

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



# Pathways

## *Across America*



SPRING 2018

## SUMMIT SEEKERS

*An adventure  
in leadership  
for change*

HIKE THE HILL RECAP ● 50TH ANNIVERSARY INITIATIVES ● GOLD SHEET  
LOBANILLO SWALES PROTECTION ● USFS TRAIL MAINTENANCE PRIORITIES

# 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 quarterly by the **Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS)** under cooperative agreements with five Federal agencies.



**Department of Agriculture (USDA):**  
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

**Department of the Interior (DOI):**  
National Park Service (NPS)  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

**Department of Transportation (DOT):**  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)



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### ABOUT US

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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.

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## BUILDING COMMUNITY

# National Trails System

Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968. Today, the National Trails System is composed of 11 National Scenic Trails (NSTs), 19 National Historic Trails (NHTs), more than 1,200 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) including 21 National Water Trails, and more than 2,000 Rail Trails. These trails provide outdoor recreation opportunities, promote resource preservation and public access, and encourage the appreciation of the great outdoors and America's history and cultural diversity.

## PATHWAYS NATIONWIDE FOR 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 outreach efforts.

**Facilitating public-private partnerships** for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



### SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAILS

- Authorized by Congress
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Partnership for the National Trails System**
- Total 55,000 miles through 49 States in wild, rural, suburban, and urban areas, connecting with every distinct ecological area or biome in the country
- Connect and travel through 70 wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, 100 BLM field office areas, over 120 wilderness areas, numerous State and local parks, trails, and other protected areas, and 100 major urban areas
- Over 1 million hours of volunteer labor to build and maintain annually

### RECREATION TRAILS

- Designated by Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **American Trails**
- Total 26,000 miles through 50 States and Puerto Rico

[www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)

### RAIL TRAILS

- Part of 1983 amendment to National Trails System Act
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit **Rails-to-Trails Conservancy**
- Total 22,000 miles through 50 States and 8,000 miles in progress

[www.railstotrails.org](http://www.railstotrails.org)



Click the National Trails System tab to view a map and learn about our partners:

[www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)



## KEEPING HISTORY ALIVE



## PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY

### 11 NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

The National Scenic Trails (NSTs) represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the country is traversed by a NST, from deserts, temperate rainforests and deciduous forests, tundra, mountains, prairies, wetlands, and rivers. NSTs offer natural corridors for wildlife preservation and unspoiled views, 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

### 19 NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

The National Historic Trails (NHTs) 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 NSTs.

- 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

### Cover Photographs

#### FRONT

Student Conservation Association Ambassadors Maya Wheeler (left) and Essence Fullwood (right) hike the Appalachian Trail during the 2017 Summit Seekers program. Photo Credit: Brittany Leavitt, Outdoor Afro

#### INSIDE

Left: Summit Seekers discuss ideas of how to create a more inclusive community for outdoor recreation. Photo Credit: Julie Judkins, ATC  
Center: The Lobanillo Swales are now protected along the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail. Photo Credit: Christopher Talbot  
Right: Volunteers collect trash along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Photo Credit: Ala Kahakai Trail Association

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# The future of the National Trails System faces fundamental challenges

Our celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System are well underway. While we are celebrating throughout 2018 the 50 years of tremendous progress in establishing, protecting, developing, maintaining, and interpreting the trails of the National Trails System, it is appropriate and essential to plan for the next 50 years of work needed to fully develop and sustain the trails, our organizations, and the entire trails system.

When I ponder the future of the National Trails System, I see three fundamental challenges that must be addressed for this daring idea to be fully realized—for the National Trails System to fully bloom. Although our trail organizations and agencies and the national trails have developed significantly through 50 years of a staggering amount of effort by tens of thousands of dedicated people, in a very real sense we have barely just begun to realize the full potential of this remarkable idea. How we address the three challenges will determine whether the National Trails System succeeds to its full potential.

## THREE FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES

- **Transforming** the national scenic and historic trails from a collection of premier trails into a national public lands system like the National Park System and the National Wildlife Refuge System or the National Wilderness System.
- **Completing** the trails on the ground—closing the gaps in the scenic trails and preserving and interpreting all the “high potential sites and segments” along the historic trails.
- **Growing** all of the national trail organizations to greatly enhance their capacity and resources and that of the Federal trail agencies to be able to fully develop and sustain the National Trails System.

While considerable progress has been made over the past 50 years toward overcoming these challenges, to some degree in some places—and for several of the national trails—the pace of development of our organizations and our trails portends that 50 years from now those same challenges will loom largely unresolved. For instance, although over the past 20 years we have significantly increased appreciation of the value and importance of the national scenic and historic trails within the Federal agencies that administer and manage them, the support for the trails still seems highly dependent on the enthusiasm for them of individual agency leaders. Only in varying and irregular degrees have the national trails been included within the prevailing culture of the three agencies that administer them. The idea of these trails functioning as an interagency system is still just an idea waiting to be implemented.

Similarly, there have been piecemeal efforts along several of the scenic and historic trails to acquire land or easements from willing sellers to close gaps, enabling the trails to be extended a few miles and preserving the natural and scenic quality of them. However, at the pace this work is proceeding, in another 50 years we may have increased the number of completed continuous off-road national scenic trails from one to perhaps four, maybe five at best—less than half of those authorized. Despite some inspiring creative projects along several of the historic trails, it is very difficult to imagine what percentage of their hundreds or thousands of “high potential sites and segments” will be fully protected, interpreted, and available for recreational use 50 years from now.

Over the past decade or two, several of the individual trail organizations have grown significantly in size and capacity. Their membership base, the number of volunteers and the number of hours they contribute annually, and their private sector financial support have all increased substantially. Nine of the scenic trail organizations and seven of the historic trail organizations have full-time professional staff supporting about half of the 30 authorized national trails. Despite this tremendous growth in the resources available, none—not even the largest of these organizations—believes it has enough resources to adequately sustain its trail in its current incarnation. The resources—money and people—needed to fully protect, interpret, develop, and sustain each trail and all 30 is beyond the current capacity of the organizations to secure.

So in this 50th anniversary year we rightly celebrate the many creative educational and citizen engagement programs underway, the innovative partnerships with numerous local communities, land trusts, and other conservation entities, and the high skill levels and dedication of tens of thousands of citizen volunteers and public and private professional staff that make and sustain the National Trails System today. As we do this, however, we must consider that to make and sustain the National Trails System of tomorrow will require a magnitude of resources much greater than we are able to bring to bear now. As we draw well deserved attention to our successes, the benefits our trails provide every day, and reach out to new audiences and potential supporters in this 50th anniversary, we must use this opportunity to begin the happy task of expanding the numbers of volunteers and significantly increasing the number of donors and dollars needed to begin the joyful work of completing the National Trails System. I will explore the three challenges and ways we might resolve them in the Summer Issue of *Pathways Across America*.

