

A PUBLICATION OF THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



Pathways

Across America WINTER 2019-2020



TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS

2019 achievements toward the Decade Goals by trail partners

OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

RESOURCE PROTECTION AND TRAIL COMPLETION

CAPACITY BUILDING

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), almost 1,300 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 50 States and the District of Columbia 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 28,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
- 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 the District of Columbia, and 8,000 miles in progress

www.railstotrails.org



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

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, including 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 several modes of travel designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many NHTs have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they also 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

The Ice Age Trail Alliance's "Be Blissful" Trailtessa event, part of REI's Force of Nature campaign, featured a snowshoe hike along the trail through Hartman Creek State Park. Photo Credit: Lysianne Unruh, IATA

INSIDE

Left: Chesapeake Conservancy's bilingual interpretive outreach program at Sandy Point State Park, Maryland. Photo Credit: Kelsey Everett
Center: A "cabalgata" (horseback ride) pilgrimage to Sonora along the historic Anza Trail corridor. Photo Credit: Christopher Bentley, NPS
Right: A young hiker stops to look at a Ponderosa pine near the Pacific Crest Trail. In seeking to protect these lands, the Michigan-California Timber Company recognized the public values of the Trinity Divide outweighed those of the timber values. Photo Credit: Megan Wargo, PCTA

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

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. 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. Highlights have been edited for space and clarity.



View more highlights and photos from 2019:
www.pnts.org/new/category/pathways/



The National Trails System

Journeys of discovery beyond the tread and ruts

In 1991, leaders of the national scenic and historic trail organizations began a journey together. The journey is a long quest to realize the full potential and purpose of the National Trails System. Like journeys taken along these trails, this has been and continues to be a journey of discovery and learning.

At first, just like hikers on the trails, the focus was mostly on placing one foot ahead of the other on the trail tread or carefully following the ruts and other historic traces. Now, somewhere midway in our journey, some have realized that the trail tread, ruts, and other historic traces—while essential and necessary to these trails—are not the end, but rather are only the beginning of the journey. A further understanding has grown that the quality of our journey—like an inspiring trip along one of the trails—is as important, perhaps more important, than the arrival at the destination. The quality of the journey depends on a number of factors, including the landscape surrounding the trail and the people with whom we share the journey.

Scanning the landscapes traversed by the national scenic and historic trails—not just the physical features of the land, but the variety of ecosystems and the patterns of watercourses that drain the land—provide a deeper appreciation of the significance and value of these trails. Some of the national scenic and historic trail organizations are understanding their trails in ways far beyond a focus on just their treads or ruts.

For instance, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, recognizing the hydrologic significance of the route the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CDT) tread traces on the land, has decided to map the trail as the head of all the watersheds along it. Besides providing an exciting new way of understanding the geography of the CDT, this approach helps reveal another way the trail connects and benefits people and communities many miles from the tread itself. This understanding provides another reason to protect the land and resources through which the trail passes, and it also gives new people interested in protecting water quality and quantity rather than long-distance hiking reason to join the efforts to protect the integrity of the CDT. The Pacific Crest Trail Association is embarking on a similar mapping recognition of watersheds along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

In a similar "beyond the tread" activity, segments of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IAT) are helping to preserve, restore, and link together small remnants of the prairie and oak savanna communities that are now rare but once were the dominant native ecosystems in southern Wisconsin. This work to restore and manage these ecosystems complements the trail making of the Ice Age Trail Alliance and is akin to the work of organizations, like The Nature Conservancy, focused on ecological preservation and restoration. The Ice Age Trail Alliance has gained recognition within the environmental community focused on land preservation for ecological purposes. With that recognition has come help to preserve more land for the IAT from both local governments and land trusts, as well as inspired more volunteers to help manage the lands within the trail corridor. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has done similar work to keep open the "balds" along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail in the southern Appalachian Mountains for decades.

Within our national trails community we are also developing a much greater appreciation for the cultural dimensions of the landscapes traversed by our scenic and historic trails. Acting on those realizations has resulted in several of our trail organizations making common cause with Native Americans to preserve common sacred ground. Over the past several years, the Chesapeake Conservancy has worked with leaders of the Rappahannock Tribe to preserve two sites sacred to the Tribe and critical for protecting the ecology and scenic quality of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Werowocomoco was the site of one of the largest Indian communities along the East Coast 400 years ago, and the recently acquired Fones Cliffs is another site sacred to the Tribe that also is a roosting area for bald eagles and habitat for a wide array of species. Both areas were purchased using Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money.

Way to the west in the mid-Pacific, leaders of the Ala Kahakai Trail Association—some of whom are Native Hawaiians—have been working with the State of Hawaii and the National Park Service to preserve sacred sites along the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail. Kaunamano and Waikapuna are two of these

places that preserve rich Hawaiian cultural sites while also protecting the integrity of the historic trail for recreational use. Money from the State of Hawaii and the LWCF has been used to acquire these special places.

Just as all of our national scenic and historic trails either help define or pass through watersheds and ecologically critical areas, they all travel lands once lived upon by Native Americans. If we act upon these understandings of the larger geography of each of our national scenic and historic trails, we will have many more opportunities to demonstrate the multidimensional value of our trails and make common cause with much broader communities of people.

Another major dimension of expanding the geography of our trails beyond their tread and ruts and enriching the companionship for our journey are the justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (JEDI) initiatives now underway within the Partnership and a number of our trail organizations. These efforts to include people who have traditionally not been involved in the national scenic and historic trails—either as users or helpers to sustain them—is an emulation and expansion of the "Tent of Many Voices" that was a key component of the Signature Events held along the route to commemorate the Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition early in this century. Now with more understanding and heightened sensitivity, we have numerous opportunities to expand and enrich the companionship for our journey and to add a rich diversity of voices to the choir telling the many-faceted stories of our trails.

After nearly 30 years of travel together and midway through our journey to realize the full potential and dream of the National Trails System, we have many new opportunities to demonstrate the physiographic, ecological, and cultural significance and benefit of our national trails. We also have many new opportunities to share the journey with new companions from all the cultures and communities of America and to add their voices to ours telling the stories inherent in the trails. Let us continue to explore and actualize these opportunities as we enjoy our journey together.

Good and inspiring travels!

Gary Werner

PNTS hires Interim Executive Director and Advocacy and Policy Director

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) Board of Directors has approved the hiring of an Interim Executive Director and an Advocacy and Policy Director to lead the Partnership during a nine-month transition period before a permanent Executive Director is appointed.

Both actions were based on recommendations from the Transition Task Force, which has been working for nearly a year to prepare for the retirement of Executive Director Gary Werner on February 9, 2020.

Karen Crossley, of Madison, WI, began serving as Interim Executive Director on Jan. 21, 2020. She has extensive experience in nonprofit organizations, management, and fundraising, and has served as an Interim Executive Director for two Madison based organizations—Sustain Dane and The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools.

Karen will work closely with the Board in managing financial activities, staff and contractors, coordinating activities of the Trail Leaders Council, preparing the organization to move its offices to Washington, D.C., and assuring that the organization is aligned with its existing Strategic Plan, among other duties.

In addition, former PNTS Board Member Kathy DeCoster, who recently retired as Vice President and Director of Federal Affairs at The Trust for Public Land, has agreed to serve as a contractor and coordinate the Partnership's work on advocacy and policy issues from Jan. 21, 2020 to mid-September 2020.

Kathy will keep the PNTS Board and Trail Leaders Council up to date on Federal policy issues, work with the Advocacy and Policy Committee, represent PNTS at Congressional hearings, and help maintain and strengthen communications with our Federal agency partners.

Both Crossley and DeCoster will also be involved in planning for and participating in Hike the Hill, February 8-13, 2020, in Washington, D.C.

"We are delighted to have both Karen Crossley and Kathy DeCoster joining our team of trails professionals," said Liz Bergeron, Chair of the Transition Task Force. "They bring the exceptional experience and expertise that we need during a time of transition and immense change."

"We appreciate Gary Werner's willingness to work with Karen and Kathy and share his extraordinary expertise as he winds down his decades-long leadership of the Partnership," said Barney Mann, PNTS Board President.

The Task Force expects to begin a search for a permanent Executive Director immediately after Hike the Hill aiming toward a September 2020 start date.



Gary Werner



Karen Crossley



Kathy DeCoster



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.

National Trails Decade Goals

1 OUTREACH AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

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.

2 RESOURCE PROTECTION AND TRAIL COMPLETION

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). This goal was devised to focus attention on these critical deficiencies and to accelerate efforts to "complete" the scenic and historic trails, which includes completing inventories of the natural and cultural resources, mapping of the routes of all national scenic and historic trails, and on-the-ground trail work.

3 CAPACITY BUILDING

Capacity building intertwines people, systems, and partnerships. This goal is about providing the underlying resources and systems, including developing needed to make public visibility and engagement and conservation of land and heritage possible. Examples include hiring new staff and developing volunteer recruitment programs, board member trainings, and strategic plans.

