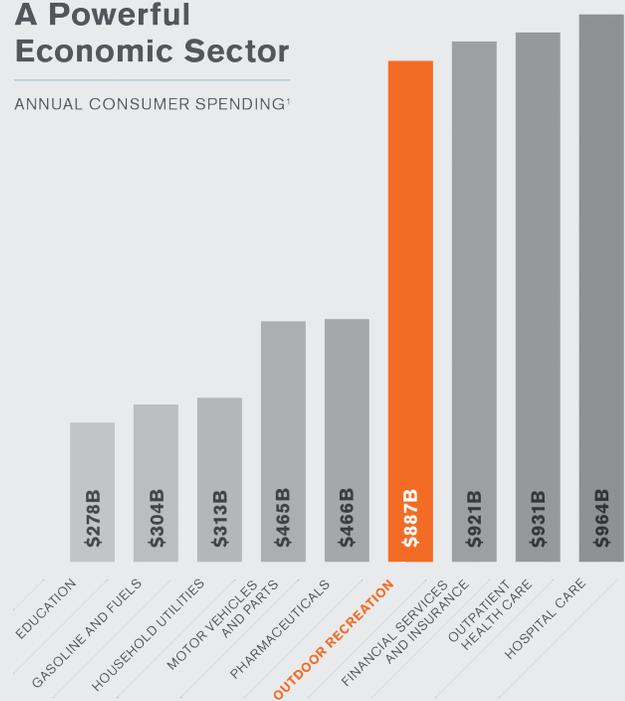
IN FEDERAL TAX REVENUE

\$887 BILLION

IN CONSUMER SPENDING ANNUALLY

A Powerful Economic Sector

ANNUAL CONSUMER SPENDING¹



5 Above: Data compiled from ¹Bureau of Economic Analysis, ²Bureau of Labor Statistics, and ³ Computing Technology Industry Association. (Graphics courtesy Outdoor Industry Association's 2017 report on The Outdoor Recreation Economy)

Natural disasters damage trails, full extent unknown

Adapted from the full story at www.pnts.org which includes more photos and trail reports from partner organizations



Above: ATC volunteer Alanna Costello cleans up fallen trees along the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club's section of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail that were damaged from Hurricane Irma in September. (Photo courtesy Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Southern Regional Office)

So far 2017 ties the record year of 2011 for the most (15) billion-dollar disasters for the year to date, according to the National Centers for Environmental Information. Among those costly and deadly disasters are wildfires across the West and two Category 4 hurricanes along the Gulf Coast, which have also impacted the National Trails System. Some partner trail organizations have not been able to assess or repair damage yet.

On August 25, 2017, **Hurricane Harvey** made landfall on the Texas coast, producing historic rainfall and massive flooding. Steven Gonzales, Executive Director of the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, said that while trail sites were heavily impacted by the storm, "for the most part they were only shut-down for a relatively short period of time, with no extensive damage to trail resources." Then just two weeks later in September, **Hurricane Irma** swept into Florida, producing severe wind and storm surge damage. Hundreds of fallen trees are being cleared along the Florida Trail and southern parts of the Appalachian Trail, but some sections of the trails remain closed and more chainsaw certifications are needed for volunteers.

Enhanced by extreme drought conditions, numerous **wildfires** across many western and northwestern States have burned over 8.4 million acres and hundreds of homes during summer and fall 2017, exceeding the 10-year annual average of 5.9 million acres. This outbreak of wildfires has been increasingly demanding on the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions urges Congress to stop the destructive cycle of "fire borrowing" and support the bipartisan Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.

There have been some positives, though. For example, Teresa Ana Martinez, Executive Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, said she's seen an increase in coordination, support, and awareness from Federal agencies. And Ryan M. Cooper, Geographer for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, created an interactive map showing the fires along the trail to aid in future repair efforts. Further, Mark Larabee, Associate Director of Communications and Marketing for the Pacific Crest Trail Association, said he's seen thousands of people sign up to volunteer in the wake up these fires, which closed nearly 300 miles of the PCT this year.

"We must accept that these places are simply evolving," Larabee said. "Many of the most beautiful landscapes we love were shaped by natural forces."



