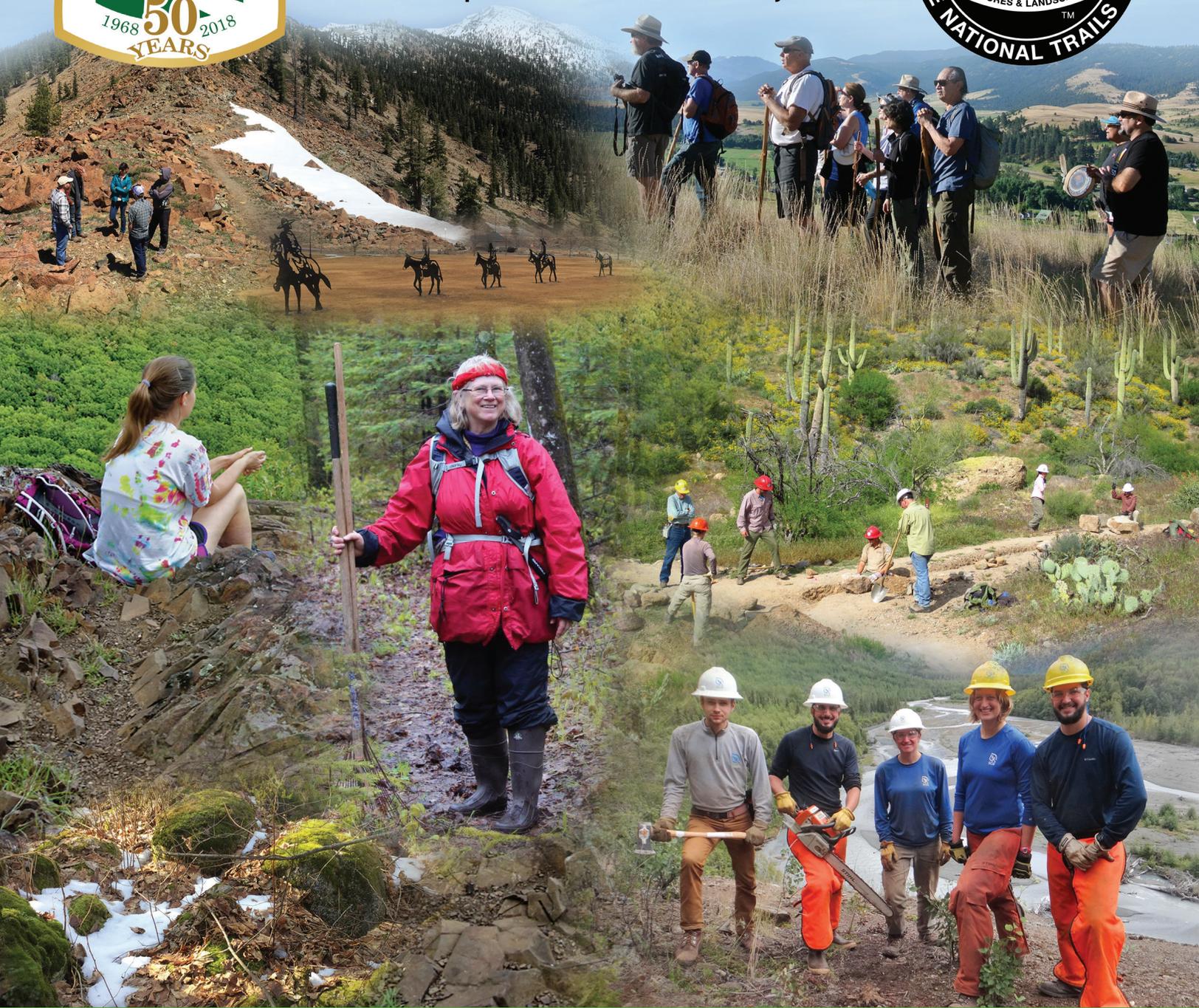


Winter 2017-2018

Pathways *Across America*

A Publication of the
Partnership for the National Trails System



Many Steps Forward



Achievements Toward the Decade Goals by Trail Organizations in 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:



Department of Agriculture:
USDA Forest Service

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

Department of Transportation:
Federal Highway Administration



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

Partnership for the National Trails System

Executive Director: Gary Werner

Pathways Editing and Design: Samantha Haas

communication@pnts.org

Partnership for the National Trails System

222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13

Madison, WI 53703

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

www.pnts.org

Unless otherwise indicated, all material in *Pathways Across America* is public domain. All views expressed herein are perspectives of individuals working on behalf of the National Trails System and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the Federal agencies.

What is the Partnership for the National Trails System?

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



Building Community... The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the

National Trails System?

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



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic and Historic Trails

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

National Recreation Trails

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

19 National Historic Trails

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

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



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...



Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, and Understanding

Strengthening Communities

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



Enhancing Access

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



Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

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



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



Backpacking • Photography • Wilderness • Wildlife

About this Special Edition

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

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

Photos clockwise from top left: Pacific Crest NST Trinity Divide (courtesy Megan Wargo, PCTA); Old Spanish NHT silhouettes in Richfield, UT (courtesy John Hiscock, OSTA); Nez Perce Trail Foundation summer educational tour (courtesy Karen Heagen, NPTF); Arizona Trail Association volunteers repair a badly eroded section of trail near Superior, AZ during the Trail Skills Institute (courtesy ATA); Student Conservation Association trail crew reroutes a section of the Crow Pass Trail, a premier segment of the Iditarod NHT, at the river crossing with Chugach State Park, Anchorage, AK (courtesy IHTA); North Country Trail Association volunteer Ellie Williams rakes off leaves from the reroute in the Rainbow Lake Wilderness area in Wisconsin (courtesy Chequamegon Chapter, NCTA); A snow-covered mossy boulder field near the Ice Age NST (courtesy IATA); New England NST photographer-in-residence Xiomáro captured this moment of reflection at an overlook along the trail (courtesy www.xiomaro.com).

Inside cover photos from left to right: A group stretch circle during the Summit Seekers program along the Appalachian NST (courtesy Julie Judkins, ATC); A crowd learns about vehicles used on the Santa Fe NHT during a program at the Santa Fe Trail Association Symposium in Kansas (courtesy Joanne VanCoevern, SFTA); Native plants along the Florida NST (courtesy Chris Johns, National Geographic).

2017 Accomplishments of the Partnership for the National Trails System

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



During 2017, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) continued to provide the educational and information sharing services it has for years to the National Trails System community. *Pathways Across America* was published and distributed quarterly, and informative webinars and e-News were provided monthly. Mentoring was also provided to several of the national trails partnerships on trail protection approaches and techniques. Forums were set up on the PNTS website for a working group of agency and trail organization GIS specialists to share topics and projects and organization volunteer coordinators to share their challenges and best practices.