* These descriptions have been modified for space. View the full versions: www.pnts.org/new/decade-for-the-national-trails-goals/



For more updates from the PNTS Transition Task Force, visit:

[www.pnts.org/new/
pnts-leadership-and-headquarters-update/](http://www.pnts.org/new/pnts-leadership-and-headquarters-update/)

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC)

Outreach

- **Next Generation** — ATC held regional Next Gen summits, affinity groups, activities, and supported its Next Generation Advisory Council.
- **Partnerships** — ATC and partners hosted four Youth Summits, including the first-ever Everybody's Environment Emerging Leaders (E3) Summit in North Carolina. ATC constructed a half-mile relocation of the trail with LatinXhikers and the Georgia A.T. Club. Supported by ATC and REI, women gathered under the banner "Wild East Women" through seven trail maintenance work trips.
- **Trail Towns** — ATC added its 48th A.T. Community with the designation of Round Hill, VA.



Photo Credit: E3 Summit

Protection

- **Land** — ATC worked with partners and used Land and Water Conservation Fund monies to purchase the 243-acre "Hogan Hollow," a vital stretch of land that will help expand the footpath's corridor and preserve the views from McAfee Knob, which were at risk due to threats from development.
- **Threatened Species** — ATC and partners removed trail obstructions and restored stream environments to support fish migration within the 100 Mile Wilderness waterways, restored high elevation spruce stands in the Roan Highlands, and prioritized trail relocation, interpretive signage, and Visitor Use Management planning processes to protect a globally imperiled plant species on Spy Rock in Virginia.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — ATC appointed Sandra Marra the President/CEO of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and hired a new CFO and VP of Advancement.
- **Strategic Plan** — ATC staff and the Strategic Directions Committee of ATC's Board of Directors held partner and stakeholder discussions and surveys as part of the development of its next strategic plan.
- **Volunteerism** — ATC registered 163 new people for volunteer events hosted by 23 A.T. clubs through listings on ATC's website.
- **GIS** — NPS released the first edition of the trail's Facility Inventory Portfolio GIS Data WebApp, a web-based GIS tool that provides AT managers with integrated FMSS data that can be used to plan projects and create maps.



Arizona Trail Association (ATA)



Photo Credit: Zara Bauer

Outreach

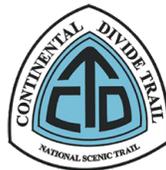
- **Partnerships** — ATA led outdoor experiences with groups that represent Latino, LGBTQ, disabled, and college age communities. ATA strengthened partnerships with Navajo and Hopi native communities and developed an interpretive sign that integrates cultural information from an indigenous perspective with names of the local mountains in eight native languages.
- **Programs** — ATA attracted over 500 new outdoor enthusiasts to the trail and nonprofit with its "Arizona Trail in a Day" initiative.

Protection

- **Construction** — ATA completed an 18-mile reroute to replace U.S. Forest Service roads and a 4.6-mile reroute to replace dirt roads and dry creek beds. These singletrack construction projects will minimize motorized interface, add recreational value, and increase scenic qualities.
- **Installations** — ATA installed 11 new steel gates to protect the trail from motorized impacts, 1,580 feet of log fences at trailheads, and three new Gateway Community signs. ATA fabricated and installed a remote rainwater collector.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — ATA promoted its Volunteer Coordinator to a full-time position.
- **Volunteerism** — ATA developed a new volunteer management and recognition system, including an independent website for promoting volunteer opportunities and reporting hours.
- **Trainings** — ATA expanded its Trail Skills Institute offerings for 62 people and held a Regional Steward Meeting and Northern Arizona Steward Gathering.



Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC)

Outreach

- **Partnerships** — CDTC launched "Faces of the Continental Divide," an effort to celebrate diversity along the CDT, which engaged over 2,000 people trail wide and 30 participating partners. CDTC partnered with youth groups and diverse programs to help steward the CDT. CDTC engaged with Members of Congress and got Rep. Xochitl Torres Small, Sen. Cory Gardner, and Rep. Joe Neguse out on the trail.



Photo Credit: Ruan Copeland

Protection

- **LWCF** — CDTC released a second small business survey highlighting the importance of the CDT and Land and Water Conservation Fund protection efforts across the trail.
- **Maintenance** — CDTC saw a 25% increase in trail adopters and maintainers through its Adopt a Trail Program.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — CDTC hired its first ever Trail and Lands Conservation Specialist to help ramp up its land protection efforts. USFS hired a Resource Assistant to improve CDT GIS data management.
- **Strategic Plan** — CDTC launched its second strategic planning effort and engaged nearly 1,000 people in the process through online surveys, in person interviews, and a stakeholder summit. The plan will be completed in the winter of 2020 and CDTC will begin to use that plan to chart its growth for the next three years.
- **Documentation** — CDTC continued working on its State of the Trail report. The USFS developed a new website for the CDT with a management toolbox page, which includes a list of best management practices for planning and implementing vegetation treatments along the CDT and guiding principles for management of trail uses on the CDT.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Florida Trail Association (FTA)

Outreach

- **Trail Towns** — FTA added two new towns to its revitalized Gateway Community program and received a \$25,000 grant to install dedicated kiosks in four Gateway Communities.
- **Programs** — FTA hosted the Wild and Scenic Film Festival for 400 participants, raising \$2,000.
- **Documentation** — FTA published a Junior Explorer book in English and Spanish.



Protection

- **Construction** — FTA purchased an easement that reopened a 5-mile section of the trail, eliminating a 2.5-mile road walk. FTA leveraged new partnerships to complete a 5.3-mile reroute which removed 3.2 miles of road walk. More than 2,000 volunteer hours and an extensive collaboration between FTA, USFS, and several other community partners were dedicated to the construction of the 70-foot Alaqua “Demon” Bridge, the trail’s newest and longest suspension bridge, in Eglin, FL.
- **Maintenance** — FTA involved 13 partner groups in trail maintenance.



Capacity

- **Trainings** — FTA held its annual Trail Skills Training for 65 participants.
- **Staffing** — FTA’s Board of Directors hired a firm to aid in the hiring of an Executive Director.
- **Membership** — FTA conducted two membership drives with raffling gear donated by corporate sponsors.
- **Strategic Plan** — USFS reached its five year (2018-2023) strategic plan goal of adding 50 miles to the Florida Trail three years early (nearly six miles were added in 2019).

Photo Credit: Van Tran, FTA



Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA)

Outreach

- **Technology** — IATA used targeted ads for its Trailtessa Retreats and trailbuilding efforts, grew its social media following by 16% for a year-end total of over 30,000 followers, and introduced nearly 150,000 individuals to its work through a year-end video campaign.
- **Programs** — IATA held successful Trailtessa Retreats in partnership with the REI Force of Nature initiative. Over 650 women and girls explored the trail at nine events across Wisconsin, including a snowshoe hike, introduction to camping, summer picnic, fall colors hike, and two multi-day and night backpacking trips. IATA worked with schools and students of all ages for its youth education Saunters program, conducting service learning projects, day hikes, and a summer school program. IATA received funding from the National Park Foundation through Think Outside to expand Saunters in 2019-2020 by working with 2,000 fourth graders from 30 schools.



Photo Credit: Dave Callebe, IATA

Protection

- **Land** — IATA’s total number of properties acquired and (future) trail miles protected is the lowest in decades; however, successes were the variety of ways that land was protected in 2019. IATA acquired land in fee where it once held an easement; sold fee land and retained an easement on another property; and moved quickly to purchase a parcel within a couple months of being offered the property. NPS protected 40 acres of trail corridor land in Langlade County through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and in partnership for the Ice Age NST.
- **Signage** — IATA created and installed a six-panel wayside exhibit at the historic Merrimac Ferry crossing of the trail on Wisconsin Department of Transportation land. IATA developed a template for You-Are-Here signage, being piloted in two counties, with four additional counties in the wings.
- **Planning** — Concurrent with the development of a USFS-IATA-NPS Memorandum of Understanding and with the development of a Trail Management plan, 47 miles of trail, including existing infrastructure, and 30 trail relocations, ranging from 200 feet to 3 miles in length, were assessed throughout the Chequamegon National Forest. Additionally, macro analysis is planned for new trail development in an area encompassing an additional 3,000 acres in the national forest.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — IATA created and filled two new staff positions: Field Operations Coordinator and Land Steward. IATA successfully piloted a “Seasonal Trail Crew” initiative by hiring and managing five young adults ages 18-25.
- **Strategic Plan** — IATA began planning for a new strategic planning process. The current plan ends December 2020.
- **Trainings** — IATA held another year of Ice Age Trail University and Crew Leader Skills trainings.



Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail

Outreach

- **Partnerships** — NPS partnered with the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail to designate a crossing of the trails in Alabama as an official Trail of Tears site. The “Water Route Overlook” is the location where the Tennessee River and the Natchez Trace Parkway and Natchez Trace NST intersect.

Protection

- **Maintenance** — Local trail stewards and the Southeast Conservation Corps rehabilitated 10 miles of the Highland Rim section. The Youth Conservation Corps and Boy Scouts of America collectively repaired over 700 feet of boardwalk along the Blackland Prairie section. Contractors removed over 500 downed timber from 16 miles of the Yockanookany section.

Capacity

- **Trainings** — NPS provided half-day training sessions to teach trail maintenance techniques to trail stewards for the Highland Rim and Blackland Prairie sections.
- **Funding** — NPS allocated over \$3 million for the replacement of deteriorating structures along the Blackland Prairie and Yockanookany sections of the trail; construction is set to begin in 2021.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC)

Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA)

Outreach

- **Programs** — AMC and CFPA celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the NET's designation as a national scenic trail with special events, programs, and a new "Hike100" component of the Hike50 Challenge. The National Park Foundation led a NET Meet-up/Teach-up with activities, learning, and a hike on the NET at Penwood State Park in collaboration with the trail's Artist-in-Residence, Marisa Williamson, who explored untold stories of the trail's past through her project "Monuments to Escape."



Photo Credit: CFPA

Protection

- **Land** — Protected 23 acres in Easthampton, MA for new trailhead access; this acquisition will include access to rail trails, a handicap accessible overlook, new trailhead parking, and provide critical habitat protection.
- **Planning** — Conducted extensive GIS mapping and analysis of unprotected parcels on the NET on the Connecticut portion of the trail.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — NPS Trail Administrator Charlie Tracy retired after 31 years with the National Park Service and 10 years with the New England Trail. The NET welcomed new NPS Trail Administrator Andrew Long.
- **Trainings** — NPS and nonprofit partners offered employment experience to NET's youth crews, who completed much-needed projects on the trail and gained training in Leave No Trace ethics, chainsaw skills, carpentry, first aid, rigging, and leadership.



North Country Trail Association (NCTA)



Outreach

- **Programs** — NCTA celebrated the fourth year of the Hike 100 program, encouraging hikers to log 100 miles on the North Country NST; over 1,000 finishers are anticipated.
- **Next Generation** — NCTA connected over 50 members ages 18-28 in the second year of its Next Generation Coalition. Nine members attended the first ever "Next Gen Summit" in Michigan's Porcupine Wilderness State Park, where members completed a trail construction project and planned for the future of the Coalition.
- **Maps** — NCTA completed a multi-year technical series map project, creating 445 free downloadable trail section maps; the maps were downloaded 36,285 times by NCT users.



Photo Credit: Emily Rodriguez

Protection

- **Legislation** — The North Country National Scenic Trail Route Adjustment was signed into law as part of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, which authorizes the Minnesota Arrowhead reroute and extends the NCT's eastern terminus into Vermont, connecting with the Appalachian Trail.
- **Documentation** — NCTA revised and updated its Trail Protection Handbook and Options for Landowners brochure, providing volunteers with valuable resources to permanently protect the NCT's corridor.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — NPS hired Christopher Loudenslager as the new NCT Superintendent. NCTA welcomed a new Director of Development and Communications.
- **Strategic Plan** — NCTA staff, board, and partners are working on a new strategic plan to guide the future work of the organization, expected to be completed in early 2020.



Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)

Outreach

- **Programs** — PCTA volunteers, with guidance from staff, developed a Tabling Program, which provides branded canopies, map banners, and messaging to increase awareness of PCTA's mission and work at a variety of events.
- **Awards** — The PCT was honored with the 2019 Regional Treasurer Award by the California Parks and Recreation Society and the Partnership for Quality Living for contributing to the local economy and quality of life of State residents and providing an opportunity for self-improvement and outdoor education.

Protection

- **Land** — A total of 17 once private miles of the PCT are now in public ownership after a five-year combined effort that included the PCTA, USFS, The Trust for Public Land, the Michigan-California Timber Company, and the surrounding local communities. This 10,300-acre Trinity Divide acquisition in Northern California will create new public access for hikers, horseback riders, campers, hunters, and anglers along this scenic stretch of the PCT, including new legal access to 10 alpine lakes and many streams. Funding for the project came from private donations, The Wyss Foundation, and the Land and Water Conservation Fund.
- **Documentation** — The Inyo National Forest Plan was finalized and contains the first PCT Management Area with specific guidance for the desired conditions and providing for the nature and purposes of the trail.



Photo Credit: Rachid Dahmoun

Capacity

- **Staffing** — PCTA hired a Volunteer Outreach Intern for six months using funding from a PNTS grant to support volunteer recruitment and communications. Thanks to the success of Mila Benson's internship, the PCTA hired her as a full-time Volunteer Programs Outreach Associate as of January 2020.
- **Programs** — USFS's Crest Runner and Trailhead Host program contacted 3,270 PCT hikers and equestrians in Cleveland and Inyo National Forests; the education efforts saw a decrease in trash, water caches, and toilet paper along the PCT's southernmost 100 miles.

NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS



Pacific Northwest
Trail Association
(PNTA)



Outreach

- **Trail Towns** — PNTA developed an Interpretive Kiosk Planning Guide to be used to inform and standardize the design and installation of informational kiosks in Gateway Communities along the length of the Pacific Northwest NST. The kiosk guide was developed throughout a pilot trail town project to erect the PNTA's first interpretive kiosk near the halfway point of the PNT in Oroville, WA. The project built off a foundation laid by a previous internship facilitated through a partnership between the USFS, PNTA, and Western Washington University to develop an interpretive plan for the PNT. PNTA tested best practices for community engagement and developed a template for partnering with local land managers on content design and shared shared responsibility for maintenance and upkeep.
- **Partnerships** — The Pacific Northwest Region and Northern Region of the USFS signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho (KTOI) to establish Government-to-Government consultation and coordination on the PNT. A team of staff members from KTOI, the USFS PNT program, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and the Kootenai National Forest meets monthly to discuss concerns and opportunities to work together, and identify issues to bring to the Tribal Council and USFS leadership. The relationship and coordination between KTOI and USFS was highlighted in a jointly written USFS Office of Tribal Relations blog post honoring Native American Heritage Month in November.

Protection

- **Maintenance** — PNTA prioritized restoration of the PNT in Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest. The trail goes nearly 100 miles through the Pasayten Wilderness in the Methow Valley Ranger District, one of 15 USFS Trail Maintenance Priority Areas.



Photo Credit: Michael Sawiel

Two PNTA Performance Trail Crews, made up of youth and young adults from trailside communities, performed a combined 80 crew days of log out along the PNT within the wilderness, contributing significantly to a combined effort involving multiple PNTA partners which removed over 1,000 trees that had accumulated over the PNT after several years of catastrophic wildfire.

Capacity

- **Infrastructure** — PNTA relocated to the heart of historic downtown Sedro-Woolley, WA after nearly 20 years in the same office location. The new headquarters location, which has a flexible layout to accommodate a growing staff and network of volunteers, was selected to fulfill PNTA's vision to operate as a hub of trailwide operations and as a Pacific Northwest Trail visitor center.
- **Volunteerism** — USFS established a gear library for use by volunteers and youth crew participants for whom lack of access to appropriate gear for backcountry work and travel would otherwise be a barrier to participation, building upon the Challenge Cost Share agreement with PNTA for collaborative management and administration of the PNT.



Photo Credit: PHTA



Potomac Heritage
Trail Association
(PHTA)



Protection

- **Partnerships** — PHTA played a key role in formulating a new initiative, Loudoun County Linear Parks and Trails Committee, approved by the county supervisors, prioritizing completion of the Potomac Heritage NST and trails along major streams; one key project is a loop trail between the PHNST and the Washington and Old Dominion Rail Trail. PHTA worked closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation to support the integration of trails as major local highways (I-495 and I-66) are being widened. The result will be a PHNST gap being filled with several miles of trails on the quiet side of noise walls, and a new trail link across the Potomac between McLean, VA and the C&O Canal Towpath.

Capacity

- **Funding** — PHTA, using \$24,000 in grant awards from REI, worked with Prince William County to hire a contractor who completed a draft feasibility study of a mile-long boardwalk across Powells Creek in Dumfries, VA, connecting Leesylvania State Park with a new Virginia Railway Express station. The study identified a preferred route, cost estimate, and map of desired amenities. Prince William County voters passed a bond referendum including possible funds that might be used to help pay for this project.



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.