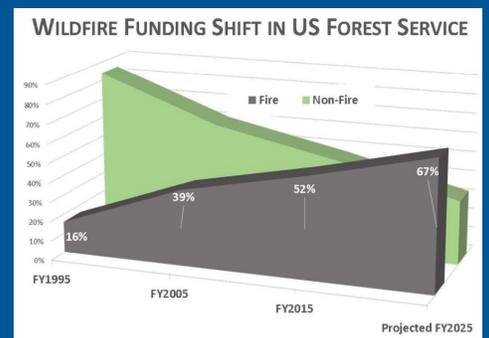
Above: A wildfire that started in August in the Norse Peak Wilderness east of Mount Rainier closed nearly 100 miles of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, which is nearly a fifth of the trail in Washington. (Photo courtesy Marlon Batin, InciWeb)

U.S. 2017 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



Above: This map denotes the approximate location for each of the \$15 billion weather and climate disasters that have impacted the United States January through September 2017, a record pace. (Graphic courtesy National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

At a glance: Economic impacts of natural disasters



Above: This graph shows the wildfire funding shift in the U.S. Forest Service. (Graphic courtesy Partner Caucus on Fire Suppression Funding Solutions)

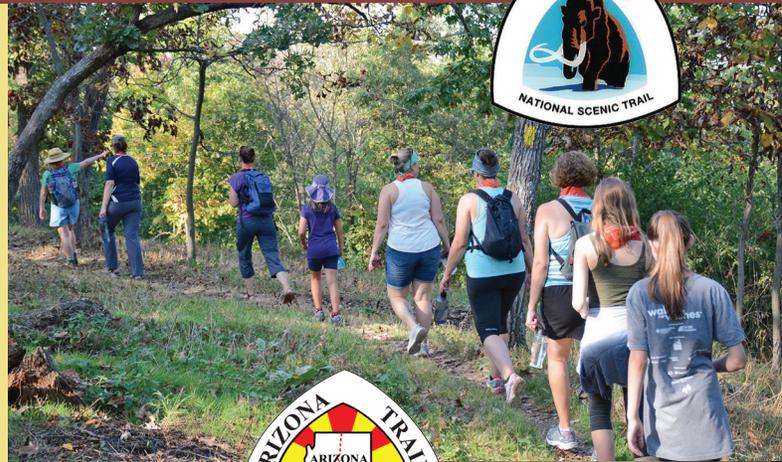
Ice Age, Arizona trails get REI Force of Nature grants

Adapted from an August 23, 2017 news release from REI

As part of its commitment to create access to the outdoors for all, Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) has invested \$1 million in organizations across the country that are creating opportunities to connect women and girls to nature. Among them are two nonprofits that represent the Ice Age and Arizona national scenic trails.

In May, REI launched an expansive, consumer-facing effort called Force of Nature to advance gender equity in the outdoors and encourage millions of its members to embrace the outdoors as “the world’s largest level playing field.” As part of the effort, REI committed \$500,000 to three national, women-focused nonprofits with whom it already had a relationship, including Camber Outdoors, GirlTrek and the YMCA’s GOLD initiative. It also launched the \$500,000 Force of Nature Fund, which extends the co-op’s existing work with women-focused nonprofits into new territory. Over 500 organizations responded to REI’s open call for submissions, and REI selected 26 to receive grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000.

The Ice Age Trail Alliance received a \$15,000 grant to launch Trailtessa retreats, designed for women and girls to experience adventure, freedom, and a new way to be while exploring the rugged beauty of the Ice Age NST. The Arizona Trail Association’s Seeds of Stewardship program received a \$20,000 grant to launch Gear Girls, a girls-only club that uses mountain biking, trail work, and snowsports to build confidence, outdoor competence, character, and community in young women grades 4-8.



On two national scenic trails in particular, girls and women are becoming more of a #ForceofNature thanks to REI grants.

(Photos courtesy (top) Samantha Haas and (above) Hailey Hagerty)



Appalachian Trail Conservancy leadership changes

Adapted from Appalachian Trail Conservancy news releases, website, and article in Summer 2017 A.T. Journeys



Suzanne Dixon



Ron Tipton

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) has selected Suzanne Dixon as its new President and CEO, following Ron Tipton’s announcement to retire at the end of 2017. She begins her position on December 11, 2017, and will lead the organization in its mission to maintain, protect, and celebrate the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

Dixon served key roles in the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), most recently as its Senior Director of Regional Operations in Texas, and she is also on the board of directors for the Waco Mammoth Foundation. Dixon is excited to step into the role that Tipton held since 2013 and be an “ambassador and collaborator” with communities along the trail to protect and celebrate its recreational, economic, and cultural significance.

“Her success in protecting the values of the National Parks, along with her expertise in fundraising, advocacy, and programmatic growth, will be a great asset for the ATC and the greater Appalachian Trail community,” said Sandra Marra, ATC board of directors chair.

Tipton, who has spent more than 40 years of his career as an advocate for public land preservation and national park protection, has been part of the advocacy and/or management teams of The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, World Wildlife Fund, and the National Parks Conservation Association. He began his career at the National Academy of Sciences and with the House Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Subcommittee. He has also served as Senior Vice President for programs and policy at NPCA and been a member of numerous recreation and trails organizations.