PNTS once again partnered with the American Hiking Society to organize and host our annual weeklong advocacy event, "Hike the Hill," in Washington, D.C. in February. About 100 citizen advocates from across the National Trails System participated in meetings with their members of Congress and leaders of the agencies administering and managing the national scenic and historic trails.

The PNTS Advocacy and Policy Committee continued to meet monthly, with consistent participation from 10-12 of the national scenic and historic trails, to monitor appropriations bills and legislation affecting several national trails. The Committee assembled a portfolio of Land and Water Conservation Fund projects to protect land along a dozen national scenic and historic trails to present to Congress for funding. The Committee also reviewed and prepared formal comments on these policy initiatives proposed by the Administration:

- Bureau of Land Management Land Management Planning procedures after the Planning 2.0 approach was ended by the Department of the Interior;
- The review of National Monuments established over the past 20 years, some of which include sections of several national scenic and historic trails;
- Increase of entrance fees to 17 National Parks through which several national scenic and historic trails pass.

The PNTS also sent comments supporting the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's opposition to two proposed gas pipelines that would disrupt miles of the Appalachian Trail in Virginia and supported several of the other member trail organizations in opposing other energy transmission facilities.

In addition to these ongoing activities, the PNTS undertook several new initiatives. PNTS collaborated with the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to design and fund a first-ever National Trails System Trail Intern Grants program. In December, using money provided by the three agencies, the PNTS distributed grants totaling \$190,000 to 20 national scenic and historic trail partnerships. The Trail Interns are projected to collectively assist with the full range of activities underway along the recipient trails through 2018.

Throughout 2017, PNTS staff continued to organize and lead the coalition with the American Hiking Society, American Trails, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy working with our Federal agency partners to plan activities, events, and programs to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System through 2018. A 50th Anniversary Committee within the PNTS has guided planning for two signature events and other activities. These events are a 50th Anniversary Kick-off Reception on February 12, 2018 in Washington, D.C. as part of "Hike the Hill" and a National Trails Conference in conjunction with a National Rivers Symposium, October 22-25, 2018, in Vancouver, WA. Please participate in the events and activities throughout 2018 that will help many more Americans learn about and support the National Trails System.



Gary Werner

About

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is a 501(c)(3) that connects member nonprofit trail organizations and Federal agency partners to further the protection, completion, and stewardship of the 30 national scenic and historic trails within the National Trails System.

The PNTS advocates on behalf of the National Trails System as a whole for land preservation and stewardship resources. Other major roles of the PNTS include the collection and dissemination of national trails news and the development of outreach initiatives and youth programming.

Today, the Partnership has 34 member and six affiliate nonprofit organizations and works in close collaboration with the five Federal agency partners who have jurisdiction over the trails.

Since 1997, the Partnership has embodied the collaboration of the National Trails System Act and has advocated for the trails. The Partnership continues to seek new partnerships and relationships both within and outside the trails community to foster a strong National Trail System well-connected to communities, businesses, and civic groups.

Mission

To empower, inspire, and strengthen public and private partners to develop, preserve, promote, and sustain the national scenic and historic trails.

Vision

PNTS envisions a world-class system of national scenic and historic trails that preserves natural and cultural values and provides recreational benefits for all.

Purpose

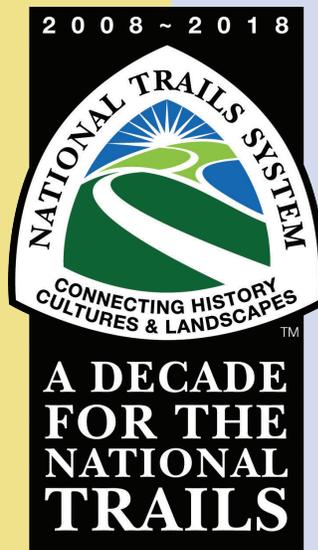
The purpose of PNTS is to promote and support the efforts of national scenic and historic trail organizations, to secure public and private resources, and to serve as a collective voice for policy and action that supports national scenic and historic trails.

Decade Goal 1 – Outreach and Public Awareness

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

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

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



Decade Goal 2 – Resource Protection and Trail Completion

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

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

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

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

Decade Goal 3 – Capacity Building

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

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

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

APPALACHIAN NST (A.T.)

Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)



OUTREACH

- **Next Generation Advisory Council** — 17 young, diverse leaders addressing barriers to employment and recreation, promoting inclusivity, and contributing advice on programs and policies.
- **The Conservation Leadership Corps** — Pathway for young adults (18-25) looking for a job in the environmental sector, nine of whom were recruited through Groundwork USA.
- **Summit Seekers** — Intergenerational program fostered inclusion of communities of color and promoted stewardship.
- **Workshops** — Held four regional professional development workshops for K-12 educators.
- **Trail Communities** — Approved 46th A.T. Community.
- **myATstory Campaign** — Solicited video, essay, song, art submissions from the public about how the A.T. has impacted their lives, and featured contest winners on website.



PROTECTION

- **A.T. Landscape Partnership** — ATC and NPS secured 11 projects along the A.T. in 2017 conserving more than 5,000 acres; hosted third annual meeting with 70 conservation leaders.

CAPACITY

- **Staff** — ATC welcomed Suzanne Dixon in December 2017 as the organization's new President and CEO after Ron Tipton retired.
- **Training** — Offered trail crew program; hosted saw instructor workshop with USFS; held volunteer training at Wilderness Skills Institute with USFS and Southern Appalachian Wilderness Stewards; prepared for 2018 Volunteer Leadership Meeting.

ARIZONA NST

Arizona Trail Association (ATA)



OUTREACH

- **Gear Girls** — Held program engaging young women in mountain biking, snowsports, and trail work through REI grant.
- **Trail Skills Institute** — Held five successful training courses to teach sustainable trail design, dry stone masonry and armoring techniques, corridor maintenance, and hydrology.
- **Trail Communities** — Installed four new signs for Gateway Communities.
- **Communication** — Worked with Representative Martha McSally (R-AZ) to announce her goal to hike the entire Arizona NST.
- **Social Media** — Grew followers by 25 percent.
- **Inventory** — Assisted in completing inventories of signage, facilities, trail conditions, road crossings, and trail values in support of the comprehensive plan process.



PROTECTION

- **Steel Gates** — Installed ten "super gates" to protect the trail from motorized abuse and reduce vandalism while still being hiker, mountain biker, and horse friendly.
- **Bridges** — Installed four bridges to protect the East Verde River watershed and reroute the Arizona NST from a powerline road onto singletrack.