2019 Highlights



PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

Outreach

- Organized and led a collaboration with leaders of American Trails, American Hiking Society, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, and several of its member organizations to increase the presence and awareness of trails among the outdoor retailers at the Summer Outdoor Retailer Show.
- Began planning for two National Trails Training Workshops to be held in 2020—one in the spring in the west and another in the fall in the east.
- Published and distributed four issues of *Pathways Across America* and a monthly e-newsletter.
- Provided monthly webinars on a variety of topics pertinent to trail and organization management and "best practices;" two webinars in collaboration with several sister organizations focused on ways to increase equity, diversity, and inclusion within trail organizations.
- Continued to make the PNTS website a more dynamic and easily used venue for storing and disseminating information useful to national trail stewards and managers.

Protection

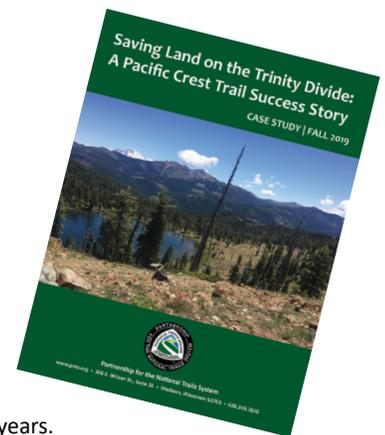
- Continued to actively participate, as a member of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition, in the advocacy work to get Congress to permanently reauthorize the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which it did early in the year.
- Collaborated, once again, with the American Hiking Society to help organize and guide the 22nd "Hike the Hill" advocacy week for Federal trails funding and policy support; more than 100 trails leaders participated in the advocacy work.
- Prepared and submitted testimony to Congress detailing the funding needed by the three Federal administering agencies to operate the 30 national scenic and historic trails and requesting \$33 million from the LWCF to acquire 41 tracts of land along 12 national trails; for Fiscal Year 2020, Congress increased funding for the national scenic and historic trails by \$550,000 for the National Park Service and \$1 million for the Bureau of Land Management and provided \$9 million of LWCF money for three trail land acquisitions.



Photo Credit: PNTS

Capacity

- Organized and managed a competitive Trail Intern Grant Program that dispensed \$157,000 of money from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to 17 of the national scenic and historic trails partnerships to fund a second round of work by young Trail Interns on behalf of their trails.
- Completed the first year of the \$200,000 two year cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration that funded increases in the information exchange services (Pathways, webinars, e-newsletter) provided by the PNTS as well as a National Trail System Corridor Protection project with the Trust for Public Land, including doing the first phase of a gap analysis of the 30 national scenic and historic trails and publishing the case study, "Saving Land on the Trinity Divide: A Pacific Crest Trail Success Story."
- Instituted a supporter program in the PNTS to greatly expand the base of financial support for the organization, with 70 initial supporters to the Partnership.
- Successfully completed the Partnership's sixth financial audit.
- Continued implementing the new strategic plan to guide the work of the Partnership for the next three to five years.



Save the Date National Trails Workshops

May 18-21, 2020

Ghost Ranch, New Mexico

Hosted by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition*



October 26-30, 2020

Spartanburg, South Carolina

Hosted by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association*

www.pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/

* Both workshops are open to anyone within our trails community who finds the content relevant.

2019 Annual Report



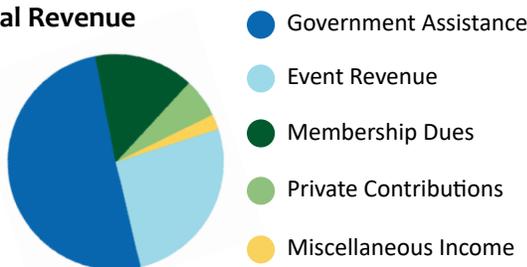
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

The Partnership for the National Trails System met its revenue needs for 2019, in part through extra efforts to get private contributions. We launched a supporter program, reaching out to new and existing donors by mail, email, and personal asks made by individual leaders. The other story of 2019 revenue was the continued support by Federal partners, including a new cooperative agreement with the Federal Highway Administration, and an internship initiative with the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

As for expenses, 2019 was a non-conference year for the Partnership. However, we continued to deliver services as we had done in 2018 to our member organizations, as well as collaborate with our Federal agency partners. An outcome of this successful collaboration has been the outstanding and high impact internship program which funds interns with member trail organizations. We worked with allied organizations to advocate for the trails, and we continue to produce our high-quality *Pathways* magazine four times per year telling the stories of the trails and the stewards that ensure quality experiences year round.

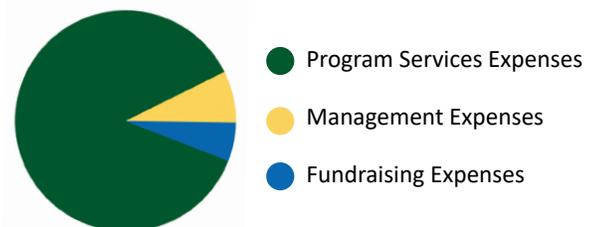
2018 Total Revenue

\$385,744



2018 Total Expenses

\$333,911



2019 CONTRIBUTORS

Benefactor of Trails

(\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Barney and Sandra Mann
Richard and Patricia Oldenkamp
Gary Werner

Caretaker of Trails

(\$2,500 - \$4,999)

Charles and Jackie Mann

Protector of Trails

(\$1,000 - \$2,499)

Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Assoc.
Sandra Marra and Christopher Brunton
Bill Dahnke
Kathy DeCoster
Steve Elkinton
Ric Francke
Elizabeth Stewart
Tarma Designs
Ron Tipton

Steward of Trails

(\$500 - \$999)

John Crawford
Reba Wells Grandrud
Scott Jacobsmeyer
Donald and Amy Owen
Mitchell Reff
Barbara Schaefer
Shian Sung
Scott Williams

Advocate for Trails

(\$250 - \$499)

Liz Bergeron
Cosmo Catalano
Mike Chapple
Linda Cheney
Steven Gonzales
Margaret Gorski
Robert and Catherine Hutchinson
Kimo Kimoeko
Reese Lukei, Jr.
James Mallory
Teresa Martinez
James Muschett
Andy Schmidt
Bill Sevald
Martha and Kevin Tansey
Michael Wollmer

Trail Builder

(\$100 - \$249)

Lila Aamodt
RG Absher, Jr
Rod Bartlow
Judy Bittner
Derek Blount
Hazel Braithwaite
Donald Dearborn
Jay Dement
Shalin Desai
Richard and Colleen Doering
Patricia Foster
Vladimir Guerrero
Patrick Hearty
John Hoffnagle
Luke Klobberdanz
Don Mann
Bill Martin
Arthur and Marjorie Miller
Matthew Nelson
Albie Pokrob
Dean Ross
Helen Scully
Kimberly Skinner
Greg and Nancy Warren
David and Wendy Welch
Elizabeth Wessel
Kent Wimmer
James Zimmerman

Supporter of Trails

(\$50 - \$99)

Chris Brown
Jack Cohen
Alan and Karen Crossley
Laura DeGolier
Bob Funk
Daniel Hicks
Elena Hoffnagle
Andrea Ketchmark
Shelley Mann-Lev
John Mead
Berl Meyer
Kim and Pamela Owen
Curt Soper
Jonathan Stephens
Rich Steward
Stephen Stutzman

Donors

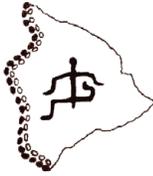
Robert Buchanan
Christian Danielsen
Bradley Green
Mark Haber
Justin Kooyman
John Leinen, Jr.
Scott Piddington
Morgan Sommerville
Susan Stevens-Briody
Deloris Gray Wood



*unaudited numbers

In 2019, the Partnership received donations in honor of Veronica Elkinton, Barney Mann, and Gary Werner.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) E Mau Nā Ala Hele (E Mau)

Outreach

- **Education** — ATA initiated a program that taught intermediate and high school students from six schools about the trail and its significance to our history. The program included a classroom lecture about the trail and a site visit to a segment of the trail nearest to the location of the school.
- **Programs** — ATA hosted eight guided hikes on the trail by a board member, and another six community hikes focusing on land acquisition parcels. E Mau led about four hikes along the trail, asking local families to act as docents giving rich family history of those who came before.

Protection

- **Land** — ATA acquired in fee 2,300 acres in Waikapuna where the coastal portion the trail traverses, which will permanently protect this segment of the trail. ATA also holds in title about 800 acres of conservation easement on a neighboring parcel, which will help preserve a portion of the landscape with a multitude of culturally significant resources. ATA was ranked in the top three projects for 2020 and 2021 for land acquisitions from the State Legacy Land funds, as well as ranked first for its option to purchase in fee 1,300 acres in Kaunamano which is set to close by the end of summer 2020.
- **Advocacy** — E Mau worked with the local population in the Waikoloa area to speak against a proposal to build a 62-unit complex along the shoreline; the proposal was withdrawn.



Photo Credit: Keoni Fox, ATA

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — ATA completed its strategic plan for 2019-2024, describing its goals and future direction. E Mau plans to introduce a new strategic plan in 2020 with an emphasis on growing membership and outreach to schools.
- **Staffing** — ATA retained a part-time coordinator to help with logistical and administrative support, and engaged the services of a private firm to help complete management plans for its newest acquisition.