His involvement with the Appalachian Trail began in the 1970s, and for the last four years he’s helped lead and grow the ATC by:

- Getting a five-year strategic plan approved by the board in 2014
- Increasing the ATC operating budget from \$6.4 million in 2013 to \$9.6 million for 2017 and growing full-time staff from 48 to 58
- Expanding ATC’s role in managing the trail to address the growing number of long-distance, weekend, and day hikers
- Advancing new initiatives to protect large landscapes and to broaden the trail’s relevancy to attract young and diverse populations

The Partnership for the National Trails System welcomes Dixon and thanks Tipton for his work with the ATC.

In Memoriam: Jere Krakow—NPS, friend of the trails

By Bill Martin, Past President of the Oregon-California Trails Association



Jere L. Krakow

Jere Krakow, a friend of the trails and a friend to all who knew him, passed away peacefully on November 3, 2017, at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico, following a yearlong battle with cancer. He was 79.

Born on June 4, 1938, Jere grew up on a farm near Davenport, Nebraska. A granite marker near his home that commemorated the Oregon Trail was the spark that ignited his life-long interest in the American West and historic trails. After high school he completed a degree at Peru State College, then earned a Master's in U.S. History from the University of Wisconsin and a Doctorate from the University of Colorado. He was a professor of history at Missouri State University in Springfield from 1967 to 1983, teaching courses in American History, American Indians, and the West.

In the 1980s he moved from the classroom to the trails. He began as a park historian for the National Park Service and in 1995 was named Superintendent of National Trails for the Intermountain Region that administered nine national historic trails and the Route 66 preservation program.

His tenure was marked by the pursuit of his long-standing goal of connecting the nation's historic sites with all citizens. He retired in 1997 and began two decades of volunteering with the trails organizations he loved, including the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA), the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, and many others. In 2017, he completed six years of service on the OCTA National Board and three years as the organization's National Trails Preservation Officer. He also was the OCTA liaison to the PNTS. At last summer's OCTA convention in Council Bluffs, Iowa, he received the Greg Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award, the organization's highest honor.

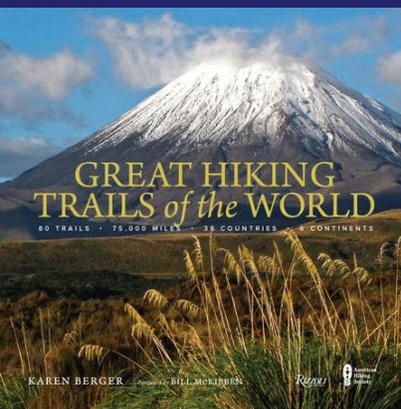
"His life was devoted to service in the National Park Service and the many communities in which he lived," his family said. "Jere loved the outdoors, whether camping, fishing, or hiking, and pursued knowledge and travel throughout his life. Jere had friends throughout the country and rarely met a stranger."

Jere was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Elfrieda Krakow, and his sister, Sandra Smith. He is survived by wife, Jan; sons, Jeff and Joel; and granddaughter, Moira. Memorial services were held Thursday, November 9, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 2500, Albuquerque, NM 87125 or the Oregon California Trails Association, PO Box 1019, Independence, MO 64051.



Above: Jere Krakow, right, presents Reba Wells Grandrud with the Partnership for the National Trails System Lifetime Achievement Award during the 2013 Biennial Conference in Tucson, Arizona. (Photo courtesy PNTS)

Scenic trails featured in 'Great Hiking Trails of the World'



In association with the American Hiking Society, Karen Berger wrote a new book, "Great Hiking Trails of the World: 80 Trails, 75,000 Miles, 38 Countries, 6 Continents," that was published this year by Rizzoli New York. She is also the author of the 2014 book, "America's Great Hiking Trails." Celebrating the most important, popular, and diverse hiking trails in the world, this new book invites readers to take a walking tour through the planet's natural wonders.

"Choosing the trails to be included in this book was both a challenge and a delight, but it was also a bit of a gauntlet: there are thousands—tens of thousands—of great trails, long and short, and each trail has its advocates. The American National Trails System, for example, encompasses nearly 18,000 miles of national scenic trails, plus thousands of miles of recreation trails and historic trails," Berger wrote.

Among the national scenic trails featured in the book and their corresponding section are: New England Trail (historic hikes); Pacific Northwest Trail (wilderness walks); Ice Age Trail and Florida Trail (diversity around the world); and Appalachian Trail, Pacific Crest Trail, North Country Trail (longest walks).

The preface is by Gregory Miller, PhD, President of the American Hiking Society from 2005-2016, who wrote: "As hikers, we know that trails are life-enriching places and that the myriad benefits of the human-nature contact are universal. So put on your hiking boots and let Karen Berger help you chart your next outdoor adventure."

To purchase the book, visit www.rizzoliusa.com/book.php?isbn=9780847860937.