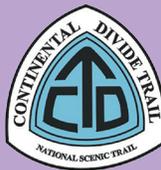
CAPACITY

- **Staff** — Increased hours that staff are working to support their mission; hired a new Development Director; hired three new co-leaders for youth outreach program; added 16 new volunteer trail stewards.

CONTINENTAL DIVIDE NST (CDT)

Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)

Continental Divide Trail Society (CDTS)



OUTREACH

- **Documentation** — CDTC developed new strip maps, planning guide, brochure, wall map.
- **Trail Communities** — CDTC developed a business survey and toolkit; Lincoln, MT became CDTC's first Gateway Community in Montana and now there is a designated community in every CDT State.
- **Signage** — CDTC launched the "Blaze the CDT" campaign by supporting Youth Corps programs; switched from plastic to aluminum signs.
- **Youth** — CDTC began working with cityWILD and Denver ELK youth programs.
- **Biodiversity** — CDTC supported thru-hiker who documented over 650 unique plant, insect, and animal species along the CDT for biodiversity survey.
- **Trail Adopter Training** — CDTC partnered with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado to develop and adopt curriculum, program, and online map; trained over 25 new Trail Adopters for 500 miles.
- **Website** — CDTS extensively revised its website.

PROTECTION

- **Documentation** — CDTC developed an optimal location review process document and marking guide to train volunteers.
- **Agency Review** — CDTS reviewed agency activities, such as forest land management plan revisions.
- **Preservation** — CDTS helped national forest classify ten miles adjacent to the Scapegoat Wilderness for foot and stock use only; working to prevent helicopter-supported skiing operations near trail in Colorado.

CAPACITY

- **Partners** — CDTC enlisted new partners to help drive membership.
- **Strategic Plan** — CDTC completed its first strategic plan for 2017-2019.
- **Cooperation Agreement** — CDTS implemented the 2015 agreement with the CDTC.



FLORIDA NST

Florida Trail Association (FTA)



OUTREACH

- **Website** — FTA updated look and functionality of its website and added interactive maps to streamline the user experience.
- **Documentation** — FTA contracted National Geographic photographer Chris Johns to capture the subtropical ecosystems the trail passes through for use in the new map and brochure (see photo at right).
- **Signage** — Added 38 Florida Trail signs across the State to alert motorists that they are passing a road crossing the trail to increase hiker safety and promote the trail.

PROTECTION

- **Infrastructure** — Constructed the Cypress Creek Boardwalk; removed 14 miles of roadwalk from the trail; added a pitcher pump to the trail south of Lake Okeechobee; supported maintenance work on the trail with over \$54,000 in equipment purchases.

CAPACITY

- **Staff** — FTA added two new full-time staff positions: Panhandle Regional Representative and Community Outreach Coordinator.
- **Volunteers** — FTA certified/re-certified 43 chainsaw sawyers, 28 volunteers with Wilderness First Aid certifications, and over 50 volunteers with basic First Aid/CPR training.



ICE AGE NST

Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA)



OUTREACH

- **Saunters** — Youth program expanded to 16 districts.
- **Educators Summit** — Third annual event was held with 44 participants.
- **Trail Communities** — There are now 12 Trail Communities along the Ice Age NST.
- **Trailtessa** — Six events were scheduled expressly for women across the trail with two already completed through REI grant.

PROTECTION

- **Land** — Closed on 11 properties that will host the Ice Age NST (two were donations).
- **Agreement** — A more than \$1 million agreement was reached to ensure IATA has the financial resources to manage and maintain the largest preserve it will likely own.

CAPACITY

- **Staff** — Established new staff positions of Director of Philanthropy and Outreach & Education Manager.
- **Membership** — Board of Directors and committees were strengthened considerably with new members.

NATCHEZ TRACE NST

Natchez Trace Parkway Association

OUTREACH

- **Promotion** — Created and funded commercials to air on television stations in Mississippi to promote the trail and cycling safety on the trail.
- **Historical event** — Held a living history event to highlight the historical significance of a segment of recently recovered section of the Old Natchez Trace.

PROTECTION

- **Plants** — Replaced nonindigenous plants with locally-grown plants using a National Parks Foundation grant.
- **Bridges** — Helped with the replacement of footbridges on the trail.



NEW ENGLAND NST (NET)

Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA)



OUTREACH

- **Programs** — AMC worked with the NET College Network Outing Club to hold several programs, including a freshmen orientation trip at the Richardson-Zlogar Cabin with Amherst College; UMass and Amherst College students attended a college trail work party at the Notch Visitors Center.
- **Artists** — Created interactive story map using poetry and photos from David Leff, NET's first poet-in-residence; artist William Van Beckum created eight scenic kiosks from Instagram photos that were installed for four months as temporary displays on the trail; forest therapy artist Bibi Calderaro held sensory walks; photographer-in-residence Xiomáro documented the entire NET with his camera in all four seasons.

PROTECTION

- **Rerouting** — AMC finalized its trail license agreement with the Holyoke Water Department and completed a reroute through the city's Whiting Street Reservoir; CFPA relocated the NET from a longstanding roadwalk in Connecticut, made possible by an open space acquisition and the generosity of two private landowners.



CAPACITY

- **Trail Crew** — AMC held three weeks of volunteer teen trail crews; CFPA summer intern trail crew tackled larger improvement projects along the NET in Farmington, CT; CFPA hired a Student Conservation Association (SCA) trail crew to finish a major trail relocation at Chauncey Peak in Meriden, CT.
- **Trail Adopters** — Added three new Trail Adopters and created a new trail reference manual for its volunteers.



NORTH COUNTRY NST

North Country Trail Association (NCTA)



OUTREACH

- **Website** — Developed and launched a new website that better integrates trail and volunteer information.
- **Programs** — Annual celebration in Marquette, MI was larger than ever with almost 400 attendees; Hike 100 program continued to generate excitement.
- **Signage** — Made 40 new informational and interpretive panels and installed them along the trail.



PROTECTION

- **Land** — NCTA provided matching funds to a Knowles-Nelson Stewardship grant to help Iron County, WI acquire land that will host the North Country NST through partnerships that protect 100 acres along the Lake Superior Coast; NPS completed the purchase of its first property for the trail, an 80-acre parcel in Michigan that protects over a mile of trail.
- **Advocacy** — NCTA worked with the Michigan Senate to get congressionally designated trails exempt from recent e-bike legislation.

CAPACITY

- **Staff** — NCTA welcomed Andrea Ketchmark in August 2017 as the organization's new Executive Director after Bruce Matthews retired; hired two new staff to fill the Director of Trail Development position and add another Administrative Assistant.
- **Training** — Developed a trail crew leader training curriculum that will be launched in 2018.