Enjoy the magic rebirth of spring!




## Partnership for the National Trails System

### 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 Goals

- 1  
OUTREACH AND  
PUBLIC AWARENESS
- 2  
RESOURCE PROTECTION  
AND  
TRAIL COMPLETION
- 3  
CAPACITY BUILDING



# CONTRIBUTIONS MADE IN 2017

## TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM BY NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL ORGANIZATIONS

Trail Organization(s)	Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer Hours	Private Contributions
Ala Kahakai Trail Association and E Mau Nā Ala Hele	1,846	\$44,578	\$33,156
Anza Trail Foundation and other partners	19,912	\$491,627	\$900
Appalachian Trail Conservancy	239,798	\$5,920,612	\$7,002,690
Arizona Trail Association	22,488	\$555,229	\$458,152
Chesapeake Conservancy and other partners	-	-	\$2,117,739
Connecticut Forest & Park Association and Appalachian Mountain Club	10,456	\$258,159	\$19,500
Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Continental Divide Trail Society, and other partners	36,494	\$901,037	\$345,529
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	2,596	\$64,095	\$66,424
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association	1,440	\$35,554	\$8,735
Florida Trail Association	37,000	\$913,530	\$30,000
Ice Age Trail Alliance	79,197	\$1,955,374	\$944,000
Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance	15,000	\$370,350	\$5,400
Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc., and other partners	67,933	\$1,677,266	\$151,696
Mormon Trails Association and other partners	67,185	\$1,658,798	\$199,359
Natchez Trace Parkway Association	7,600	\$187,644	\$31,150
National Pony Express Association	29,803	\$735,836	\$7,720
National Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT Association, Inc. (W3R-US)	27,340	\$675,025	\$53,250
Nez Perce Trail Foundation	1,700	\$41,973	\$3,500
North Country Trail Association	79,031	\$1,951,275	\$490,590
Old Spanish Trail Association	9,800	\$241,962	\$7,431
Oregon-California Trails Association	60,000	\$1,448,400	\$133,000
Overmountain Victory Trail Association	10,000	\$246,900	\$10,700
Pacific Crest Trail Association	96,552	\$2,383,869	\$2,282,821
Pacific Northwest Trail Association	14,514	\$358,351	\$38,186
Potomac Heritage Trail Association	5,387	\$133,005	\$1,210
Santa Fe Trail Association	74,433	\$1,837,751	\$26,419
Trails of Tears Association	28,689	\$708,331	\$16,679
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,046,194</b>	<b>\$25,796,531</b>	<b>\$14,485,936</b>

**Notes:** Value of volunteer time calculated using the national 2017 value of volunteer time (\$24.69/hour) by the Independent Sector. Some, but not all, trail organizations include Federal reimbursement rates for miles driven for volunteer work as part of their private contributions. Volunteer stewardship activities include, but are not limited to: trail building and maintenance, outreach event development, youth engagement, public education, development of interpretive materials and sites, removal of invasive species, habitat restoration, land protection, historic research, reenactments, archaeological studies, and community partnership development.



# Giving our trails a voice in D.C.

## February event kicks off 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act

More than 125 people representing nearly 40 trail organizations from throughout the country traveled to Washington, D.C. this February to “Hike the Hill.” Hike the Hill® is a joint effort between the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and the American Hiking Society (AHS) aimed at increasing congressional and Federal agency leader awareness of funding and authorities needed to sustain the National Trails System (NTS).

During our week in D.C., we met with leaders of the Federal land management agencies, congressional staff, and members of Congress to discuss the opportunities for and the threats facing our NTS. Some of the main issues or pieces of legislation discussed include the funding and reauthorization for the Land and Water Conservation Fund that’s set to expire in September, completing and increasing funding for the national trails, the Wildfire Disaster Funding Act, and opposing amending the Wilderness Act to allow bikes.

Some partners also had the opportunity to meet with Tony Tooke, former Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and “Recreation Czar” Rick May, the new U.S. Department of Interior Senior Advisor, to discuss the departments’ trail-related priorities.

Young leaders with American Hiking Society’s inaugural class of NextGen Trail Leaders, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy’s Next Generation Advisory Council, and students from the Environmental Charter High School (associated with the Pacific Crest Trail Association) also attended Hike the Hill to learn, network, share their stories, and advocate for trails and public lands.

Since 2018 marks the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act (NTSA) and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a few additional meetings and events were held during Hike the Hill to coordinate efforts, commemorate the anniversary, and plan for the future. These events included a Rivers and Trails Panel with the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture and 50th Anniversary receptions held by PNTS/AHS and the National Forest Foundation.

### INCREASED FUNDING

During our meetings with leaders, we discussed the importance of increasing Federal funding for the National Park



Photo Credit: Chelsea Bodamer, PNTS

Above: Liz Bergeron, Executive Director/CEO of the Pacific Crest Trail Association and PNTS Board President, speaks during the 50th Anniversary Reception in the Kennedy Caucus Room of the Russell Senate Office Building on February 12. Left: Trail partners including Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director (left), met with Rick May, the new DOI Senior Advisor (center), who is shown reviewing the 2017 Gold Sheet that highlights volunteer hours and contributions.



Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service trails programs, which would help leverage our ability to care for, connect, and protect our NTS.

In 2017 alone, for every Federal dollar provided the return on investment equaled 1.5:1—thanks to volunteer stewardship of the trails. In total, over 1,045,000 hours of volunteer service were documented within the NTS, which equates to a value of over \$25,795,000. Additionally, private contributions from the national trails organizations for the NTS totaled over \$14,485,000. However, as incredible as these contributions are, they are not enough to fully develop and sustain our trails.

Full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and greater funding for the agencies’ trail programs by Congress will help to provide means to close missing links, protect high-priority recreational and historic areas, and fund additional maintenance and necessary resources to already existing trails.

### SUPPORT THE TRAILS

It’s important for Congress to hear our voice. You too can contact Congress and let them know what issues matter most to you. Collectively, our voices will help to ensure the use and protection of these trails for many generations to come. There is much work yet to be done to make the national trails fully usable and beneficial to all Americans.