140 years since the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce

By Roger Peterson, Public Affairs Specialist with the U.S. Forest Service for the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail

This year marks the 140th anniversary of the 1877 war and flight of the Nez Perce. The staff of the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT), in conjunction with a number of partners, featured a series of public events to help provide visitors with information and experiences. We encouraged people to take time to learn more, participate in these events, and reflect upon the historic events of 1877 and what they mean for all people today.

The commemoration began in early May with the unveiling of a poster which the staff of the NPNHT produced in conjunction with the U.S. Forest Service Center for Design and Interpretation. In May, the staff of the NPNHT also designed and launched a website to provide information about events happening during the following months. From May 19-October 31, 2017, a new exhibit, "The Journey of the Resilient Nez Perce People," was on display for visitors at the Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton, Montana. Designed and fabricated by SeaReach LTD, exhibit development was accomplished through a partnership between NPNHT and the Ravalli County Museum, Bitter Root Cultural Heritage Trust, U.S. Forest Service staff, and Tribal elders, staff, and members. The exhibit marks the path of the 1877 conflict between the Niimípuu and the United States Army. The display tells the story of the Nez Perce flight and gives the viewer an in-depth look at the culture and customs of this strong society. The intention is for the exhibit to be able to travel to other museums along the NPNHT in the future.

The annual Nez Perce memorials, which are open to all people, are held at several locations across the Pacific Northwest, from Fort Vancouver, Washington to the Bear Paw Battlefield near Chinook, Montana, and provide great opportunities to learn, reflect, and interact with descendants of those whose lives were touched by the war and flight.

On September 21, "The Creators: A Gathering of First Nation Artisans and Live Performances" was held at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center on the Idaho and Montana border.

15th anniversary of Kaya as 'First American Girl'

By Sandra Broncheau-McFarland, Administrator of the NPNHT

Adapted from an article in the NPNHT Summer 2017 Progress Report

Kaya, the American Girl doll, was first introduced 15 years ago in 2002. The Nez Perce tribe was represented by an advisory board who worked to assist Pleasant Company to assure that the stories and product were authentic. The project took six years to develop until the launch.

The Pleasant Company/Mattel offers the historical series that makes the Kaya doll and six books about her as an 11-year-old Nez Perce girl. Through discussions with advisory board members this spring, the company agreed it was time to reintroduce Kaya to a new set of little girls on the Nez Perce reservation.

On the morning of September 8, 2017, more than a hundred 4th grade girls and mentors gathered for the read-a-thon at the Lapwai High School Gymnasium in Lapwai, Idaho. They spent the next two hours reading from the Kaya books. For participating, each student received a set of the books and a doll (valued at \$125) that were donated by the company.



Kaya doll display. (Photo courtesy USFS)



Above: People attend the opening of the exhibit at Ravalli County Museum. (Photo courtesy Joni Packard, USFS)



Right: A poster commemorating the 140th anniversary is featured on the new website. (Photo courtesy www.fs.usda.gov)

This event featured about ten native artists and dances and was attended by the public and local school children. The staff at Lolo Pass plans to make this an annual gathering of native artists, providing them with a venue to display their creations.

On October 5, the NPNHT, along with the University of Montana History Department and the Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History, cosponsored a lecture by Vanderbilt University Professor Daniel Sharfstein. Sharfstein recently released the book "Thunder in the Mountains: Chief Joseph, Oliver Otis Howard, and the Nez Perce War." More than 150 people attended the lecture in Missoula, Montana.

We hope that people took advantage of this moment in time to pause and reflect on what the story of the NPNHT means to all of us and to learn from the lessons that it teaches.

OVTA keeping story alive through march, trail plan

By RG Absher, President of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association



The Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) has two principal missions: Protecting and preserving the physical Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail (OVNHT) and telling the story of the historic campaign to the Battle of Kings Mountain. We are in an exciting era.

Annual March to Kings Mountain

The OVTA is in a very successful cooperative agreement with the National Park Service (NPS) to “Tell the Story” throughout the year, especially during its Annual March from Abingdon, Virginia to Kings Mountain, South Carolina each year from mid-September to mid-October.

The OVTA has been doing the Annual March since 1975, and this year the organization achieved interpretive outreach to over 15,000 students, teachers, and members of the public from September 14 to October 17.

The large commemorative reenactment march marks the historic march by Overmountain Patriot Militia forces to the American Revolutionary War Battle of Kings Mountain, which took place on October 7, 1780. The Annual March is one of the largest annual National Historic Trail reenactments of its type in the United States. The event spans over three weeks and passes through over 30 communities and portions of Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

This effort, which continues to grow stronger each year, has also been funded in part from the National Park Foundation Grant “Every Kid in a Park.” It is also supported by a huge volunteer base of OVTA historic reenactors and a strong amount of community partnerships along the 330-mile trail corridor.