PACIFIC CREST NST (PCT)

Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

OUTREACH

- **Southern Terminus Host Program** — PCTA partnered with Cleveland National Forest to start this 10-week volunteer position, which compiles data and educates trail users about trail conditions, water, travel tips, and Leave No Trace practices.

PROTECTION

- **Land** — PCTA worked with the USFS, The Conservation Fund, and private donors to purchase Stevens Pass, a key PCT access point in the Cascade Range east of Seattle, WA and a gateway to spectacular wilderness in the North Cascades.



CAPACITY

- **Staff** — PCTA hired Scott Wilkinson as its first Director of Communications and Marketing in January 2017. The position is funded by a \$250,000, three-year grant and has helped PCTA tell its story to benefit volunteer recruitment, donor support, and hiker engagement. Wilkinson revamped PCTA's brand, helped establish P3 (a new hiker influencer program), and is working on PCTA's first trail town program.



PACIFIC NORTHWEST NST (PNT)

Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA)



OUTREACH

- **Anniversary** — Celebrated the 40th anniversary of both the founding of the PNTA and the first five end-to-end hikes of the trail with a keynote by PNT/PNTA founder Ron Strickland, an amphitheater screening of “A Sense of Direction,” a pop-up PNT museum and interpretive center, two guided hikes, and a supporter campout.
- **Interpretive Ranger Internship** — Developed a comprehensive guide to PNT day hikes for website; guided 12 interpretive hikes and developed interpretive packets to train future staff and volunteers to recreate these hikes.
- **Documentation** — Published new mapset for 2017 with refined centerline data and detailed notes to aid users in trip planning and to promote Leave No Trace practices.

PROTECTION

- **Planning** — Worked with regional planning committees and local land managers to identify opportunities for securing long-term access for and stewardship of the trail corridor; participated in the Baker to Bellingham recreation planning process to advocate for the use of State trust lands in the refinement of the PNT corridor.
- **Rerouting** — Identified and secured preliminary approval to move forward with three important trail relocations which will realign the trail corridor through Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest while eliminating 27 miles of roads from the PNT; partnered with regional trail groups to draft and sign trail maintenance commitments in support of the development of a trail relocation through Anderson Lake State Park to eliminate several miles of dangerous roads from the PNT along SR 20; supported local land trust in the pursuit of a conservation easement along the Similkameen River that would replace several miles of roads with new nonmotorized single track in Okanogan County.

CAPACITY

- **Internships** — Funded a Western Washington University internship to develop an interpretive plan for the trail; funded an AmeriCorps internship in partnership with the Mount Adams Institute to create day hikes of the PNT resources and guided hikes; supported an internship in partnership with the USFS and University of Montana to study trail use in Western Montana.
- **Membership** — Grew to 218 percent of previous year total through new member incentives and retention strategy.

POTOMAC HERITAGE NST (PHT)

Potomac Heritage Trail Association (PHTA)



OUTREACH

- **Documentation** — NPS Trail Office published three new brochures illustrating different applications of the PHT concept; PHTA released a new logo.
- **Programs** — NPS staff drafted a trip idea to promote continuity of experience throughout the diverse PHT network; supported three familiarity tours and a three-month long series of paddling events; demonstrated use of the PHT route marking and graphic identity guidelines.

PROTECTION

- **Inventory** — NPS Trail Office supported 30 scenic viewpoint resource inventories by partner agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia.
- **Rerouting** — Supported a 1.6-mile reroute of the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail to enhance and preserve scenic views through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Parks, Student Conservation Association, and NPS Trail Office.

CAPACITY

- **Partnerships** — Established agreements with other park, trail, and program offices for shared staff to enhance and manage NPS Trail Office digital media and geographic information system and design family activity guide and three new PHT publications.



55,000 miles
of education and inspiration
for the next generation.

The National Trails System creates a foundation for success for thousands of youth and serves as the ultimate outdoor classroom, from studying water quality and retracing ancestral footsteps to building leadership skills on trail crews and learning healthy habits.

Find YOUR Trail



North
 Scale for all areas except Alaska
 0 100 200 Kilometers
 0 100 200 Miles
 Map revised April 2010.



For more information about National Trails, please visit: www.pnts.org and www.Trails50.org

Discover. Connect. Explore.



- Chesapeake Bay area National Wildlife Refuges
- 1 Blackwater
 - 2 Eastern Neck
 - 3 Eastern Shore Of Virginia
 - 4 Featherstone
 - 5 Fisherman Island
 - 6 James River
 - 7 Martin
 - 8 Mason Neck
 - 9 Nansemond
 - 10 Occoquan Bay
 - 11 Plum Tree Island
 - 12 Presquille
 - 13 Rappahannock River Valley
 - 14 Susquehanna
- National Park sites
- 15 Colonial NHP
 - 16 Fort Mifflin NM
 - 17 George Washington Birthplace NM
 - 18 Placitans Park
 - 19 Prince William Forest Park
 - 20 Richmond NBP



Operated by:



National Park System

MEM	Memorial	NP	National Park
NB	National Battlefield	N PRES	National Preserve
NBP	National Battlefield Park	NRA	National Recreation Area
NHP	National Historical Park	NRR	National Recreation River
NHS	National Historic Site	N RES	National Reserve
NL	National Lakeshore	NS	National Seashore
NM	National Monument	NSR	National Scenic Riverway
N MEM	National Memorial	PKWY	Parkway
N MEMP	National Military Park		

Fish and Wildlife Service

NWR National Wildlife Refuge

Bureau of Land Management

National Forest System

NF National Forest
NG National Grassland

Only national park, forest areas, and wildlife refuges that relate to the National Trails System are shown.

Note: Abbreviations at right are for federal lands shown on this map. In many places, exact trail locations have not yet been determined. Portions of the trails indicated on this map may not be accessible for public use. Please check with individual trail clubs and managing offices for the latest available trail locations.



ALA KAHAKAI NHT

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA)
E Mau Nā Ala Hele (EM)

OUTREACH

- **Programs** — AKTA used a foundation grant to hold two community outreach education programs on the trail; engaged in three events with a booth to pass out information and talk to community about the trail; EM and AKTA led hikes and organized field outings, such as “walk and talk” with NPS through Pu’uhonua O Hōnaunau National Historical Park on National Trails Day.



PROTECTION

- **Land** — AKTA is in the process of securing county and State funds to purchase about 2,000 acres in Ka’ū to protect the coastline which the trail traverses (\$2 million of the \$6 million needed has been secured so far).
- **Advocacy** — EM has been following potential developments along the trail and testifying to the County Planning Board and Planning Commission with concerns about how they could affect the trail.