There are a number of ways to show your support for the trails through the 50th anniversary year and beyond. To learn how you can attend a trail event, purchase swag, share your story, participate in a photo contest, or donate, turn to page 8 and visit [www.Trails50.org](http://www.Trails50.org).



More photos, videos, and a list of Federal agencies and organizations in attendance:

[www.pnts.org/new/hike-the-hill-2018/](http://www.pnts.org/new/hike-the-hill-2018/)

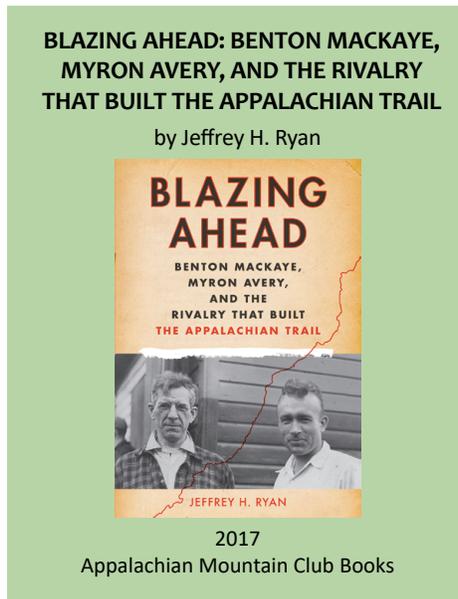


# The creation of the AT changed the course of hiking history

In June of 1921, a 42-year-old man sat in the room of a friend's house in New Jersey. He had spent many days in this place, where he had come to heal from the unexpected death of his wife. Contemplation in quiet places had helped Benton MacKaye recover from setbacks before. As a teenager, he spent the days and weeks following his father's death exploring the woods surrounding the family cottage in Shirley Center, MA. Climbing the hills proved to be restorative. He thought about that a lot as he sat in Charles Harris Whitaker's house. And it became the germ of an audacious idea. MacKaye envisioned a multi-state super hiking trail—one that originally would extend from Mount Mitchell, NC to Mount Washington, NH.

Three months later, MacKaye's vision went public in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects with his article "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional Planning." The piece was a tour de force. MacKaye began his article by making the case that the Appalachian Trail (AT) would provide a sanctuary from everyday life, a place to "gain oxygen and perspective." Yet, MacKaye also saw that the trail would provide economic benefits. He envisioned "farm camps" popping up near the AT to provide food and lodging for hikers. He also predicted that over 40,000 jobs would be created to build, support, and protect the trail.

Also impressive was the map Benton MacKaye drew to accompany his article. This remarkably accurate depiction of what would become the AT's final route helped capture the imagination of readers and created a blueprint for future success. Taken as a whole, "An Appalachian Trail: A Project in Regional



Planning" was and continues to be one of the most important pieces of writing in the history of outdoor recreation.

Yet, as inspiring as MacKaye's plan was, it would likely have remained an unfilled vision if not for the relentless drive of Myron Avery. By 1928, the full-time maritime lawyer and Naval officer Avery was rolling up his sleeves and seeing to it that the Appalachian Trail project, which had lost steam, would never lose momentum again. Avery oversaw every detail of the trail's construction (arguably at times to a fault) until the last mile was blazed in Maine in 1937. MacKaye and Avery differed enormously in personality and style, which led to an inevitable falling out in 1934. But one thing they did agree on was

the volunteer club/public sector approach to building, maintaining, and protecting the trail.

In 1922, MacKaye was advised to cede the task of building the AT to a federation of local hiking clubs that would be responsible for siting and maintaining sections of trail within their jurisdictions. It was a brilliant idea that gave individual clubs the incentive to see the trail to completion and to advocate for its enduring viability. In places where the AT crossed public lands, clubs worked with State and Federal agencies to build and maintain it. Avery personally lobbied State foresters, game wardens, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service to take part in the creation of the trail. This set the stage for the ongoing collaboration that has been critical to managing the AT as a resource to this day. Like the Appalachian Trail itself, this management model has endured and inspired other trail systems to follow a similar path.

In this 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act, we have ample reasons to celebrate the dreamers, doers, and partnerships that transform our trails from grand visions into places where we can step into nature to gain oxygen and perspective. Without them, our horizons would be diminished indeed.



Jeffrey H. Ryan is also the author of "Appalachian Odyssey: A 28-Year Hike on America's Trail" (2016, Down East Books). He is an avid long-distance hiker and keynote speaker who often tours North America in his 1985 VW camper.

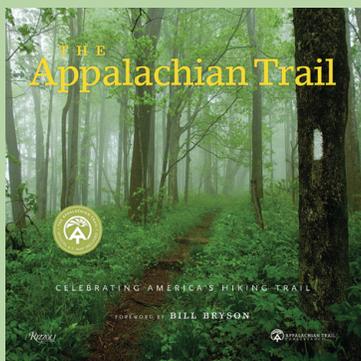
[www.JeffRyanAuthor.com](http://www.JeffRyanAuthor.com)

## Other titles about the National Trails System beginnings



Authors' notes: [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)

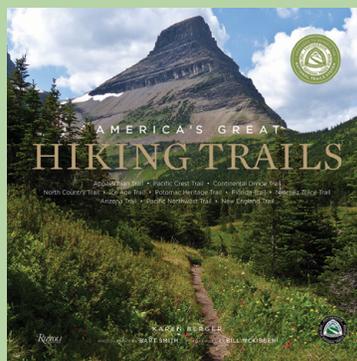
**THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL: CELEBRATING AMERICA'S PREMIER HIKING TRAIL**  
by Brian King



2012

Rizzoli with Appalachian Trail Conservancy

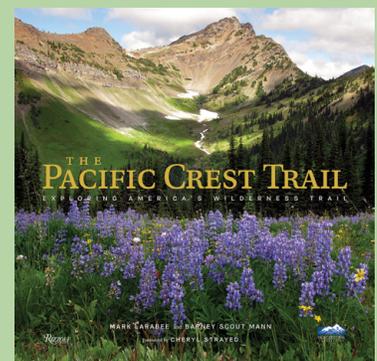
**AMERICA'S GREAT HIKING TRAILS**  
by Karen Berger



2014

Rizzoli with Partnership for the National Trails System

**THE PACIFIC CREST TRAIL: EXPLORING AMERICA'S WILDERNESS TRAIL**  
by Mark Larabee and Barney Scout Mann



2016

Rizzoli with Pacific Crest Trail Association



Find **YOUR** Trail  
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Explore.