Plans for trail expansion

The OVTA is also working with the NPS and with local corridor communities to complete master plans for expanding on-the-ground sections of trail. This work continues to build from the current successes of several master plans already completed along the trail corridor.

Public support along the trail has increased awareness and the number of NPS certified sites, wayside exhibits, visitors centers, and trail centers which contain exhibits and a trail presence in the various communities.

The OVTA sees a bright future ahead for the partnerships along the OVNHT. We are pleased to work with the NPS and the numerous trail groups to achieve the objectives which are under our mission of protecting the trail and “Keeping the Story Alive.” We like to echo the Overmountain Men’s “huzzah” for all the volunteers, community support, and partnerships taking place up and down the trail.

For more information, visit www.ovta.org.



Above: OVTA reenactors conduct the historic river crossing of the Overmountain Men on the Watauga River in Elizabethton, Tennessee.

Right: Reenactors Steve Ricker, RG Absher, and Richard Luce.

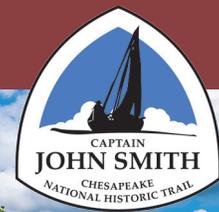
Below: OVTA members keep the story alive during the 2017 Annual March.

(Photos courtesy Overmountain Victory Trail Association)



Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT and Chesapeake Conservancy return ancestral land to Rappahannock Tribe

By Jody Couser, Director of Communications of the Chesapeake Conservancy



The Chesapeake Conservancy joined members of the Rappahannock Tribe, the National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office, retired U.S. Senator John Warner, and his daughter Ms. Virginia Warner to celebrate a donation of land to the Rappahannock Tribe on a beautiful sunny day in June.

Working with the Chesapeake Conservancy, Ms. Warner donated to the tribe nearly an acre of land on Carters Wharf Road in Warsaw, Virginia, which is located near a public boat landing at Fones Cliffs along the Rappahannock River.

The tribe will use this land as a staging area for its Return to the River program, an effort to engage tribal youth in the traditions of their ancestors that were practiced there for thousands of years and in traditional water-related activities, such as canoeing, fishing, and camping. The Chesapeake Conservancy also donated a canoe to the tribe for this program.

This parcel of land allows the Rappahannock Tribe to access the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, which is within walking distance of the Carters Wharf Landing public access site. The property is located just behind Fones Cliff, an area of cultural significance for the trail.

According to the journals of Captain John Smith, Fones Cliffs on the Rappahannock was the home of three American Indian towns and bore witness to an encounter between the Rappahannock Tribe and the Englishmen aboard Smith's shallop. The area remains in pristine condition, but is currently threatened by development.

"This is a momentous day for the Rappahannock Tribe. We are very grateful to Ms. Virginia Warner and the Chesapeake Conservancy for making this possible. This land donation is deeply meaningful for our Return to the River program and will have far reaching impacts for our tribe for generations to come," Chief Anne Richardson said.



Above: One of the few pristine areas in the Chesapeake, Fones Cliff is a place that Captain John Smith and the American Indians of the 17th century could still recognize 400 years later.

Right: Senator John Warner and his daughter, Ms. Virginia Warner, offer Chief Anne Richardson of the Rappahannock Tribe a piece of Fones Cliffs as a symbol of the transfer of the property.

(Photos courtesy Peter Turcik)



Lawrence Loop 5K series highlights Oregon Trail

By Sandra Wiechert, National Secretary of Oregon-California Trails Association

Adapted from an article that appeared in the October 2017 Trails Head Traces newsletter



The Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) Trails Head chapter recently held an Oregon Trail event in Lawrence, Kansas, kind of accidentally but with good results. The new "Lawrence Loop" concrete walkway will encircle the city soon, with 17 miles done and the last five committed for completion. Last summer Sandra Wiechert, OCTA's National Secretary, suggested to the Parks and Recreation department that there should be a series of back-to-back 5Ks along the new trail over several weeks so participants can walk the entire thing. The 5Ks were planned for each week in October 2017, featuring water stations and a history station to present the cultural history of that area of the Lawrence Loop Trail.

Allen Wiechert was asked to talk about the Oregon National Historic Trail where the Lawrence Loop Trail crosses it near Sixth Street and George Williams Way. On October 5, 2017, he set up a poster and handed out Douglas County maps to more than one hundred walkers showing where the Oregon Trail went through the area. He also shared some information and history of the trail to walkers as they briefly rested. He felt that all were quite interested and receptive to his comments and were eager to keep the maps. Most had known little, if anything, about the Oregon Trail, so the Wiecherts are trying to change that. He did the same thing again October 17, when the 5K for about 75 walkers went through the Baker Wetlands. For more information, visit www.lawrenceks.org/loop/walk.