CAPACITY

- **Partnerships** — AKTA partnered with a canoe club to start a long distance race to bring awareness and support to the trail.

CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH CHESAPEAKE NHT

Chesapeake Conservancy

OUTREACH

- **Mobile Visitor Center** — Launched the “Roving Ranger” with the NPS. The vehicle features scenes of the Chesapeake Bay on all sides and appears at all Chesapeake Trail locations, public events, and festivals to promote its natural and cultural heritage. Families can collect a National Park passport stamp, pick up a trail brochure and a Junior Ranger hat, participate in an interpretive ranger program, and learn about new experiences on the Chesapeake Trail.



PROTECTION

- **Ancestral Land** — Celebrated the donation of land to the Rappahannock Tribe on June 17, 2017 with members of the tribe, the NPS Chesapeake Bay Office, U.S. Senator John Warner and his daughter Virginia Warner (who donated nearly an acre of land on Carters Wharf Road in Warsaw, VA). The parcel of land is near a public boat landing at Fones Cliffs along the Rappahannock River and allows the tribe access to the trail. This land will be used as a staging area for the tribe’s Return to the River program to engage tribal youth in the traditions of their ancestors, such as canoeing, fishing, and camping. The donation coincides with the recently released report, “Defining the Rappahannock Indigenous Cultural Landscape.”



CAPACITY

- **Signage** — Worked with volunteer historians and installed five new granite markers as part of its John Smith Chesapeake Cross Marker project at these locations: Pamunkey River in King William County, VA, Peregryns Mount in New Castle County, DE, Smith’s Fort Cross in Surry County, VA, Sassafrass River in Kent County, MD, and Susquehanna River, Susquehanna State Park, Havre de Grace, MD. The latest granite marker is at the 16th of 24 sites and was dedicated by Maryland delegate and historians.



CALIFORNIA NHT

Turn to Oregon-California Trails Association on Page 15



EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NHT

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT)

OUTREACH

- **Media** — Filmed the trail with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff for a weekly PBS series airing in early 2018. The activity was covered extensively on social media and published in the TPWD Magazine, which has a statewide distribution of 100,000 subscribers.



PROTECTION

- **Archaeology** — ELCAT's Rancheria Grande archaeology project added significant understanding to Native American and Spanish Colonial history along the trail. The Rancheria 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. The extensive remnants of the road and Native American dwellings and artifacts were cataloged, and three property owners within the Rancheria certified their properties as official sites on the trail with the NPS National Trails Intermountain Region.



CAPACITY

- **Strategic Plan** — Developed a second strategic plan to allow for greater outreach and volunteer opportunities toward resource protection and trail development through its Model Trail Community program.

EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO NHT

Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA)

OUTREACH

- **Documentation** — Updated and printed trail map and guide; printed the bilingual Dos Caminos 2016 Laredo, TX workshop report.
- **Event** — National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) participated in the first Camino Real Trade Fair event organized by Bernalillo County. The family event was attended by about 1,500 people in Albuquerque, NM. NTIR will partner with the county in 2018 for the event to celebrate the 50th anniversary.



PROTECTION

- **Projects** — NTIR received NPS funding for two Camino Real projects regarding trail site research and binational cultural resources data sharing practices for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas NHTs; continued work with University of New Mexico Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program to document historic buildings associated with the trail; oversaw completion of the La Bajada roadbed condition assessment and pilot stabilization project.
- **Historic Register** — In collaboration with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, the trail's La Bajada North Section was listed on the State historic register and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register for listing.

CAPACITY

- **Strategic Plan** — CARTA began updating its strategic plan with a goal to complete the effort by the second quarter of 2018.
- **Membership** — CARTA welcomed new members from California for an overall membership growth during the year.
- **Partnerships** — CARTA made a few collaborative connections with organizations in Mexico.

IDITAROD NHT (INHT)

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA)

OUTREACH

- **Education** — IHTA's seventh class of Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom (iTREC!) teachers completed their yearlong place-based service learning professional development program that connects youth and communities along the trail, promoting resource stewardship, recreation, and community engagement. Since 2010, iTREC! has trained 108 teachers who now effectively reach over 9,000 K-12 students in 12 rural and urban communities along the INHT.
- **Programs** — Participated in outreach events throughout the year, including National Trails Day, Public Lands Day, Winter Trails Day, Iditazoo, and the Iditarod Dog Sled Race.



PROTECTION

- **Rerouting** — Funded a Student Conservation Association trail crew to work with Chugach State Park to reroute a section of the Crow Pass Trail, a premier segment of the INHT, at the river crossing where the trail is badly eroded and suffering from heavy use and campsite damage. This work is a critical component of a larger effort to improve the trail, make it safer for hikers, and develop a stewardship plan for the Crow Pass Trail.

CAPACITY

- **Membership** — Offered a low-cost school membership to stay connected with iTREC! alumni and participating schools.





JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NHT

Anza Trail Foundation (ATF)

OUTREACH

Interpretive Wayside — Held a ribbon cutting on an interpretive wayside near the entrance to Yuma Territorial Prison State Historic Park overlooking the Colorado River.



Events — Carlos Herrera, ATF Board Member and Director of Imperial Valley Borderlands Institute, gave a keynote address at the Anza Society World Conference in Calexico, CA; the Binational Symposium on the Historic Route of Juan Bautista de Anza was held in Sonora, Mexico where the Anza Expedition began. The symposium was attended by representatives from Anza organizations, including the Anza Society, Las Lagunas de Anza, Anza Color Guard, and Anza National Historic Trail staff, to better understand and interpret the history and context of the route and the influence of Sonoran Culture on early California.

PROTECTION

Trail Segments — Opened a segment of trail in the East Wetlands along the Colorado River in Yuma, near the Anza Expedition's crossing of the Colorado River; certified the rail-trail segment Joe's Trail at Saratoga de Anza in Santa Cruz County just south of the San Francisco Bay (used for walking and biking).



LEWIS AND CLARK NHT (LCNHT)

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF)

Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. (LCT)



OUTREACH

- Grants** — LCTHF established the Burroughs-Holland/Bicentennial Education and Scholarship Grant Program, developed criteria and an application form, and gave grants from that fund in small amounts of \$500 to \$1,000; LCTHF granted over \$40,000 in nine states for the Lewis and Clark Trail Stewardship Endowment and Montana Sign Fund for archaeology and public outreach interpretive and wayside signs, posters, brochures, and auto tours.
- Logo** — LCTHF developed a new logo commemorating its 50th anniversary.
- Programs** — LCTHF held a Lewis and Clark Study Group at headquarters; LCT provided educational resources to 32 teachers during the fourth Lewis and Clark Teachers Seminar; volunteers supported special events related to the solar eclipse on sites along the trail and assisted with crowd control, interpretation, distribution of viewing glasses, and maintenance.
- Geotourism** — NPS developed the Geotourism Program for the LCNHT, held meetings along the trail to gather local perspectives and provide project information to tourism leaders and communities, and intends to publicly launch the website in fall of 2018.
- Interpretive Plan** — NPS kicked off its first-ever Long Range Interpretive Plan, a multi-year effort that started with critical feedback from stakeholder meetings about the future of interpretation and visitor experience along the LCNHT, intended to be completed by fall of 2018.
- Social Media** — NPS created a successful summer social media campaign with different sites sharing common posts and using the hashtag #LewisandClarkTrail.