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@NTSA50

e-Newsletter:

www.trails50.org/contact/

Inquiries:

communications@trails50.org

[www.trails50.org](http://www.trails50.org)

## Resources

### EVENT HOSTING GUIDE

Connect your events with #FindYourTrail and the celebration of the National Trails System, particularly for National Trails Day on June 2, 2018.

### FACT SHEET

Learn more about the history of the National Trails System.

### LOGOS

Download logos and wordmarks with instructions for consistent use.

### MEDIA TOOLKITS

Ready-to-use social media content, information, and contacts for the 50th anniversary.

### MULTIMEDIA

Share a collection of videos, photos, and maps with your audience.

[www.trails50.org/toolkit/](http://www.trails50.org/toolkit/)

# OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE

In his 1965 "Natural Beauty Message" to Congress, President Lyndon B. Johnson inspired a national "system of trails" for the American people. Congress passed the National Trails System Act, signed into law by President Johnson on October 2, 1968. 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System Act, and we want you to be part of the commemoration! There are many ways you can #FindYourTrail and show support for the national trails.

## National Trails Conference

OCTOBER 22-25, 2018

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and River Management Society (RMS) will host co-located events in Vancouver, WA from October 22-25, 2018 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails and Wild & Scenic Rivers Systems Acts. These side-by-side events will bring together private and public organizations and Federal agencies dedicated to the preservation of the nation's wild, scenic, and historic places.

Trail conference and river symposium themes and tracks will differ, however, there will be several joint sessions offered. For those interested in attending both events, dual registration will be available at an additional cost. Registration opens this spring.

For more details and to register, click on the Trails50 tab and 2018 Conference:  
[www.pnts.org/new/ntsa50/](http://www.pnts.org/new/ntsa50/)

## Trail Stories

Each Saturday you can read a new submitted story about trails within the National Trails System, from stewardship and inspiration to education and history. You can also share yours.

Follow the blog: [www.trails50.org/new-blog/](http://www.trails50.org/new-blog/)  
Submit your story: [www.trails50.org/tell-your-story/](http://www.trails50.org/tell-your-story/)

## Event Map

Events are being added to the nationwide 50th anniversary map every week to help build capacity for future activism. Find an event near you, or add your organization's event today!

Search the map and submit your event:  
[www.trails50.org/find-an-event/](http://www.trails50.org/find-an-event/)

## Photo Contest

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AND VOTE: AUGUST 1, 2018

The 50th anniversary photo contest is underway, and many beautiful and inspiring entries are racking up votes. Fire up those cameras and submit your photos in up to four different categories (see back page). Send us the best shots of how you #FindYourTrail!

Review contest rules, enter, and vote:  
[www.trails50.org/photo-contest/](http://www.trails50.org/photo-contest/)

## Other ways to support the trails

### VOLUNTEER

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the National Trails System, helping foster and steward the trails' amazing experiences through dedication, time, and hard work. Get involved today!

[www.trails50.org/volunteer/](http://www.trails50.org/volunteer/)

### DONATIONS

Consider making a tax-deductible donation to the National Trails System, which will go toward land protection, education, and supporting citizen stewards.

[www.trails50.org/donate/](http://www.trails50.org/donate/)

### MERCHANDISE

Show your trail love with special edition merchandise, such as logo pins, patches, decals, walking stick medallions, magnets, maps, hats, and limited-time shirt campaigns.

[www.trails50.org/shop/](http://www.trails50.org/shop/)

# INITIATIVES BY NONPROFIT AND FEDERAL PARTNERS

## HIKING CHALLENGES

Modeled after the North Country Trail Association's successful "Hike 100 Challenge," this year the North Country, Arizona, and New England national scenic trails are challenging trail users to hike 50 miles to earn a special patch or other prizes in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System. In addition to logging miles, some organizations are also awarding points to those who volunteer, share a photo, or attend a trail event.



On October 6, 2018, the Arizona Trail Association will encourage over a thousand hikers, runners, bikers, and equestrians to sign up for sections to collectively complete the entire length of the 800-mile trail in 24 hours. The "AZT in a Day" challenge is modeled after a similar effort on the Mountains-to-Sea Trail in North Carolina last fall.



## OUTREACH MATERIALS

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has produced a variety of outreach materials to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System. Its interactive story map, "Authentic adventures on BLM-managed trails," features 50 special sites and segments. BLM released three new passport stamps to celebrate the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Santa Fe, and Old Spanish national historic trails, which play a major role in the history of New Mexico and West Texas. BLM also created large displays



and banners which are being used as templates by the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service and are being reserved by agencies and trail organizations for various events through BLM's reservation calendar.

More photos and links to the initiatives: [www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/](http://www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/)

## SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail is launching a social media campaign modeled after the "Flat Stanley" project to build excitement for the trail and the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System. Since a Newfoundland dog named Seaman accompanied the Lewis and Clark expedition, four of his fictional ancestors (stuffed animal pups) will each travel segments of the trail by being mailed to partner visitor centers this summer. The idea is to create a fun way for people to connect along the trail by sharing photos of themselves with the dogs (named Dakota, Harper, Keelie, and Rocky) on social media. Partner sites will report what the

pups find on the trail on the NPS blog, "Newfie News."



## EVENT COLLABORATION

This year's American Solar Challenge, July 14-22, 2018, will follow portions of the Oregon National Historic Trail and other trails in commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System. University students from around the world will design and build solar-powered cars and drive them 1,700 miles from the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Headquarters in Omaha, NE to the High Desert Museum in Bend, OR.



## IN MEMORIAM

by Dana Hendricks, Columbia Cascades Regional Representative  
Pacific Crest Trail Association

# Civic leader Dan Ogden helped shaped the National Trails System Act

Daniel M. Ogden, Jr., who helped create the National Trails System Act, passed away February 7, 2018, at the age of 95. A memorial service was held March 24 in Vancouver, WA, where he was honored for his many and various achievements of civic service.



Daniel M. Ogden, Jr.

case for the spiritual and physical health benefits of trails to the American people, it became the basis for the National Trails System Act of 1968.

A lifelong conservationist and highly effective administrator, Dan also played a key role in establishing the Redwood National Park, the North Cascades National Park, and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. On this, the 50th anniversary of all these important milestones, we commemorate and thank Dan.

Links to the obituary, study, and more articles written about and by Ogden: [www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/](http://www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/)



Photo Credit: Pacific Crest Trail Association

Above: PCTA Regional Representative Dana Hendricks (left) interviewed Dan Ogden (right) about his 1966 study *Trails for America*. She wrote the article "Visiting with Visionaries" for the Spring 2016 issue of the *Pacific Crest Trail Communicator*.

