

# STATE OF THE TRAILS

California National Historic Trail



Photo Credit: Bart Smith

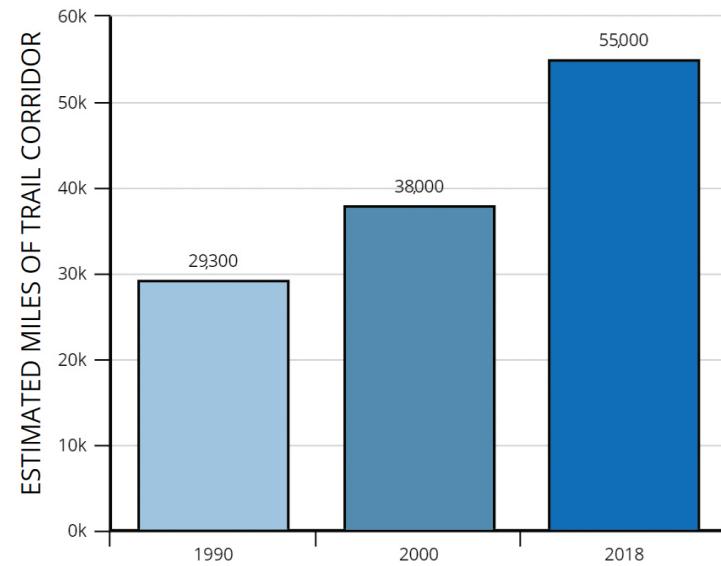
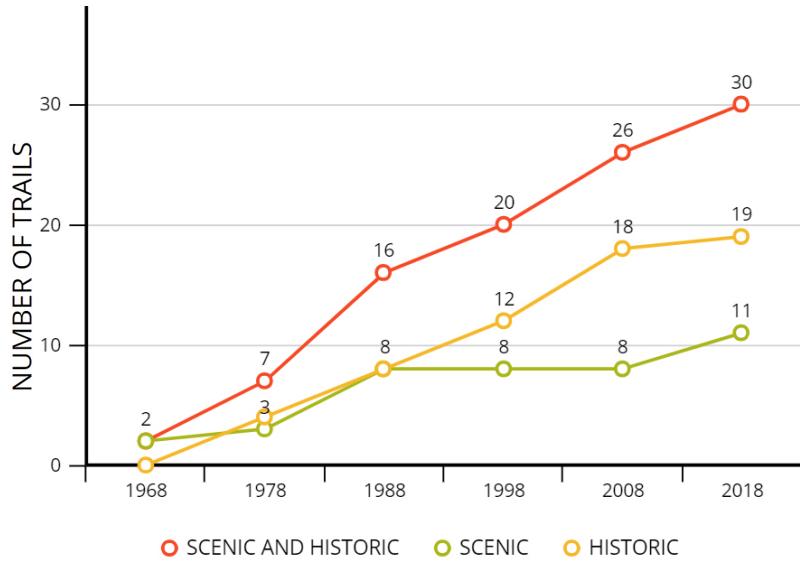
## PROGRESS REPORT

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), in collaboration with the nonprofit trail organizations and Federal agency partners that represent the 30 national scenic and historic trails, is compiling data to create a State of the Trails report using the 50th Anniversary of the National Trails System as a benchmark.

Some of the information about the National Trails System, including the number of miles and historic sites permanently protected, is tracked irregularly or with varying degrees of certainty. The 2018 partial government shutdown also impacted the ability of our nonprofit partners to locate some components of their trail's information. PNTS will continue to collect and provide information trusting that the data will become more complete over time.

The intent of this preliminary version of the State of the Trails report is to briefly capture the range and variety of resources, values, connections, and benefits the National Trails System provides to the nation. The full report will be available upon completion at [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org).

## GROWTH OF THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



DISCOVER

- CONNECT

- EXPLORE

# NATIONAL SCENIC AND HISTORIC TRAIL CONNECTIONS



49 States and D.C.	70 Wildlife refuges	84 National parks	89 National forests	100 Major urban areas
101 Bureau of Land Management office areas	129 Trail Towns or Gateway Communities			149 Nationally designated wilderness areas

**74%** of the U.S. population lives within a **1 hour drive** of a national scenic or historic trail

*Source: Based on 2010 U.S. Census Data*

## REACH OF 2018 PROGRAMS

Approximately **143,187** people were engaged through programs, including:

**49,288** school-age children (K-12)



**9,697** young adults (ages 18-24)

More than **2,266** educational activities, events, and programs were conducted, including:

**498** involving traditionally under-represented children/adults

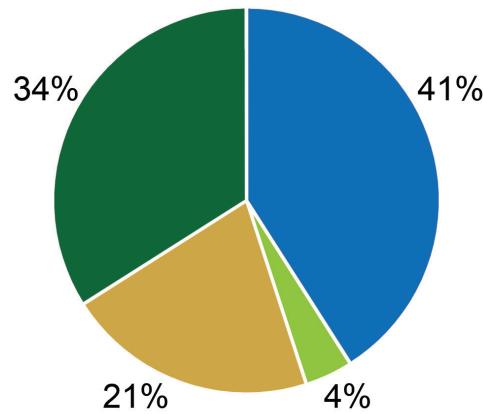


**49** benefiting veterans

*Source: Estimates collected through Partnership for the National Trails System survey based on programming operated by Federal and nonprofit trail partners in 2018.*

## 2018 NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM PUBLIC/PRIVATE TOTAL VALUE

**\$70,150,307**



*Source: Estimates collected through Partnership for the National Trails System annual Gold Sheet reports and Congressional appropriations*

## FUNDAMENTAL CHALLENGES OF THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

- **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.