PROTECTION

- Legislation** — At the request of the LCTHF, Representative Luke Messer (R-IN) introduced H.R. 3045 Eastern Legacy legislation, which would extend the trail from 3,700 miles through 11 states to 4,900 miles along three segments recommended by the LCNHT Extension Study. (Adding the trail in Indiana would also result in having national trails in all 50 States.)
- Management Plan** — The High Potential Historic Sites Addendum to the LCNHT Comprehensive Management Plan is being finalized for publication in limited hard copies and a public electronic version following six years of collaboration.
- Archaeology** — NPS worked in collaboration with archaeologists from the BLM Missoula Field Office to map and document the route taken by Meriwether Lewis along the Blackfoot River in Montana, which will be used to refine maps of the LCNHT and complete a resource management plan to help protect sensitive resources.

CAPACITY

- Staff** — LCTHF hired a part-time Archives Tech to work on its NPS Cooperative Agreement.
- Volunteers** — Donated more than 138,000 hours supporting interpretive centers, interpretive programming, living history, maintenance, and administration.
- Honoring Tribal Legacies** — NPS supported partners along the trail in utilizing their "Honoring Tribal Legacies" program to advance the interpretation of indigenous perspectives, and collaborated with the Youth Programs Office at Yellowstone National Park to host a two-day regional workshop regarding interpretation of historical and contemporary indigenous perspectives.

MORMON PIONEER NHT

Mormon Trails Association (MTA)



OUTREACH

- **Exhibit** — Opened “Pioneer Pathways to Zion, 1846-1890,” a new exhibit at the LDS Church History Museum in Salt Lake City, UT, after a year of work. It features 50 of the museum’s most treasured pioneer artifacts and reflects decades of research about the Mormon Pioneer NHT. Visitors can select real pioneer stories to follow along the trail, explore 3-D topographical maps and try their hand at a functional wagon roadometer.



the Mormon Pioneer NHT. Visitors can select real pioneer stories to follow along the trail, explore 3-D topographical maps and try their hand at a functional wagon roadometer.

- **Documentation** — Created a comprehensive trail map on Google that provides the accurate location of the trail and trail variants.



OLD SPANISH NHT (OSNHT)

Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA)

OUTREACH

- **Interpretive Wayside** — Developed and installed a new wayside at Whitewater and Orchard Mesa trailheads, Mesa County, CO.
- **Programs** — Held an interpretive tour for 50 participants in Cajon Pass, San Bernardino County, CA; held the fifth annual OST Day for 1,000 participants at Desert Discovery Center, San Bernardino County, CA; held the OSTA Conference for 120 attendees in Barstow, CA.
- **Social Media** — OSTA revised its website and held a major social media campaign on Facebook.



PROTECTION

- **Signage** — Added NHT signage in Iron County, UT and San Juan County, NM; added silhouette statuary in Iron County, UT, Garfield County, UT, Clark County, NV, and Sevier County, UT; replaced and restored historic OST markers throughout Nevada.
- **Development** — Developed OSNHT Recreation and Development Strategies for Emery County, UT, Grand County, UT, and Sevier/Piute/Garfield Counties, UT.
- **Advocacy** — Participated in ongoing OSNHT protection advocacy via comments on Federal undertakings along the entire trail.

CAPACITY

- **Chapter** — OSTA established a new chapter, Descendants and Travelers of the Trail Chapter.



NEZ PERCE (NEE-ME-POO) NHT (NPNHT)

Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF)

OUTREACH

- **Education** — Highest attendance for the annual NPNHT Teachers Summer Tour with educators from five Northwest States who will take historical lessons relative to the Nez Perce War of 1877 back to their classrooms.
- **Exhibits** — More than 1,800 visitors attended a month-long exhibit on the NPNHT at BLM’s National Historic Trails Center in Casper, WY; more than 2,500 youth interacted with the new exhibit, “The Journey of the Resilient Niimípuu People,”



during the two-day event at Ravalli County Museum in Hamilton, MT. The Montana exhibit showcases the NPNHT marking the path of the 1877 conflict between the Niimípuu and the United States Army and tells the story of the Nez Perce flight and culture.

PROTECTION

- **Conservation Corps** — The Clearwater Basin Youth Conservation Corps replaced rustic wooden post and pole fence at the seasonal village site Kam’-nak-ka, a component site for the NPNHT, and learned about its archaeological significance.

CAPACITY

- **Membership** — NPTF produced new membership material as part of its reorganization.
- **Fundraising** — NPTF is undertaking a major fundraising project to assist with building a basketball court at the Nez Perce Willowa Oregon Homeland site.





OREGON NHT & CALIFORNIA NHT

Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)



OUTREACH

- **Events** — OCTA co-sponsored a symposium in Vancouver, WA with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation; celebrated its 35th annual convention in Council Bluffs, IA (its first-ever convention in Iowa).
- **Solar Challenge** — OCTA partnered with the NPS offices in Omaha and Santa Fe to assist in staging the 2018 American Solar Challenge, which will feature dozens of collegiate teams racing their solar-powered vehicles nearly 2,000 miles along the Oregon Trail.
- **Trail Journals** — OCTA has digitized over 400 original trail journals since it launched a separate website (www.octa-journals.org) for that purpose three years ago.

PROTECTION

- **Advocacy** — OCTA used \$20,000 from its Pat Loomis Preservation Endowment to engage legal assistance in defending against the building of the Boardman (OR) to Hemingway (ID) Power Transmission Line, which would be built alongside or on top of the Oregon NHT for most of eastern Oregon and crossing the trail on at least eight different locations.
- **Partnerships** — OCTA began partnering with St. Joseph, MO to assist the city in developing its downtown area to fully capitalize on its California, Pony Express, and Lewis and Clark NHT history; contributed to the Three Trails Corridor project that when completed will give the public access to 47 miles of trails in the shared corridor of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs throughout the Kansas City metro area.