Chesapeake Conservancy (CC)



Photo Credit: Zhivko Ilieff

Outreach

- **Programs** — CC and NPS drove the Roving Ranger to 32 locations across Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and D.C., bringing the trail to more than 4,800 individuals. CC outreach staff held painting, storytelling, and music programs with Latino and Hispanic children to engage with underserved communities and foster a sense of belonging and stewardship for the Chesapeake Bay. NPS awarded badges to 536 Junior Rangers, most of which were participating in their Title I school's field trip program through Every Kid Outdoors.
- **Partnerships** — CC and NPS trail staff held four "Maritime Crafts Field School" events in partnership with the Rappahannock Indian Tribe. Field school participants learned about the history and ecology of the Chesapeake Bay before taking part in projects like a dugout canoe, stone tool making, and bone tool making.

Protection

- **Land** — CC and The Conservation Fund acquired the Terrell Bowers property on Fones Cliffs (Rappahannock River), a 252-acre property which was then acquired by the FWS. The property sits on one of the most scenic viewpoints in the Chesapeake, and Fones Cliffs are referenced in Captain John Smith's journals from 1608 and were the site of Smith's interactions with the Rappahannock Tribe.
- **Documentation** — Researchers concluded the trail's fifth Indigenous Cultural Landscape Report in collaboration with the Upper Mattaponi, Pamunkey, and Mattaponi Tribes, which will help the NPS identify conservation needs and prepare interpretive and educational programming on historic and contemporary sites important to Native people.
- **Planning** — NPS participated in formal consultation with six Federally recognized Tribes in Virginia regarding planning the future of Werowocomoco. Researchers began ethnographic and archeological overviews and assessments of the site, acquired by NPS in 2016.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — CC added two college-aged bilingual interpretive outreach assistants to engage with Spanish-speaking visitors at Sandy Point State Park and at other parks in Maryland.
- **Funding** — NPS committed funding to pilot a Tribal youth internship program in collaboration with Colonial National Historical Park, which aims to encourage Native youth to participate in the future management of Werowocomoco, their ancestral homeland.



Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association (CARTA)

Outreach

- **Partnerships** — BLM, NPS, New Mexico Historic Sites, and the Texas Historical Commission entered into a memorandum of understanding regarding collaboration on interpretation along the national historic trail. NPS and BLM invited CARTA to participate in a public outreach initiative in support of an interpretative plan the agencies are funding a contractor to develop.

Protection

- **Planning** — Assisted in the development of the request for proposals (RFP) for a National Historic Trail Development Concept Plan that will provide a vision for the preservation and development for public use and retracement of the trail in Bernalillo County.

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — CARTA updated its bylaws and its five-year strategic plan to guide the organization's direction in the near future.
- **Funding** — NPS Southwest Border Resource Protection Program funded a cultural landscape history of the Oñate Crossing historic site and the Oñate Crossing Cultural Landscape/Historic Structures Documentation Project.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

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



Outreach

- **Programs** — ELCAT created a traveling museum exhibit titled, “El Camino Real de los Tejas: Its History, People, and Places.”
- **Partnerships** — ELCAT worked with local leaders in Zapata County toward the first international perspective on the Camino. ELCAT worked with classes and interns from Texas State University and The University of Texas at Austin and at San Antonio, engaging with local communities, trail mapping, and creating informational outreach materials.
- **Interpretation** — NPS contracted with 106 groups for interpretive waysides and two orientation panels at four trail sites to enhance visitor wayfinding in Texas.

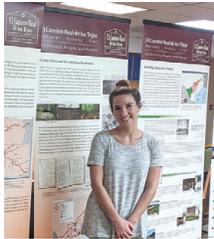


Photo Credit: Steven Gonzales, ELCAT

Protection

- **Historic Places** — ELCAT reached out to State and local leaders to nominate three trail properties within the Rancheria Grande to the National Register of Historic Places, bringing together private landowners, county officials, ELCAT, and the NPS for the activity. The official sites are Comal Springs at New Braunfels; wagon swale at Mission Tejas State Park, Grapeland; and Onion Creek Crossing at McKinney Falls State Park, Austin.
- **Planning** — ELCAT, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Historical Commission met to discuss enhancements to the existing process for all organizations to work together more efficiently on sign planning and trail marking.
- **Documentation** — ELCAT worked with the City of Austin to document the historic and archaeological resources in Onion Creek Metropolitan Park to determine its connection to the trail. Archaeological projects documented historic resources and their connection to the trail, including studies at the Perez Rancho and Ruiz Rancho in San Antonio, which are Spanish Colonial era ranches tied to the Spanish Mission system. ELCAT participated in mapping efforts, such as those at McKinney Falls State Park that documented road remnants and other historic structures within the park, and the mapping of trail signage in 10 counties and parishes along the trail.



Photo Credit: Steven Gonzales, ELCAT

Capacity

- **Membership** — ELCAT established its first two chapters: Rancheria Grande Chapter in Milam County, TX and Camino de Flores Chapter in Floresville/Wilson County, TX.
- **Funding** — ELCAT used PNTS intern grant funding to hire Elaine Sullivan, who worked part-time on administrative activities and created a traveling exhibit. The trail administration’s proposal to NPS Southwest Border Resource Protection Program for historical research about indigenous Tribes in southwest Texas has been funded and is being led by Professor Armando Alonzo.



Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (IHTA)

Outreach

- **Programs** — IHTA and partners showed the movie “Iditarod National Historic Trail - A History” for free daily during the summer at the library, located about three blocks from Mile Zero of the Iditarod NHT, two statues associated with the history of the trail, and interpretive signing.

Protection

- **Planning** — Chugach National Forest and INHT Southern Trek, with RTCA grant assistance, worked with partners to organize and implement three volunteer trail events and produce a draft INHT Southern Trek Stewardship Plan.
- **Maintenance** — Volunteer trail crews worked on three trail segments: Rocky Creek, Winner Creek, and Portage Pass. BLM repaired building damage from animals and worked with fire managers to save other shelters from wildfires.



Photo Credit: Alaska Division of Forestry

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — IHTA held a strategic planning session and developed a “Strategic Direction 2019-2025” guide.
- **Funding** — IHTA continued a Challenge Cost Share Agreement with USFS to promote the trail, story, and stewardship.



Anza Trail Foundation (ATF) and partners

Outreach

- **Programs** — Nearly 36,951 people participated in the NPS Trails and Rails programs. Environmental Education Exchange in Tucson, AZ conducted 100 fourth grade classroom presentations about the Anza Trail and expedition. ATF Board Member Lindy Hatcher spoke about trail and advocated for the national scenic and historic trails at an event at Oceano.
- **Exhibits** — Anza Society International and Pima County completed construction on the first phase of the Anza Accessible Trail Exhibit plaza, adjacent to the Tucson campus of the Arizona School for the Deaf and Blind. Displays will use Spanish, English, American Sign Language, and Braille in addition to music and art. Funding for artistic elements comes from a Cooperative Agreement with NPS and ATF. Work on the Anza Accessible Experience continues in partnership with the Rivers Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.



Photo Credit: NPS, Christopher Bentley

Protection

- **Signage** — In partnership with NPS, the State of Sonora, Mexico developed an Anza Historic Route and Anza Tourist Route with directional signage and wayside panels installed at significant historic sites. Through Cooperative Agreements with NPS, ATF funded a new wayside in San Juan Bautista, and Anza Trail Coalition of Arizona completed the implementation of a five-year wayfinding and interpretive project along the Anza Recreational Trail in Santa Cruz County, AZ.

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — NPS initiated a strategic plan for the trail in Fiscal Year 2019 for the next five to seven years. With the 250th Anniversary of the Anza Expedition occurring at the same time as the 250th Commemoration of the United States, strategic planning sessions in San Francisco, CA and Tucson, AZ focused on capacity efforts that take advantage of a strong commemoration year.

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation (LCTHF) Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc. (LCT)

Outreach

- **Programs** — LCTHF grants helped fund a new travel brochure of the eastern portion of the trail; a program to preserve and teach the Lakota language; a program to teach children about grizzly bears; a cleanup of the Missouri River in Missouri; and an exhibit on connecting cultures in South Dakota. LCT provided funding for the Honoring Tribal Legacies Program in partnership with the NPS. The International Tribal Games program at Yellowstone National Park provided an educational opportunity for 30 teachers and interpretive specialists. The cultural lessons in the games have been taught to approximately 9,000 youth and adults in settings across five States. NPS developed an agreement with the American Indian and Alaska Native Association to develop travel and tourism opportunities along the trail.
- **Events** — LCTHF, NPS, and partners held a ceremony in Clarksville, IN announcing the trail extension to the public. NPS developed and hosted a Symposium that looked at the impacts of Railroads in Native America.
- **Technology** — NPS made significant upgrades to its website and social media platforms, reaching out to dozens of new partner groups and sites. NPS concluded the Newfie News social media campaign, which had more than 24,000 hits on the main webpage. The popular Seaman Jr. pup had 35 posts total from the 10 National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) centers around the country. NPS coordinated with partners for an Instagram story (reaching 1.9 million people) and Facebook Live event (reaching 120,000 people) from Hells Gate State Park to promote NASA's "GO on a Trail" citizen science challenge, boosting efforts by the NPS toward the Long Range Interpretive Plan goal to make the Lewis and Clark NHT more visible.