NCTA improves GIS program and digital map access

By David Cowles, Director of Development, and Matt Rowbotham, GIS Coordinator, with the North Country Trail Association

The North Country National Scenic Trail has had an active GIS program since the late 1990s, first starting with combined efforts between the National Park Service and the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and then transitioning into a North Country Trail Association (NCTA) staff position. The NCTA GIS program functions as the data steward on behalf of the National Park Service, producing maps for trail users and managers, as well as conducting a variety of data management and analysis tasks.

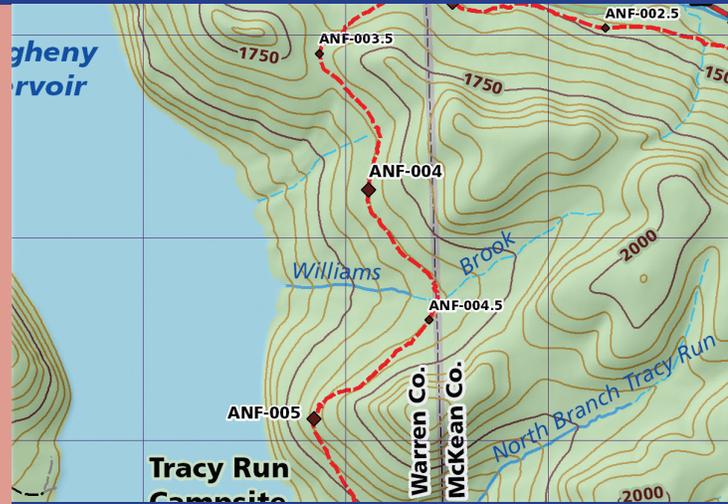
Over the years, production costs for hard copy retail trail maps have risen while new opportunities in the digital realm have emerged. The ubiquity of digital resources has changed expectations of some trail users. Instant access to data and maps in a variety of mediums is the new norm. Barriers to access, including traditional retail transactions, are likely to send users off on an internet quest to find other sources of (potentially less reliable) information. Rather than investing the NCTA's limited resources into the ongoing development costs associated with something like an app, the NCTA is striving to be content providers across all mediums—allowing our trail users to take advantage of our authoritative information in the platform of their choice.

In early 2014, NCTA began developing some simple web maps using a newly purchased subscription to ArcGIS Online (AGOL). AGOL is similar to Google Maps in that it provides a streaming online map service. Unlike Google Maps, AGOL is perfectly compatible with the GIS data maintained at the NCTA. Not only does this allow for neat looking and dynamic (zoom/pan) maps, it also enables the general public to access the real heart of GIS—the detailed database of information behind the trail segments and point data. Just click on a section of trail and a table will pop up showing relevant information we've collected about that segment of trail. This information includes things like ownership, camping regulations, allowed uses, certification status, NCTA chapter contact info, and driving directions to each trailhead.

The NCTA's most popular online map gets around 500 views per day. Using the AGOL Explorer app, users can take advantage of these maps and data on smartphones and tablets. This data is generally updated a number of times per month, from reroutes and new trail construction to improvements and corrections in trail data. But because of the fragile nature of mobile devices and lack of dependable cellular data service, hardcopy maps still have their place in the field. To that end, NCTA launched its "Technical Series" maps in 2016, and maps for North Dakota have been published with other States along the trail continuing in 2017. This enhanced Geospatial PDF format can be downloaded and used on mobile devices, allowing users to track their location directly on a digital version of the hard copy map they've printed.

Beyond the delivery medium, the most exciting feature of these new maps is the system used to communicate mileage. For the last few years we've been following what has become known as the "Halfmile Project" on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. By sequentially numbering generic waypoints into half-mile intervals, you can load this digital "bread crumb trail" into a GPS and, in theory, it will always be able to find your location to within a half mile of the trail—genius! The mileage index also serves as a link between our technical series trail maps, our online map, and our digital data, which can be loaded onto a traditional GPS receiver.

NCTA has abandoned the traditional retail model with its new map series in favor of making them freely downloadable from the organization's website. By removing this "paywall," the idea is that there will be no real barriers to the trail community relying on the NCTA maps and data as the authoritative information source for the North Country Trail.



Above: Trail maps also show half-mile waypoints. (Photo courtesy NCTA)



Mapping and fundraising: A good match

By David Cowles, NCTA Director of Development

The North Country Trail Association (NCTA) has been able to successfully raise over \$90,000 in two special campaigns focused on supporting and enhancing their mapping program. In 2013, the "I Heart Maps" campaign raised \$15,000, and this year, the "NCT2Go" digital maps campaign raised \$46,278, which REI matched with an additional \$25,000.