CAPACITY

- **Grants** — OCTA won a grant from the PNTS to hire an intern who will work out of the city planner's office in St. Joseph, MO in 2018 to help implement the development plans for the city; won two grants from the Malcolm E. Smith, Jr. Foundation, Inc. to assist in building a new website and to develop a comprehensive brochure program. These two grants will heavily emphasize the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act and the 175th anniversary of the Oregon Trail.

OVERMOUNTAIN VICTORY NHT (OVVI)

Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA)



OUTREACH

- **Programs** — OVTA drew over 15,000 attendees during its Annual March to Kings Mountain; OVTA is working with NPS to provide year-round interpretive programming along the 330-mile stretch of trail.
- **Trail Communities** — A new Gateway Communities program was introduced across the trail corridor.
- **Communication** — OVVI purchased the rights to a cell phone app to assist with nonpersonal interpretation along the trail corridor; developed a partnership with the Clemson University Open Parks Network to make publicly accessible the military records accounts from veterans of the American Revolution in the area.

PROTECTION

- **Master Plan** — OVTA is working with NPS and other local corridor communities to complete master plans for developing and expanding on-the-ground sections of trail.
- **Signage** — OVVI purchased interpretive signs, panels, and kiosks for three historic locations, and purchased a monument marker for the muster ground in Elkin, NC to match the marker in Abingdon, VA.
- **Trail Segments** — OVVI formed partnerships for stream restoration and relocation along the OVVI corridor to secure further easements for trail construction; secured a new segment at Cane Creek that will result in nearly two miles of trail used during the annual march.
- **Conservation Corps** — OVVI's first Youth Conservation Corps program cleared and constructed two miles of new trail near Gaffney, SC, and worked along trail segments at a State park, regional greenway, and vineyard.

CAPACITY

- **Grant** — OVVI received a PNTS grant to hire its first intern, who will help with the cell phone app, annual conference, and marketing plan for the 50th Anniversary of the NTS as it relates to the OVVI.
- **Training** — OVVI started a Volunteers in Parks program to assist with trail maintenance and construction while teaching sustainable trail work methods; will host a nonprofit consultant to speak with the NPS and OVTA on techniques to help partners grow in capacity.



SANTA FE NHT (SFNHT) Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA)



OUTREACH

- **Social Media** — Shared weekly e-blast and social media posts of the 52 ways to discover the trail using the hashtag #discoverSFNHT.
- **Programs** — Managed the Junior Wagon Master educational program; assisted NPS on a media tour project and added more stops and signs for SFNHT sites; hosted a geocaching project; held a youth photography contest.
- **Documentation** — Created two remaining booklets of a series that will be available online.
- **Anniversary** — SFTA celebrated its 30th anniversary.
- **Events** — SFTA exhibited at American Trails Conference in Dayton, OH, and Teaching Parents Conference in Wichita, KS; hosted the Biennial Symposium in Olathe, KS.



PROTECTION

- **Signage** — SFTA worked with Eagle Scouts to install and dedicate interpretive projects and provide maintenance to markers and signs; Missouri River Outfitter chapter added SFNHT signage to complete the project in the metro Kansas City area.
- **Advocacy** — SFTA provided input on the wind energy and ball diamond projects planned near the trail and others concerning cultural resources; provided input and assistance to the Three Trails Corridor project that when completed will give the public access to 47 miles of trails in the shared corridor of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs throughout the Kansas City metro area.

CAPACITY

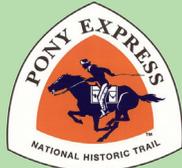
- **Partnership** — SFTA entered into a new partnership with Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area; met with PhD candidate Scott Elder about his dissertation project on the National Historic Trail System; held a workshop with NPS to develop planning for 200th anniversary of the Santa Fe Trail.
- **Membership** — SFTA welcomed new board members, chapter presidents, and committee chairs.

PONY EXPRESS NHT

National Pony Express Association (NPEA)

OUTREACH

- **Re-Ride Tracker** — NPEA held its Annual Re-Ride of the Pony Express Trail from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA (June 5-15, 2017) and linked the tracker in the mochila to the website to provide rider and mail exchange locations and status reports so public could experience history in motion.
- **Social Media** — NPEA has been utilizing social media via its newly established website and Facebook page to educate the public about the trail and NPEA's work to preserve history and to try to recruit younger members.



PROTECTION

- **Signage** — The Utah Division of the NPEA cleaned the signage along the trail beginning in the west desert of Utah at Faust as well as Simpson Springs, Black Rock, Boyds Station, and Round Station.

CAPACITY

- **Membership** — NPEA introduced an additional level of recognition with a five year patch to help retain members; delegates from all eight States at the National Directors meeting brainstormed how to recruit new and younger members. Ideas included reaching out to youth groups, like 4-H, FFA, Boy Scouts, and High School Rodeo, and endurance rider and horse organizations to tell them what NPEA does and how they can help keep the history alive.

SELMA TO MONTGOMERY NHT

OUTREACH

- **Social Media** — Shared accounts of special visitors, including former Greening Youth Intern, Eulas Kirtdoll, who told the story of the Voting Rights Movement while walking 10 miles per day from the spot where Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot in 1965 in Marion, AL.
- **Programs** — Held Women of the Movement Storytelling Festival; presented Riverfront Movie Nights in the Park with the city of Selma, AL; held a Junior Ranger Summer Camp.



PROTECTION

- **Beautification** — Held a volunteer cleaning event for city of Selma and route on National Public Lands Day.
- **Renovation** — Held a public opening of the Selma Interpretive Center expansion featuring new exhibits.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER NHT

OUTREACH

- **Trail Stewards Program** — Over 500 students from schools in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. participated in the educational program in partnership with the Living Classrooms Foundation. Students researched, retold, and interpreted historical events in their community about the trail, took part in a maritime voyage, and engaged in hands-on, inquiry-based learning. Teachers participated in a professional development workshop introducing them to the War of 1812, the trail, and classroom resources. Final projects included a student-designed War of 1812 mosaic installed on the exterior of a Baltimore City school building and a rap song written and performed by fourth-graders in Prince George’s County, MD. Students engaged over 4,000 of their peers, parents, and community members while developing and sharing their legacy projects.



TRAIL OF TEARS NHT

National Trail of Tears Association

OUTREACH

- **Awards** — Cherokee Trail of Tears trailhead and interpretive wayside in Rhodes Ferry Park in Decatur, AL won Award of Excellence in Historic Preservation by Main Street Alabama; Trail of Tears memorial showing removal story of the Five Civilized Tribes etched in stone on banks of Arkansas River in Ozark, AR named Best Downtown Cultural Project by Main Street Arkansas (pedestal display spearheaded by Association volunteer Dusty Helbling and created and maintained through grants and volunteer labor).
- **Grants** — Missouri Humanities Council funded a \$24,000 grant to support research along the northern route, which will be used to create interpretive materials such as signage, digital media, and brochures to enhance cultural and historic tourism.