# Attracting businesses

## Survey, marketing toolkit for trail communities

The Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) recently published a marketing toolkit for local businesses. The business toolkit is available to any business along the Continental Divide Trail (CDT), including its 11 Gateway Communities. In a 2017 survey of local business owners in towns along the CDT, the CDTC found that trail users spending money contributes substantially to local business, with 16 percent reporting “significant impact” and 72.5 percent reporting “some impact.” And use of the trail is growing rapidly.

By raising awareness of the trail, businesses can help support its local economy in years to come. The toolkit is designed to enable businesses to effectively promote the CDT and increase user traffic in their community.

The toolkit contains the following items: brochure with full map and information for trail users; stickers to distribute to customers and window decal to display at business; strategies for incorporating the CDT into business; CDT facts and talking points for easy reference; CDTC contact sheet; and CDT calendar. The toolkit also identifies the different types of CDT users, including thru-hikers, section hikers, day hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers.

One strategy for incorporating the CDT into local businesses is by using social media to promote the trail and

the business. Facebook is the main line of communication for CDT hikers, so CDTC encourages businesses to join trail groups, make posts advertising their business to those hiking the trail, feature pictures from employees’ and customers’ adventures on the trail, and use specific hashtags.

Local businesses could offer discounts or partner with other businesses to create a package for CDT hikers since they are typically on a budget. Businesses can also purchase a CDTC business membership, which includes an ad in the quarterly newsletter and a variety of stickers, brochures, wall map, and CDT planning guide. Displaying the wall map will help identify hiker-friendly businesses and pique other customers’ curiosity about the trail. Businesses can also order other CDT merchandise to sell, such as hats, pins, and postcards.

The Continental Divide Trail Gateway Community Program was launched in 2013, and it seeks to help communities benefit from their proximity to the CDT. It recognizes communities for their part in promoting awareness of the CDT and creating a welcoming environment for hikers.



Read the CDT survey and toolkit:  
[www.continentaldividetrail.org/what-we-do/community/business-resources/](http://www.continentaldividetrail.org/what-we-do/community/business-resources/)



Photo Credit: Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Above: Sharing stories at the March community talk.

# Connecting with lineal descendants in Hawaii

Under the terms of its cooperative funding agreement with the National Park Service, Ala Kahakai Trail Association (AKTA) is obligated to host at least six community events per funding year.

In February and March, the organization hosted two small community hikes in South Kohala, set up booths at the Wiliwili Festival and shoreline cleanups at Old Airport and Puako, and held a community talk



story event. In early May, AKTA planned to host a talk story event and community hike along the coast during the Ka’u Coffee Festival, as well as a community event in the Puako area and the Hokule’a Mahalo Tour event in Kawaihae.



Typically, a few of the events are gatherings focused on lineal descendants. That was the case in March when AKTA partnered with Aloha Kuamo’o to share stories with lineal descendants at Kuamo’o ahupua’a. Last year in May, AKTA also sponsored an event to bring community members (many of whom are lineal descendants) from Na’alehu down to a coastal village that was abandoned about 100 years ago. When the main road was built, many of the coastal villages moved upland to be alongside the road.

“Despite having lived above this site along the coast for their entire lives, many of these community members we brought down there had never been,” said Christopher Hawkins, AKTA Coordinator. “It gave us goosebumps to see the emotions they had reconnecting with their ancestral place.”



Learn more about AKTA’s outreach events:  
[www.alakahakaitrail.org/whats-new/](http://www.alakahakaitrail.org/whats-new/)

## CDT Gateway Communities

### NEW MEXICO

- Silver City • Grants
- Cuba • Chama

### WYOMING

- Pinedale • Rawlins
- Riverside-Encampment

### COLORADO

- South Fork • Pagosa Springs

### IDAHO

- Lemhi County

### MONTANA

- Lincoln



## “Travels with Darley”

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and some of its Gateway Communities in New Mexico are featured in Season Five of “Travels with Darley,” which airs on PBS.

Discover unique places to unplug, refuel, and learn about history, culture, and ecology in natural places and their trailside communities.



Links to watch the show:  
[www.travelswithdarley.com](http://www.travelswithdarley.com)

# Lobanillo Swales

## Partnerships foster trail development

**E**l Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT) has been working on a trail protection and development project for the last several years. The project is focused on a resource known as the Lobanillo Swales, which is a collection of seven remnants of the Royal Road in the forest of east Texas. The site was essentially a super-highway, with some swales measuring 18 feet deep and 12 feet wide. The project began in the fall of 2013, when ELCAT conducted a crowdfunding campaign via Indiegogo to raise money to purchase the site. Over the next couple of months, over \$28,000 was raised.

ELCAT then began talking with county representatives in Sabine County, TX about when the property might come up for auction. The site was placed on auction on June 4, 2014, and ELCAT was able to purchase the property for a mere \$4,100! Over the next several months, the association coordinated with the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) of the National Park Service (NPS) toward appropriate steps to take in the development of the property. In turn, this led to archaeological investigations being conducted at the property in the winter and spring of 2015.

The archaeology demonstrated over three centuries of artifacts dating from the 1700s to the early 1900s. Additional surveys were done in the spring and summer of 2015, and by October of that year, the NPS-NTIR developed a conceptual plan for the site titled, "Lobanillo Swales—Interpretive Retracement Trail Development Concept Plan." The plan outlined a couple of development alternatives for the site, which ELCAT's board of directors took into consideration in the coming months, as it moved forward with planning for the location.

By mid-2016, a development alternative had been selected and interpreters from the NTIR visited again to survey the location and utilize their findings, and previously documented archaeological information, to create interpretive panels for the trailhead. Simultaneously, landscape architects from the NTIR were drafting construction level documents for amenities such as the parking area and trailhead.

The landscape architect team then visited the site in May 2017 with ELCAT representatives and surveyed and staked the site for development. Lobanillo was on its way to being visitor-ready! In November 2017, Sabine County provided labor and equipment to improve the roadway into the site and develop the parking area and trailhead. By mid-November, the first phase of development was complete.



Photo Credit:  
Steven Gonzales, ELCAT

Above: An elevated view of the Lobanillo Swales.  
 Right: Archaeologists conducted a stratigraphic survey of the soil at the site in 2015.



Videos and photos of the Lobanillo Swales:  
[www.facebook.com/elcaminoareal delostejas](https://www.facebook.com/elcaminoarealdelostejas)

The final piece of the puzzle came together in April 2018 with the second phase of development at the site. Activities included the development of a quarter-mile loop hiking trail, installation of interpretive panels, and installation of site identification and roadway directional signage to the site. After completion, a dedication ceremony was scheduled with remarks by elected officials and agency representatives, hiking of the new trail, and fundraising for ELCAT.