Much of the success of these initiatives is based on two compelling but very different factors; first, hikers like a good map, and second, hikers have come to believe they shouldn't have to pay for those maps. By maintaining a full-time professional cartographer, the NCTA can easily promise the first expectation: good maps. By choosing to provide great maps for free, a decision was made to eliminate a marginally lucrative revenue source, i.e. map sales. But once the North Country Trail hiking community was made aware of the decision, they came through strong in their donated support which handily offset that hard copy map revenue.

In the end we have found that providing free, digital, and accessible trail maps and serving as the authoritative information source to the online community is a solid value proposition on which to base our mapping fundraising initiatives.

The National Park Service publishes trail resources

Adapted from the NPS Community Assistance News

Improving Public Health Through Parks and Trails

The National Park Service (NPS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) collaborated to identify eight common measures that can be used to link parks and trails to public health goals.

Common measures can highlight the positive impact that park access and use have on community health which, in turn, emphasizes to community decision makers how important local parks and trails are. These include proximity, walking access, park connectivity, land area, physical activity, visitation, frequency, and duration.

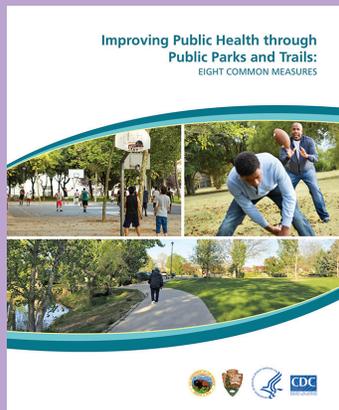
To view this and other NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Publications, visit <https://npgallery.nps.gov/RTCA>.

Directory of NPS Community Assistance Programs

The NPS also launched its Directory of NPS Community Assistance Programs. The 54 programs outlined in the directory provide funding, technical assistance, and other resources to community groups for historic preservation, investment in historic sites, recreation and improved access to public lands, and education and professional development in and outside national parks.

Community assistance programs of the National Park Service empower local organizations to advance historic preservation and conservation work in rural and urban communities across the United States. These programs serve as economic drivers, transforming underutilized places into community assets that enhance quality of life and boost local economies through tourism and job creation.

To view the directory, visit www.nps.gov/subjects/urban/upload/NPS-Programs_9-18-17.pdf.



DOI creates Recreation Advisory Committee

Adapted from U.S. Department of Interior and American Recreation Coalition news releases and E&E News article

The U.S. Department of the Interior is devoting important new resources to outdoor recreation on America's public lands and waters. On November 7, 2017, Secretary Ryan Zinke announced the creation of a "Made In America" Recreation Advisory Committee. The committee will advise the Secretary of the Interior on public-private partnerships across all public lands, with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways.

The duties of the committee, which will meet approximately two times annually, are strictly advisory and will consist of, but not be limited to, providing recommendations including policies and programs that:

- Expand and improve visitor infrastructure developed through public-private partnerships
- Implement sustainable operations embracing fair, efficient, and convenient fee collection and strategic use of the collected fees
- Improve interpretation using technology
- Create better tools and/or opportunities for Americans to discover their lands and waters

Zinke has also added two former Navy SEALs to his management team, including one who will be charged with overseeing outdoor recreation. He has hired former special operators Michael Argo as his Deputy Chief of Staff and Rick May as his new Senior Advisor to oversee the agency's efforts to improve recreational opportunities on public lands.

"The spirit of American innovation and ingenuity is what built our country, and the Interior Department wants that same spirit and energy to resonate within the realm of outdoor recreation on our public lands," Zinke said. "By forming this committee, I look forward to hearing from the best and the brightest in our private sector on how to improve the public experience on our Federal lands and waters by expanding access for all Americans. We already have thousands of private partners who operate on Federal lands. Whether it's the iconic Jammers in Glacier National Park, the historic El Tovar lodge at the Grand Canyon, or the kayaks that you can rent on the Potomac River, American workers are at the heart of helping American families experience our great outdoors."

PNTS launches trail intern grants program and forum

In 2017, the Partnership for the National Trails System launched its National Trail Intern Grants program. We would like to extend a special thanks to our partners at the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service for making these grants possible.

Grant recipients will be announced by December 1, 2017.

For information, visit www.pnts.org/new/intern-grants.



This summer, PNTS also launched its National Trails System Forum. The purpose of this forum is to encourage dialogue and the sharing of best practices amongst trail partners.

We invite PNTS nonprofit and agency partners to sign up and take part in the discussion at www.pnts.org/new/community.

Tony Tooke replaces Tidwell as Forest Service Chief

Adapted from U.S. Department of Agriculture news releases

Tony Tooke was sworn in as the 18th Chief of the U.S. Forest Service following the retirement of Tom Tidwell on September 1, 2017.