PROTECTION

- **Cabin** — Missouri Chapter is leading the effort to assess needs and develop plan for securing remains of the Snelson-Brinker Cabin, a certified site and former county courthouse along the northern route, which was destroyed by a fire in 2017.

CAPACITY

- **Communications** — Association implemented communications tool to facilitate collaboration within and among different committees and created online training materials.
- **Membership** — New gift membership package focused on grandparents who wish to involve children early in life in the trail’s preservation and interpretation efforts, with materials designed to change seasonally and be disseminated electronically.

WASHINGTON-ROCHAMBEAU REVOLUTIONARY ROUTE NHT

National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US)

OUTREACH

- **Website** — Launched new user-friendly website with interactive mapping feature. The website will showcase recently completed research on over 100 of the French encampments along the trail, a study of the French presence in Boston, MA, and New Hampshire, and ongoing research on water trails.
- **Documentation** — Ungrid maps were printed for Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, and Delaware with funds provided by NPS and the Florence Gould Foundation.
- **Mobile applications** — One app completed for the Baltimore, MD portion of the trail; another app in progress for a bicycle trail in Bridgewater, NJ led by a high school intern funded by a PNTS grant.
- **Signage** — New exhibit was dedicated in Peekskill, NY; “Path to Victory” plaques installed that commemorate the city’s role in the historic march of the French and American Continental Forces to and from Yorktown in 1781-82.



PROTECTION

- **Award** — Board member Bill Conley, chair of W3R-DE, received the Patrick Henry Medallion for Patriotic Achievement for his efforts to preserve Cooch’s Bridge Battlefield (a 250-acre farm that has been under a protective agreement with Delaware since 2006) by helping erect a memorial, flags, and signage.

CAPACITY

- **Staff** — Previously an all-volunteer organization, W3R-US hired a part-time executive director, webmaster, and bookkeeper; welcomed Helen Mahan as the new NPS liaison to W3R-US.
- **Development** — Transitioned financial records to QuickBooks; developed mailing list use, whistleblower, and conflict of interest policies; developed list of organizational development priorities; secured commitment to develop a Long Range Interpretive Plan.

Federal Agency Highlights for the National Trails System

FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

The Federal Interagency Council on the National Trails System, with representation from the NPS, BLM, FWS, USFS, FHWA, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, considers issues of interest to the NTS.

- **Documentation** — Interagency development and execution of the new 10-year National Trails System memorandum of understanding (January 4, 2017), involving four departments and seven agencies (now includes the United States Bureau of Reclamation).
- **Event** — Hosted the second annual National Trail Administrators Roundtable.
- **Organization** — Council meetings were paused for restructuring under the new agreement and to identify priorities of the new administration. Meetings will resume in 2018.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS)

- **Funding** — Provided more than \$900,000 in Connect Trails to Parks funding in support of projects connecting national trails with public lands.
- **Documentation** — Completed the Old Spanish National Historic Trail Comprehensive Strategy in partnership with BLM.
- **Communications** — Facilitated interagency communications team for the 50th Anniversary of Rivers and Trails with press releases, articles, and social media highlights.



U.S. FOREST SERVICE (USFS)

- **Staff** — 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.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)

- **Documentation** — Completed role as the agency lead for the development of the 10-year NPS MOU.
- **Administration** — Administered three trails and engaged in the National Trail Administrators Roundtable (Iditarod, Old Spanish, and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHTs).
- **Comprehensive Strategy** — Completed the BLM-NPS Old Spanish Trail Comprehensive Strategy.
- **Trail Management** — Managed 18 NSHTs on 6,000 miles in 15 States and 2,000 miles of trails under study.
- **Projects** — Accomplished 100 percent of planned inventory and monitoring across multiple States, worked to establish NSHT corridors in several resource management plans, and participated in National Environmental Policy Act review of proposed projects. Provided interagency facilitation of the 368 energy corridor project.
- **Inventory** — Proposed contracting a standardized methodology for inventory and monitoring, performance, data management, and training, in partnership with FHWA and PNTS.
- **Partnerships** — Facilitated interagency/partner 50th Federal Leadership Group; set up an internal 50th field team.
- **Educational Outreach** — Developed educational outreach materials including the 50th logo, stickers, large-scale exhibit, stand-up and cinch banners, an interactive sites and segments story map, poster frame, custom trail illustrations, portal signage, and digital media. Drafted a middle school teaching guide and activity book and gathered high quality photos and video content.
- **Social Media** — Promoted 50th Anniversary events through Tumblr, the BLM Daily internal site, and Flickr albums.



FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA)

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) provides stewardship over the construction, maintenance, and preservation of the nation's highways, bridges, and tunnels. FHWA also conducts research and provides technical assistance to State and local agencies to improve safety, mobility, and livability, and to encourage innovation. Some national scenic and historic trail projects may be eligible for Federal-aid highway funds, especially under the Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP), which provide funds to the States, and the States solicit and select projects for funding. Sample projects chosen in 2017 included:



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

- **RTP** — North Carolina funded a project for material and delivery to rehabilitate a portion of the Appalachian NST through Great Smoky Mountains National Park, including a privy.
- **TA** — Maryland funded a project to replace missing sidewall, improve structures, repoint stonework, and waterproof the basin of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park (Potomac Heritage NST) to make this a fully functioning aqueduct.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FWS)

- **Event** — The National Wildlife Refuge Week (October 8-14, 2017) theme was selected in recognition of the “Find Your Way” campaign for the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: “Celebrate America’s rivers and trails by finding your way to a national wildlife refuge.”
- **Trail Segment** — On National Trails Day (June 3, 2017) a new segment of the North Country NST was opened that included trails on the Prairie Wetlands Learning Center in Fergus Falls, MN, with speeches by representatives from the FWS Headquarters and Regional Director for the Upper Midwest Region. Wetland Management Districts, such as the one in Fergus Falls, are part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRs).
- **Website** — The FWS NWRs Branch of Communication published a web “story board” about NWRs along the Trail of Tears NHT.





Pathways Across America
Partnership for the National Trails System
222 S. Hamilton Street - Suite 13
Madison, WI 53703

www.pnts.org

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

In 2017,
the nonprofit
partners of the 30
national scenic and historic
trails contributed over
1,046,194
volunteer hours worth over
\$25,255,118
toward stewardship of our
nation's public lands,
ecosystems, and
cultural heritage.



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

Learn more about the 50th Anniversary
of the National Trails System Act
www.trails50.org