Over the course of the project, ELCAT has raised nearly \$50,000 in funds for the site, and the association will soon be able to demonstrate the protection and development of Lobanillo as a feather in its cap! The effort can be viewed as a textbook example of public-private partnerships called for in the National Trails System Act, and most importantly, the site will be forever protected for future generations to see, explore, learn about, and appreciate.



### HISTORY

Located in the pine forests of east Texas, the Lobanillo Swales represent cultural human pathways imprinted into the landscape via pack mule, cart, wagon, and foot from the 1700s to the early 1900s. The swales are the best known physical remnants of a path that has long existed as one of the most ancient roads in American history.

## Lobanillo Swales project at a glance

### TIMELINE

- 2013:** ELCAT launched crowdfunding campaign
- 2014:** ELCAT purchased Lobanillo Swales
- 2015:** Archaeological surveys conducted; Lobanillo Swales added to the National Register of Historic Places
- 2016:** Interpretive panels created; Lobanillo Swales certified as a trail resource
- 2017:** First phase of development
- 2018:** Second phase; site dedication

### ACQUISITION

With the acquisition of the Lobanillo Swales, ELCAT is one of only two national historic trail organizations in the country to own a part of a national historic trail. ELCAT is also the first national trail organization to utilize crowdfunding to raise money for the purchase of a property, which has been made publicly accessible through work with Federal agency partners.

# Summit Seekers

## Telling our own story on the trail

People of color don't hike, don't scuba dive, and we don't care about the environment. It sounds absurd to put these ill-informed myths in writing but there they were; written on flip charts and pasted on the walls as Summit Seekers tossed out ideas and stereotypes each of us had been exposed to in our lives outdoors.

Among us were people from many walks and ethnicities: Black, Hispanic, Asian, Queer ... most of us identified as "other" than what might be considered the norm on the trail, tacitly defined by whiteness, affluence, or heterosexuality. Are these race, class, and gender definitions relevant to a bunch of folks who just want to get outdoors? Summit Seekers found this initial ice breaker exercise one of several ways we built a shared knowledge, experience, and sense of reality.

Before creating a community where "diversity" was the norm, it was as if we needed to first acknowledge some differences. The social realm experienced by people other than the usual suspects on the Appalachian Trail (AT) required that we overcome not only steep hills, rocky terrain, and other trail challenges faced by all—but also the generally unsaid or unspoken myths and expectations of us in the past that have typically been written by others. This was our rare chance to tell our story, our own way.

The inaugural Summit Seekers project was a collaboration between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC), Outdoor Afro, Latino Outdoors, Groundwork USA (Groundwork Richmond and D.C.), and the Student Conservation Association. Funded by the National Park Foundation, two Summit Seeker pilot projects, one in the San Francisco Bay, CA area and another in the greater Washington, D.C. area, recruited multigenerational participants from many walks to both introduce them to the Appalachian Trail and/or the outdoors, hiking, and camping such that new affinity groups and cohorts might flower and begin to thrive. Participants learned practical hiking and camping skills, and got to hone those skills in the outdoors while forging teams and new trail friendships. This is a three-part series of summit events: an initial launch gathering at Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C., an AT Summit weekend in Harpers Ferry, WV that included an orientation from the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park Superintendent, a short walk through history in the town, an overnight stay on the AT at Blackburn Trail Center, and a third gathering along the Anacostia River in September. The AT Summit included opportunities to explore African-American and U.S. history, get exposed to some of the folklore of the AT, and get acclimated to the trail experience. The final day of the AT Summit gave participants space to create a unique agenda for their newly formed trail cohorts, further opportunities for Summit Seekers to share their ideas, learn from each other, and shed some light about diversity in outdoors settings.

I attended the D.C. area project and served as an "ambassador/mentor." Through my lens as an African-American hiker, which includes nearly 30-plus years of section hiking and helping to maintain portions of the AT, I cannot say that I have ever been confronted directly with



Photo Credit: Julie Judkins, ATC

Above: Participants complete their final reflection circle discussing the impact of Summit Seekers at the program's closing gathering at Anacostia Park.

what most people would regard as racism—which usually means overt race hatred or discrimination. On the contrary, mostly I have felt that my own presence on the trail exposed at least some of the traditional trail folks to a genuine mystery or a quandary. Specifically, the presence of a black person doing something that many assume black people don't do. The Summit Seekers program and ambassadors challenge these expectations. Race in America is complicated and far

more than simply being shades of black and white. For example, from time to time I have found myself plodding on a narrow trail behind clumps of unknown white hikers who sometimes insist that I walk ahead of them on that trail. I am never sure if this is because they feel safer with a big black man walking in front of them rather than behind? Is it paranoid of me to read something pejorative into this trail behavior?

For those who think that I am being paranoid or prejudging such things, I must say that as an African American in the general society, whites frequently tell me they do not see race as such and so it matters not. Yet I know from a lifetime of living as a black person in America that people of color ignore race at our own peril. So often, for us to function in a socially appropriate way, it is incumbent for us to put whites at ease about our presence, make them feel safe, defer to their views about race, and to turn the

other cheek when faced with situations that are ambiguous for us but reassuring to our white peers. It cuts both ways.

Rewind to the ATC member who assured me that he did not care what color a hiker was as long as they were willing and able to do the trail work. It left me with the impression that his acceptance of a racially diverse club was provisional. He only recognized as legitimate people of color who could meet his standards of performance. It is sort of like being on probation; the sense that we can participate in these clubs if we measure up to standards set by others. In a way, I felt like I was again being invited to walk in front of the other hikers on the trail until such time as I proved myself. But if I take his remarks in a more generous context, maybe he was saying he was entirely open to black people in the club if their presence enhanced the mission and goals of the club?

“  
*I gained a new perspective on what it's like to be anything other than a white male in the outdoors and the barriers that exist for not only getting outdoors, but feeling comfortable, safe, and welcomed in nature.*

— Kristin Murphy,  
Summit Seekers ambassador and  
ATC Next Generation Council member

”

“The opportunity to hear directly from youth—particularly youth of color—about their connection to public lands was extremely insightful. Who better to inform strategies for diversifying the environmental movement, than the very people we are trying to engage.”