Protection

- **Legislation** — LCTHF and partners engaged in advocacy for decades, resulting in the LCNHT being extended eastward to Pittsburgh, adding 1,200 miles to the official trail, and adding Indiana to the National Trails System map through the passage of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act.
- **Planning** — NPS started developing an Auto Tour Route for the five new States. NPS launched a multiyear multiple agency planning effort to revise boundaries and address recreation and historic trails use/maintenance in Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark with the Nez Perce-Clearwater and Lolo National Forests.
- **Signage** — LCTHF granted or internally funded several interpretive sign projects, including with Habitat for Humanity in South Dakota; another with Fort Atkinson in Nebraska; and a years-long effort to mark points of historical importance to Lewis and Clark in the Eastern Legacy portion of the LCNHT.



Photo Credit: Julie Blanchard

Capacity

- **Staffing** — LCTHF hired a new Executive Director, Sarah Cawley. NPS completed the review, selection, and hiring of an Educational Technician position, a Park Guide Pathways position, and the trail's first ever Visual Information Specialist.
- **Strategic Plan** — LCTHF implemented several aspects of its strategic plan by examining a new membership fee structure and improving ways to interact with its local chapters and the general public. NPS developed a strategic and communication plan to help guide the trail staff during the first year of the process of integrating the trail's extended portions.
- **Documentation** — LCTHF published an organizational history having celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding. LCTHF obtained full ownership of the informational website Discovering Lewis and Clark (lewis-clark.org).



Mormon Trails Association (MTA)

Outreach

- **Website** — MTA reworked its website (mormontrails.org) and added new material and links.
- **Partnerships** — NPS entered into a partnership certification agreement with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints for Martin's Cove: Mormon Trail Site in Alcova, WY.

Protection

- **Signage** — NPS contracted with the 106 Group to develop eight interpretive waysides and two orientation panels to enhance visitor experiences along the trail across Iowa. NPS helped dedicate the newly certified Richardson's Point site in Iowa, and its new entrance sign was installed by the Iowa MTA.

Capacity

- **Documentation** — NPS staff revised and updated the Auto Tour Route guide for the trail across Iowa for reprinting using information provided by two Iowa MTA members (who drove the trail's entire auto route).



Nez Perce Trail Foundation (NPTF)

Outreach

- **Programs** — NPTF held its annual Summer NPNHT Tour and presented about the Nez Perce War of 1877. NPTF held a seminar in Leavenworth, KS with local and national elected representatives and tourism and business representatives that focused on partnering to extend the Nez Perce NHT by including the exile route. USFS coordinated with Discover Your Northwest to host a series of native "Artists In Residence" programs at the Lolo Pass Visitor Center.
- **Technology** — USFS and trail partners launched new Agents of Discovery App Mission sites in the Bitterroot Valley for an educational game that uses geolocation. USFS installed nine Electronic Tour Sites (allowing visitors to connect to Wi-Fi in remote locations) highlighting the area's history through the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests' Historic Routes Project.

Protection

- **Signage** — USFS funded AmeriCorps for the work to install Skinner Meadows interpretive signage on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.
- **Maintenance** — USFS Lolo NF staff treated invasive plants, cleared 64 trees from the trail, and maintained 204 markers and travel management signs. Wallowa-Whitman NF staff maintained 19.3 miles of the trail.
- **Historic Places** — The Cow Island Landing Skirmish Site was officially listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA)



Outreach

- **Programs** — OSTA chapters held Old Spanish Trails Days programs, including a new K-12 Charter School Art Contest.



Photo Credit: OSTA

NPS created the first Old Spanish Trail Junior Ranger worksheet and converted an OSTA tabletop game to a digital file printed on fabric, which makes it easier to transport and use at events. OSTA's traveling trunk exhibit from New Mexico to Utah featuring the redesigned game fostered a connection with over 750 fourth and fifth graders at Aztec Ruins National Monument.

- **Partnerships** — NPS completed partnership certifications for three Old Spanish NHT properties: the Kit Carson Home in Taos, NM; the Museum of the West in Grand Junction, CO; and Mission San Gabriel Archangel, CA.

Protection

- **Signage** — NPS worked with BLM staff to create interpretive wayside and orientation panel templates that meet standards for use along the trail. OSTA replaced a deteriorated interpretive wayside panel at Mission San Gabriel Arcángel with a trilingual sign (English, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese) to be inclusive of the local community. OSTA is planning new signs for Grand County, UT, Las Vegas, NV, Los Angeles County, CA, and San Gabriel, CA. National Park Foundation agreed to fund over 100 OSNHT road signs to the trail in Taos County, NM.
- **Planning** — OSTA and NPS hosted a community workshop in San Luis Valley, CO to record community input to develop a comprehensive strategy to promote trail in that area. OSTA and Trujillo Adobe partnered with California Polytechnic State University graduate students for an archaeological survey, including a ground-penetrating radar report, of the 19th century site with plans to create a living history cultural center.



OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA)

Outreach

- **Technology** — OCTA launched a new website (gateway-octa.org), which contains over 200 original trail diaries from those who jumped off from St. Joseph, MO, plus over 200 Pony Express documents and an interactive map that details the trail-related businesses found in St. Joseph, MO in the 1840s-50s. NPS helped fund the digitization of those documents. OCTA launched a new YouTube Channel, which will be populated with advocacy videos.
- **Events** — OCTA hosted the "Truman and the Trails Symposium" in Independence, MO and its annual convention in Santa Fe, NM.
- **Exhibits** — NPS entered into an interagency agreement with BLM at the Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, OR to revise the Tribal exhibits in the center with support through NPS Connect Trails to Parks funding.



Photo Credit: NPS

Protection

- **Planning** — OCTA previously developed a comprehensive 216-page planning document with NPS to assist in developing a 47-mile long retracement corridor through the Kansas City metro area. A groundbreaking was held for a new \$3.5 million bridge along U.S. Hwy. 24 in Independence, MO, which is being built in concert with the \$25 million expansion of the nearby Harry S. Truman Presidential Library that will showcase the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe National Historic Trails. OCTA is working with NPS, FHWA, and the Missouri Department of Transportation to plan out the riverfront in St. Joseph, MO to fully develop the story of multiple national historic trails (Oregon, Pony Express, and Lewis and Clark) as new plans are made for the I-229 project in the same area.
- **Advocacy** — OCTA is advocating to reroute the R-Project Powerline near Sutherland, NE and the Boardman to Hemingway Powerline in Oregon so they don't negatively impact the trails in those areas.
- **Maintenance** — OCTA held a cleanup of the wagon swales at Fernley, NV.
- **Signage** — NPS, USFS, and OCTA properly signed the Oregon Trail through Mount Hood National Forest. NPS signed an updated memorandum of agreement with the California Department of Transportation related to trail marking through signing along the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails.

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — OCTA and NPS evaluated the success of the previous five-year strategic plan, which expires in February 2020.
- **Funding** — OCTA won a Google Ads grant of \$120,000 to spend on Google advertising in perpetuity. A NPTS grant will fund a digital media communications intern to help guide OCTA in its approach to targeting online audiences.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

Outreach

- **Programs** — History teacher Verona Pitts, a former NPS park guide, was honored as the 2019 Selma High School Teacher of the Year and is assisting her students in participating in the 2020 National History Day program. The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail was present at Scoutfest, which has an estimated attendance of over 4,000 young scouts and adult leaders. NPS trail staff directly engaged 344 people and provided information about the trail and the importance of the voting rights movement. The scouts that approached the booth received trail information, Junior Ranger Books, and wristbands.

Capacity

- **Infrastructure** — NPS held a public meeting regarding the rehabilitation of historic buildings to expand the interpretive facilities of the Selma to Montgomery NHT site. The rehabilitation proposes structural improvements to provide universal accessibility, a theater for 100 people, exterior rehabilitation to the floors and roof, fire suppression, and enhancement to mechanical, electrical, and plumbing system to support the improvements.