“I am deeply humbled to have been asked to serve as Chief of the U.S. Forest Service,” Tooke said. “I have tremendous respect for our history and those who have served before me—their leadership has inspired my own. I admire our on-the-ground work and our dedicated workforce, at every level of the agency, that make it possible. Together with our many partners, volunteers, and local and State leaders, we have much to accomplish to fulfill our continuing conservation mission and serve people and communities everywhere.”

Tooke has worked for the Forest Service since age 18—with 37 total years of service—and was most recently the Regional Forester for the Southern Region.

“Tony Tooke is truly a home-grown Chief, having worked his entire adult life for the Forest Service, and he comes on board at a time of great opportunity to reform our approach to forest management,” said U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. “He will oversee efforts to get our forests working again, to make them more productive, and to create more jobs. Additionally, wildfires have been aggressive this season, and it is frustrating to see that a greater and greater percentage—now 55 percent—of our Forest Service budget is spent on fire suppression. This diminishes our efforts to mitigate disasters in advance. I am committed to finding a permanent solution to this budget imbalance, and Tony’s leadership will be key to accomplishing that goal.”

While Regional Forester for the Southern Region, Tooke was responsible for 3,100 employees, an annual budget exceeding \$400 million, 14 national forests, and two managed areas, which encompass more than 13.3 million acres in 13 States and Puerto Rico. His previous position in Washington, D.C. was Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, with oversight of Lands and Realty, Minerals and Geology, Ecosystem Management Coordination, Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, the National Partnership Office, and Business Administration and Support Services.

As Associate Deputy Chief, Tooke was the Forest Service Executive Lead for Environmental Justice, Farm Bill implementation, and implementation of the Inventory, Monitoring, and Assessment Improvement Strategy. Another priority included implementation of a new planning rule for the National Forest System. Also in the WO, Tooke served as Director for Ecosystem Management Coordination, Deputy Director for Economic Recovery, and Assistant Director for Forest Management. Prior to 2006, Tooke served as Deputy Forest Supervisor for the National Forests (NF) in Florida as well as District Ranger assignments at the Talladega NF in Alabama, the Oconee NF in Georgia, and the DeSoto NF in Mississippi. His other field assignments were Timber Management Assistant, Other Resource Assistant, Silviculturist, and Forester on six Ranger Districts in Mississippi and Kentucky.

Tooke grew up on a small 200-acre farm in Detroit, AL. He earned a bachelor’s degree in Forestry from Mississippi State University. He was in the Forest Service’s inaugural class of the Senior Leadership Program, and he has completed the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program.

“As we enter the 50th anniversary year for the National Trails System, we’re also excited to have the passion and energy that Chief Tooke brings in his new leadership role,” said Forest Service National Trail Program Manager Jaime Schmidt.



Tony Tooke

Recent U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture appointees

U.S. Department of the Interior

- Michael Argo—Deputy Chief of Staff for Interior Secretary
- Rick May—Senior Advisor for Interior Secretary
- Austin Ewell—Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science
- Jason Larrabee—Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife, Parks

Bureau of Land Management

- Kathleen Benedetto—Senior Advisor
- Brian Steed—Deputy Director
- Cally Younger—Counselor

Office of External Affairs

- Benjamin Cassidy—Senior Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs



U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Brooke Appleton—Chief of Staff to Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Steve Censky—Deputy Secretary of Agriculture
- Ted McKinney—Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs
- Sonny Perdue—Secretary of Agriculture
- Tony Tooke—Chief of the U.S. Forest Service



Pathways Across America
 Partnership for the National Trails System
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Trails Events Calendar 2018

February 11-14	Hike the Hill	Partnership for the National Trails System & American Hiking Society	Washington, D.C.	www.pnts.org
February 11-14	The Corps Network National Conference: <i>The Trail Ahead</i>	The Corps Network	Washington, D.C.	www.corpsnetwork.org
March 23-30	Sustainable Trails Conference	Professional Trail Builders Association	Roanoke, WV	www.trailbuilders.org
March 27-29	California Trails and Greenways Conference	California Trails Conference Foundation	Rohnert Park, CA	www.catrailsconference.org
April 12-15	Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference and Membership Meeting	Ice Age Trail Alliance	Sheboygan, WI	www.iceagetrail.org
April 21-24	National Planning Conference	American Planning Association	New Orleans, LA	www.planning.org
April 26-29	Buckeye TrailFest and North Country Trail Association Celebration	North Country Trail Association and Buckeye Trail Association	Hocking Hills, OH	www.nctacelebration.org
April 27-29	Continental Divide Trail Coalition Trail Days	Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Silver City, NM	www.continentaldivide-trail.org
October 7-10	LCTHF 50th Annual Meeting: <i>Arrival at the Pacific: Object Achieved</i>	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Astoria, OR	www.lewisandclark.org
October 22-25	2018 National Trails System Conference	Partnership for the National Trails System	Vancouver, WA	www.pnts.org