— Tony Richardson, Summit Seeker and ATC Next Generation Council member

Not an unreasonable thing I suppose, but is it a test he also applies to whites? Obviously it is not for me to say, and had I asked him to clarify I felt he would have thought me rude or a smart aleck.

Rahawa Haile is a female African-American hiker who identifies as queer. She recently wrote about her experiences hiking on the AT for an article in *Outside Magazine*. She reports several incidents and situations during her Trail sojourn where she did not feel safe, and even felt intimidated by whites along her journey who in turn felt challenged by or distrusted her presence. I think it is hard for whites unfamiliar with the embedded culture of disparity in society to imagine how places in the wild that seem neutral, hospitable, and benign to them, might take on an entirely different connotation for black or brown hikers. The subject came up during the Summit Seekers gathering as a side note to how our trail experiences differ at times from that of white hikers and therefore our trail experience is sometimes at odds.



Photo Credit: Julie Judkins, ATC

Above: ATC Next Generation Advisory Council members Brittany Leavitt (also of Outdoor Afro), Tony Richardson, and Kristin Murphy.

So the challenge of “diverse” people on the AT or in many other conservation clubs that have traditionally been white is a very complex journey. I cannot imagine a successful attempt at integrating or diversifying any activity without also examining and unpacking the world view, history, and values that, in many instances, have been developed to attract white donors, volunteers, boosters, and patrons. To rethink the prevailing culture of such affinity groups, one must also consider whom they intend to serve at a fundamental level. The argument that these are public interest causes that serve everyone to some extent is a weak one if you consider that some clubs, while they do not discriminate against people of color, nonetheless, a traditionally all-white interest group has the distinct preference to serve whites. For this reason, I have come to view diversity as a very separate subject from inclusion. Diversity generally seeks to attract participation from less served constituencies in order to put aside any sense that racism is tolerated within the club or group. But inclusion is focused on exploring the structure and behavioral aspects of the group, while examining how those factors can be updated to provide an equivalent and very welcoming footing for as many different types and walks of people as possible.

The organized chaos of people learning new skills, trying out new gear, bonding and sharing hard won knowledge was a great way to get to know new trail buddies and bridge the various gaps of race, class, gender, and generations. These differences faded into the background as we embarked on a shared adventure together. Each one of the participants appeared to be enthusiastic about being there. All were deeply intelligent, thoughtful, and thoroughly committed to being on the trail and determined to put forward their personal best. Each participant had a strong sense of personal worth and a deep

awareness of their heritage of struggle as the descendants of immigrants, ethnic minorities, or historically disenfranchised people. To pretend that divisions of race, gender, religion, or class are not relevant on the trail would be like pretending such things are no longer relevant in America. Obviously the newspaper headlines tell us otherwise. As an ambassador old enough to be a parent to many of them, I enjoyed

sharing my skills and experiences, and I learned from them in turn.

To me, as a volunteer, hiker, and African American, there is something inherently democratic about a foot trail that people can use to walk from one end of our country to the other for free and to experience some of the most amazing places and spaces that have yet to be destroyed by sprawl, privatization, and industrialization. The fact that the trail is a labor of love, maintained by countless volunteers, I feel assures that its heritage and its future remains connected to a sense of values and stewardship that would and should thrive even more with deeper representation from a wider and more diverse pool of hikers, maintainers, and advocates. The prospect of any great conservation endeavor that relies solely on one class of people to save it, would seem doomed to failure as a question of logic. Trail users and its stewards must become more diverse to both survive and become authentic in its aims. The Summit Seekers have taken these steps down an entirely new trail, one of many steps being taken toward that vision.



Links to a webinar and more articles:  
[www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/](http://www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/)



## Summit Seekers

### ABOUT

An intergenerational outdoor leadership training program designed to foster inclusion and engagement of communities of color with traditional outdoor recreation and promote environmental stewardship.



[www.summitseekersweb.wordpress.com](http://www.summitseekersweb.wordpress.com)

### COLLABORATORS



### OTHER PROGRAMS

The Partnership for the National Trails System has reported on similar outreach activities with other trail organizations in previous issues of *Pathways*, including the Autumn 2014 Youth Report. These examples have also helped build the capacity of the National Trails System.

#### Environmental Charter School Program:

Pacific Crest Trail Association

#### Seeds of Stewardship:

Arizona Trail Association

#### Saunters:

Ice Age Trail Alliance



[www.pnts.org/new/autumn-2014-youth-report/](http://www.pnts.org/new/autumn-2014-youth-report/)

# USFS announces trail maintenance priority areas, strategy, fundamentals guidebook

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) incorporates several standardized trail management concepts and tools in the administration and management of over 150,000 miles of National Forest System trails. These tools help ensure that each trail is designed, constructed, and maintained to provide the desired user experience and meet the management intent for the trail.



The announcement was made to national trails partners in February during Hike the Hill. Among the trails that meet the requirements of the National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act of 2016 and are included in the trail maintenance priority areas are:

- Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- Iditarod National Historic Trail
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

## PRIORITY AREAS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently selected 15 Trail Maintenance Priority Areas to help address the more than \$300 million trail maintenance backlog on national forests and grasslands. Focused trail work in these areas, bolstered by partners and volunteers, is expected to help address needed infrastructure work so that trails managed by the USFS can be accessed and safely enjoyed by a wide variety of trails enthusiasts. About 25 percent of agency trails fit those standards while the condition of other trails lag behind.

## STRATEGY

In October 2017, the USDA published the "National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System," which has been sent to USFS offices and national trail partners. This strategy establishes a bold vision for a sustainable trail system achieved through collaborative stewardship. It identifies core values to guide implementation and outlines a series of strategic actions to leverage critical investments in agency and partner leader intent and resources toward achieving a 10-year action plan.

In achieving a sustainable trail system, the USFS faces six areas that require action: leader

intent, organization and talent, relevancy, sustainable systems, agency processes and culture, and information. Each of these can be scaled and adapted to inspire change at all levels of the agency, as well as with partners, volunteers, and friends.

## GUIDEBOOK

The USDA and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) also published an updated version of the "Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives" guidebook. Trail Fundamentals include five key concepts that are cornerstones of USFS trail management: trail type, trail class, managed use, designed use, and trail design parameters.