Photo Credit: NPS



Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA)

Outreach

- **Programs** — NPS entered into cooperative agreements with OVTA for programming, such as the Annual Commemorative March involving over 11,000 students, 7,000 adults, 300 volunteers, and over 25 partners. OVTA held over 100 other programs throughout the year for over 8,000 students and 8,000 adults, involving over 140 volunteers. OVTA implemented a program where kids can earn a free patch for visiting any five sites along the Overmountain Victory NHT corridor.
- **Partnerships** — OVTA partnered with the National Park Foundation and trail partner sites to fund and host student field trips to historic sites along the trail. OVTA partnered with the NPS and NPF to provide free passes to fourth grade students and their families to over 2,000 Federal sites.



Photo Credit: OVTA

Protection

- **Land** — NPS dedicated a new 5-mile section of the OVNHT along Lake Welch, Gaffney, SC, including a new trailhead parking area to increase access and further recreational opportunity along the trail. NPS dedicated a new section of the OVNHT along Grassy Creek in Spruce Pine, NC, with additional trail construction under way in the Spruce Pine area. NPS completed the installation of a trailhead kiosk in CADA Park, Chesnee, SC, and completed the engineering design for a multiuse OVNHT pathway between Chesnee and Cowpens National Battlefield, SC.
- **Planning** — NPS completed the Master Plan for the OVNHT for the trail segment from Abingdon, VA to Elizabethton, TN, and signed contracts to develop Master Plans for the segments from Spruce Pine, NC to Lake James State Park, NC and from Rutherfordton, NC to Chesnee, SC.
- **Maintenance** — NPS held its third Youth Conservation Corps trail maintenance program.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — NPS hired a Trail Interpretive Ranger, a first for the trail. OVTA received a PNTS grant to hire an intern, Ethan Walling, to research and report best practices used by other trail and nonprofit organizations with the ultimate goal to provide guidance for the OVTA to hire an executive director. A 60-page report will be made available to any interested organizations.



National Pony Express Association (NPEA)

Outreach

- **Events** — NPEA held its Annual Re-Ride of the Pony Express Trail from St. Joseph, MO to Old Sacramento, CA, which took 10 days to complete traveling nonstop by horseback 24 hours a day. About 900 riders and their horses from all eight State divisions of the organization carried commemorative letters.
- **Technology** — NPS completed work on interactive map layers showing Pony Express stations. NPS collected near real-time GPS locations from the riders during the re-ride. The data was put onto a web map application, posted on NPEA's website, and viewed by thousands of people.



Photo Credit: Petra Keller

Protection

- **Signage** — NPEA has almost completed a national trails signage project in the Tooele, UT area, and have halfway completed another signage project spanning 142 miles from Ibapah, UT.
- **Maintenance** — NPEA installed a 15-foot asphalt swale at the entrance on Wrights Road, XP Corral Trailhead, removing the last impediment to accessing the trailhead over the heavily eroded drainage ditch. This repair improved public access to the trail and a staging area for trail maintenance. BSA Troop 186, one of the most active volunteer groups on the trail in California, adopted 11 miles of the trail and used the trailhead to conduct a spring work party for pruning and a fall work party for cleaning culverts while simultaneously earning merit badges and rank requirements or advancements.
- **Planning** — NPS provided technical support for a \$45,000 National Parks Foundation grant, allowing the board of directors for Marysville Pony Express Home Station No. 1 to complete roof stabilization and plan for mortar repointing, a parking concept plan, and a sign plan for the historic Pony Express Barn in Marysville, KS.

Capacity

- **Strategic Plan** — NPEA updated its strategic plan for 2019-2024.



Trail of Tears Association (TOTA)

Outreach

- **Events** — TOTA worked with the Hiwassee River Heritage Center in Charleston, TN to dedicate new exhibits at the grand opening of a signed walking trail, featuring two days of events with information booths and lectures that attracted standing room only crowds. TOTA teamed up with the Charles Hall Museum of History and Heritage to stage a Great Tellico History Day in Tellico Plains, TN, featuring living history presentations about the Cherokee removal, a commemorative memorial walk, and classes. TOTA joined the Funk Heritage Center, Georgia's Official Southeastern Indian Interpretive Center, for its 20th anniversary celebration and the opening of a new exhibit, "Resistance and Resilience: The Cherokee Trail of Tears." TOTA participated in the Village of Caledonia, MO Official Bicentennial Celebration with a presentation on the Cherokee Removal and a resolution from TOTA commemorating the influence of intermarried Scots on the Cherokee Nation during the Trail of Tears era. NPS presented an education session to Cherokee Youth Remember the Removal Riders about the trail, NPS, and related careers.
- **Partnerships** — NPS entered into a partnership certification agreement with the Henry E. Davis homestead in Steelville, MO. NPS continued work on the Middle Tennessee State University CESU project exploring transportation methods along the Trail of Tears.

Protection

- **Signage** — NPS facilitated the completion and review of the Hamburg Hill Trail of Tears NHT signing and interpretation project in partnership with the USFS, including preparing a Hamburg Hill area signage overview map for USFS review and purchase. NPS developed road and pedestrian signing, including a unique site identification sign, and designed 11 orientation panels for the Water Route in Arkansas with Army Corp of Engineers; nine panels were fabricated in Fiscal Year 2019.



Photo Credit: Chad Hunter, Cherokee Phoenix

NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS



Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA)

Protection

- **Land** — SFTA dedicated seven interpretive wayside exhibits and a public access pedestrian trail to the prairie located in the Santa Fe NHT corridor at Rock Creek Crossing Trail on land owned by Della Orton in Morris County, KS, funded through a National Park Foundation grant. SFTA and NPS continued to work on the Three Trails Corridor project in the Kansas City Metro area.
- **Signage** — SFTA completed trail signage in four counties and developed signage plans in four counties and three chapter areas. SFTA completed interpretation at the Little Arkansas River Crossing complex. SFTA installed 11 interpretive wayside exhibits and one storyboard.
- **Historic Places** — NPS accepted the Middle Tennessee State Center for Historic Preservation's historic structures report for the Owens-McCoy House, a certified site on the trail in Independence, MO.

Outreach

- **Events** — SFTA held a workshop in New Mexico with NPS staff participation on cooperative topics. SFTA held a symposium in St. Louis, MO, "Gateway to Santa Fe," with educational speakers and tours to sites related to the history of the trail.
- **Programs** — SFTA updated and maintained the Santa Fe NHT GeoTour of 73 caches along the 950-mile trail, garnering over 22,000 logged entries. SFTA provided a joint presentation with the NPS National Trails office to the Chisholm Trail Association regarding feasibility work on the CTA and successes and challenges SFTA that face, which could be encountered by CTA. SFTA provided educational tours and events at historic sites along the trail. SFTA provided information about the trail at the Oklahoma and Kansas Historical Society meetings, the Kansas State Fair, and the Oregon-California Trails Association convention in Santa Fe, NM. SFTA supported the Santa Fe Trail Youth Trip (60 fourth graders on a 10-day bus trip). Dr. Michael Olsen completed the study, "'Hell On Wheels' - Towns Along The Santa Fe Trail," providing a series of write-ups of the three railroads and 12 railhead, or "end-of-the-track" towns.

Capacity

- **Documentation** — SFTA developed and implemented a publicity plan. SFTA continued to develop and implement an advisory committee and a plan of action for the 200th Commemoration of the Santa Fe Trail. NPS initiated the development of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Foundation Document.
- **Membership** — SFTA developed strategies for increasing social media presence and membership. SFTA inducted historic and modern persons into the Santa Fe Trail Hall of Fame. SFTA provided funding for chapter education projects and speakers for volunteer training. SFTA presented awards to acknowledge volunteers for their efforts related to the trail.



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



Outreach

- **Programs** — W3R-US supported initial efforts to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution by providing financial support to Westchester250 for a brochure to raise awareness and to recruit partnerships. W3R-US commissioned research funded by the Florence Gould Foundation to amplify, document, and promote the significance of stories and troop movements associated with the Water Trails of the Yorktown Campaign. W3R-VA nominated and secured the French National Order of Merit Award for David R. Wagner in recognition for his series of original paintings that depict events which took place along the route.

Protection

- **Signage** — W3R-US provided financial support for the completion of a Rochambeau sculpture on the Yorktown waterfront. W3R-DE and Brandywine Village Partners unveiled a historical marker and mural in Brandywine Village, Wilmington, DE to highlight Wilmington's role within the American Revolution.
- **Advocacy** — W3R-US supported the Friends of Fishkill Supply Depot in New York and advocated to save this site from commercial development that would destroy its foundations, unique ruins, and evocative landscape. W3R-US provided support for the Friends of the Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters and their efforts in restoring this historical site in New York.
- **Planning** — Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail (WARO) NPS staff identified 115 high potential historic sites and stakeholders through a Trail Access and Development Assessment. WARO completed its Long-Range Interpretive Plan, identifying the trail's interpretive themes as The French Alliance and its Global Context and The Yorktown Campaign. WARO completed its Foundation Document to help guide trail planning and management.