Full list of trail maintenance priority areas:  
[www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/usda-secretary-announces-infrastructure-improvements-forest-system-trails](http://www.fs.fed.us/news/releases/usda-secretary-announces-infrastructure-improvements-forest-system-trails)  
 Additional trail management tools:  
[www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/trail-management/index.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/trail-management/index.shtml)

## NPS Traffic Safety Coalition recognizes Supt. Mary Risser

by Partnership for the National Trails System

Adapted from NPS website and February 21, 2018 news release

The National Park Service (NPS) Traffic Safety Coalition recognized Mary Risser as the 2017 Superintendent of the Year. Risser has been the Superintendent of Natchez Trace Parkway, which also administers the Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail, since 2013. Each year the Traffic Safety Coalition searches out superintendents who have made a positive impact on the safety of our employees and visitors, particularly in the area of highway safety.



Mary Risser



"Rangers are employing a variety of techniques to reduce motorists' speed on the Parkway, including running saturation patrols, patrolling with unmarked vehicles, and targeting aggressive drivers," Risser said. "The Parkway is also conducting various studies to learn where collisions and fatalities are most common on the Parkway and researching ways to make these areas safer. Our top priority is to enhance the safety for all Parkway users."

## Vickie Christiansen appointed Interim Chief of U.S. Forest Service

by Partnership for the National Trails System

Adapted from USFS social media and March 9, 2018 AP article

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has recently experienced a change in leadership in the agency. The 18th Chief, Tony Tooke, announced his retirement on March 7, 2018, and Vickie Christiansen has been appointed Interim Chief.

According to a USFS Facebook post, "Christiansen was previously the Deputy Chief of State and Private



Vickie Christiansen

Forestry in the agency and brings with her the experience of a long career in forestry, natural resources, and fire leadership positions."

The Associated Press reported that Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue said Christiansen is tasked with "improving the agency's response to sexual misconduct while effectively managing more than 300,000 square miles of forests and grasslands in 43 States and Puerto Rico."



USFS statement on "PBS NewsHour" article:  
[www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/jiron\\_pbs\\_statement.pdf](http://www.fs.fed.us/sites/default/files/jiron_pbs_statement.pdf)  
 Christiansen's "Leadership Corner" video and blog post:  
[www.fs.fed.us/blogs/standing-one-another](http://www.fs.fed.us/blogs/standing-one-another)

# Event Calendar



[www.pnts.org/new/events/](http://www.pnts.org/new/events/)

May 13-16, 2018	Mid-America Trails & Greenways Conference	Columbus, OH	<a href="http://www.matag.org">www.matag.org</a>
June 2, 2018	<b>American Hiking Society's National Trails Day</b>	<b>Nationwide</b>	<b><a href="http://www.nationaltrailsday.org">www.nationaltrailsday.org</a></b>
June 20-30, 2018	National Pony Express Association's Re-Ride	Sacramento, CA to St. Joseph, MO	<a href="http://www.nationalponyexpress.org">www.nationalponyexpress.org</a>
August 3-11, 2018	Nez Perce Trail Foundation's Summer Educational Trail Tour	Yellowstone NP, WY to Bears Paw Battlefield, MT	<a href="http://www.nezperce-trail.net">www.nezperce-trail.net</a>
August 22-25, 2018	Fourth Biennial Student Congress on Public Policy for Land Management	Baker City, OR	<a href="http://www.publicland.org">www.publicland.org</a>
October 22-25, 2018	<b>16th Biennial National Trails System Conference</b>	<b>Vancouver, WA</b>	<b><a href="http://www.pnts.org">www.pnts.org</a></b>

# Webinar Series



[www.pnts.org/new/webinars/](http://www.pnts.org/new/webinars/)

## Introduction to Trail Safe! Online Trail Safety Training Videos

**When:** March 12, 2018

**Presenter:** Dan Watson, *Trail Safe!* creator and the National Park Service (NPS) Acting Superintendent and Volunteer Coordinator for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail

**About:** Trail enthusiasts from across the country participated in the webinar, "Introduction to Trail Safe! Online Trail Safety Training Videos," hosted jointly by American Trails and the Partnership for the National Trails System. Watson spoke about the need for safety training and provided background information on how the program came into existence through its strong connection to NPS Operational

Leadership. He also previewed representative content from each of the eight Trail Safe! lessons and concluded the webinar by offering a "starter kit" to trail groups who are interested in sharing Trail Safe! with their local audiences in a self-sufficient format.



Click the Training tab to watch the webinar:

**[www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)**

Email Dan Watson for Trail Safe! starter kits:

**[daniel\\_watson@nps.gov](mailto:daniel_watson@nps.gov)**

## Best Practices for Recruiting and Engaging Volunteer Board Members

**When:** May 8, 2018 at 3PM EDT

**Presenter:** Sandi Marra, Principal Consultant with Marra Consulting Group, LLC

## Best Practices in Engaging Young Adults

**When:** June 15, 2018 at 1PM EDT

**Presenters:** Appalachian Trail Conservancy's Next Generation Council

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**Instagram:**

[@nationaltrailssystem](https://www.instagram.com/nationaltrailssystem)

**Pathways and e-News:**

[communication@pnts.org](mailto:communication@pnts.org)



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Luke Klobberdanz • Ice Age Trail Alliance

### PNTS Treasurer:

Christy Corzine

### PNTS Trail Leaders Council Chair:

RG Absher • Overmountain Victory Trail Association

### National Historic Trails Representative:

James L. Mallory • Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

### National Scenic Trails Representative:

Mike Wollmer • Ice Age Trail Alliance

Cosmo Catalano • Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Kathy DeCoster

Steve Elkinton

Margaret Gorski • Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Deloris Gray Wood • Trail of Tears Association

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RG Absher • Overmountain Victory Trail Association

### National Historic Trails Representative:

James L. Mallory • Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

### National Scenic Trails Representative:

Mike Wollmer • Ice Age Trail Alliance

Dennis Hart • Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Elizabeth Stewart • Anza Trail Foundation

Bridget Likely • Appalachian Mountain Club (NET)

Cosmo Catalano • Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Matt Nelson • Arizona Trail Association

Susan Shingledecker • Chesapeake Conservancy

Clare Cain • Connecticut Forest & Park Association (NET)

Teresa Martinez • Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Jim Wolf • Continental Divide Trail Society

Marcie Davis • E Mau Nā Ala Hele (Ala Kahakai NHT)

Steven Gonzales • El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association

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Judy Bittner • Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Lindy Hatcher • Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

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Tony Turnbow • Natchez Trace Parkway Association

Pat Hearty • National Pony Express Association

Ellen von Karajan • National Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route NHT Association, Inc. (W3R-US)

Jim Zimmerman • Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Andrea Ketchmark • North Country Trail Association

Reba Wells Grandrud • Old Spanish Trail Association

Bill Martin • Oregon-California Trails Association

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Jeff Kish • Pacific Northwest Trail Association

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