Photo Credit: Susanne Greene, NWS Yorktown

Capacity

- **Staffing** — NPS hired Johnny Carawan as the new Trail Administrator for WARO.
- **Structure** — W3R-US achieved GuideStar Platinum rating for the second consecutive year and implemented best practices recommended by the Nonprofit Center at La Salle University.
- **Funding** — W3R-US received trail grants from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail

Outreach

- **Programs** — NPS offered a Trail Stewards Program, a shipboard curriculum-based education program, for nearly 500 students to share their experiences through legacy learning projects with over 5,723 people. NPS held Star-Spangled Banner NHT paddle programs for 262 urban youth and community members. NPS attended 11 trail-related partner events throughout the year, providing a uniformed ranger and/or living history interpreters.

Capacity

- **Staffing** — Living Classrooms Foundation hired a trail intern for a four-month term through a grant from PNTS. The intern worked on developing new outreach programs, improving social media communications, reviewing/updating website content, and assisting with the Trail Stewards Program. NPS hired Trail Manager, Kate Marks Hardy, who has been working to reengage partners, build social media outreach, and explore new programs to connect with new audiences.



Photo Credit: Patrick Smith



FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

- **Trail Administration** — Administered three trails and engaged in the National Trail Administrators Roundtable in Harper's Ferry, WV (Iditarod, Old Spanish, and El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHTs).
- **Trail Management** — Managed significant portions of 18 NSHTs on 6,000 miles of public lands in 15 States and 2,000 miles of trails under study.
- **Budget and Performance** — Accomplished 100 percent of planned inventory and monitoring across multiple States, worked to establish NSHT corridors in several resource management plans, and participated in the National Environmental Policy Act review of proposed projects. Managed four major-trail related visitor centers (OR, NV, WY, and MT) with limited staffing.
- **National Scenic and Historic Trails Inventory, Assessment, and Monitoring Program** — Through shared objectives and additional funding support provided by the FHWA through an Interagency Agreement, the BLM contracted and completed a methodology and field guide to inventory, assess, and monitor trails, focusing on NSHTs. In Fiscal Year 2019, the BLM contractor completed performance and data management deliverables and pilot-tested the required field-based course in Arizona with agency and trail partners along the Arizona National Scenic Trail and Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. This project will also be useful for all kinds of trails, and assist State grantees and Federal Land Management Agencies in the administration of their recreational trail programs by contributing to research and technical assistance. The final methodology and field guide technical report is expected in early 2020, including a field training course ready to deploy.
- **Partnerships** — Worked to accomplish youth programs and internship grants, resource management programs, and training through the 5-year assistance agreement with the PNTS.
- **Technology** — Promoted national trails through Tumblr, the BLM Daily internal site, and Flickr photo albums.
- **Staffing** — Deb Salt retired Jan. 17, 2020, after serving more than 20 years as the BLM National Scenic and Historic Trails Program Lead, over 32 years with BLM, and over 34 years in public service.



Deb Salt

National Park Service (NPS)

- **Trail Administration** — Administered 23 national scenic and historic trails, crossing over 12,500 miles of public lands in 48 States, including Washington, D.C.
- **Trail Extensions** — Under the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (2019), the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail was extended by 1,200 miles, and the North Country National Scenic Trail was relocated onto 400 miles of existing trail in Minnesota and extended 50 miles into Vermont.
- **Funding** — Provided \$925,000 in Connect Trails to Parks funding for projects that connect national trails to public lands and increase public awareness, appreciation, and use of the National Trails System.
- **Documentation** — Completed Reference Manual 45, a National Trails System reference manual and orientation guide for Federal, Tribal, State and local agencies, volunteer and nonprofit partners, and local land managers and landowners. The manual provides in depth information on how the authorities of the National Trails System Act relate to other Federal authorities and regulations, practices, and procedures of the agencies that administer and manage National Trails.
- **Staffing** — Hired Peter Bonsall as a full-time National Trails Program Specialist. Hired Crystal Salvador-Zapote as a National Trails Marketing and Communications Fellow through Hispanic Access Foundation (11 months). Rita Hennessy retired Dec. 31, 2019, after serving nearly five years as the NPS National Trails System Program Lead and over 30 years with the NPS.



Rita Hennessy

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

- **Partnerships** — In 2019, FHWA had a cooperative agreement with the PNTS to perform a two-year gap analysis and corridor protection research project. FHWA also had an Interagency Agreement with the BLM to complete a methodology to develop an inventory and monitoring program for trails.
- **Funding** — 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). These programs provide funds to the States, and the States solicit and select projects for funding. Sample projects in funded or



completed in 2019 included:

- Alaska funded a project to purchase and install trail fabric to build out and improve a one and a half mile section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail in Girdwood, to correct erosion issues and ensure sustainability of the trail.
- Maryland funded a project to install solar-powered LED lighting in the 955-foot Borden Tunnel on the Greater Allegheny Passage, part of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
- New Jersey funded a project for expansion and improvements to an Appalachian National Scenic Trail parking lot, which will enhance safety and increase available public access to the trail within Wawayanda State Park.

- New York completed a rehabilitation of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail through Bear Mountain State Park, which included a reroute to minimize impacts to the landscape and installation of stone steps.
- Oregon funded a project for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), Northwest Youth Corps, and volunteers to reroute and reconstruct severely eroded sections of the trail in the popular Mount Jefferson Wilderness Area. The funds supported the youth corps, season PCTA trail technicians, and tools and materials.
- South Carolina funded the Cherokee Ford Road Trail project featuring a nature trail that crosses the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, where the Patriot army crossed the Broad River.

FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

- **Trail Management** — Managed significant portions of 15 NSHTs on 860 miles of public lands in 21 States.
- **Inventory** — Collected field data in the mid-Atlantic and Northeast/New England States for the FWS Cycle 3 Trails Inventory (TrIP 3.0). As of the end of 2019, the FWS and its Service Corps partner, American Conservation Experience, have completed over 68 trails identification webinars on National Wildlife Refuge and National Fish Hatcheries, and have complete trails data for 37 of them.
- **Partnerships** — Worked with Youth and Service Corps member the American Conservation Experience's Emerging Professional Intern Corps (EPIC) to conduct TrIP 3.0.
- **Staffing** — FWS National Trails Council representative Nathan Caldwell retired on Dec. 31, 2018. Maggie O'Connell, Branch Chief of Visitor Services for the National Wildlife Refuge System at FWS headquarters, has taken on those responsibilities.



Nathan Caldwell

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)

- **Trail Administration** — Administered five NSTs (Pacific Crest, Pacific Northwest, Arizona, Continental Divide, and Florida), one NHT (Nez Perce), and managed portions of many others.
- **Maintenance** — Maintained and cared for approximately 6,115 miles of trail across the six NSHTs administered by the USFS in Fiscal Year 2019.
- **Trail Improvements** — Improved (i.e. altered, expanded, or constructed) approximately 103 miles of trail across the six USFS administered NSHTs in FY19.
- **Volunteer Support** — Volunteers made significant trail maintenance contributions to the six NSHTs administered by the USFS in FY19, as a total of approximately 235,507 volunteer hours were completed with an in-kind value of almost \$5,800,000.
- **Planning** — Made progress with Nez Perce National Historic Trail and Arizona National Scenic Trail on their Comprehensive Management Plans.
- **National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act Implementation** — Continued to implement the Trail Maintenance Priority Areas, including the entire Continental Divide National Scenic Trail and a variety of sections of other NSHTs.
- **National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System Implementation** — Continued implementation of the National Trail Strategy, with the release of the 10-Year Trail Challenge expected in 2020.



Gold Sheet

Compiled by the Partnership for the National Trails System, the annual "Gold Sheet" report summarizes the private dollars donated and hours of volunteer time contributed to build, interpret, and sustain the 30 national scenic and historic trails. In 2019, the nonprofit trail partners contributed over one million volunteer hours worth over \$25,000,000 toward the stewardship of our nation's public lands, ecosystems, and cultural heritage.



View and download the annual Gold Sheet: www.pnts.org/new/our-work/reports/



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Event Calendar



www.pnts.org/new/events/

February 21-23, 2020	Oregon-California Trails Association Spring Symposium	Yuma, AZ	www.octa-trails.org
March 15-21, 2020	Professional Trailbuilders Association Sustainable Trails Conference	Bentonville, AR	www.trailbuilders.org
April 23-26, 2020	Ice Age Trail Alliance Annual Conference and Meeting	Stevens Point, WI	www.iceagetrail.org/annual-conference/
April 27-30, 2020	SORP National Outdoor Recreation Conference	Knoxville, TN	www.2020norc.org
May 18-21, 2020	National Trails Workshop Hosted by the Continental Divide Trail Coalition	Ghost Ranch, NM	www.pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/
June 3-13, 2020	National Pony Express Association Annual Re-Ride	Sacramento, CA-St. Joseph, MO	www.nationalponyexpress.org
June 6, 2020	American Hiking Society's National Trails Day	Nationwide	www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/

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