

# Pathways

## Across America

SUMMER 2022

**465 Acres Returned  
to Rappahannock Tribe**  
Along the Captain John Smith  
Chesapeake National Historic Trail



A PUBLICATION OF  
THE PARTNERSHIP FOR THE  
NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

# 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 four 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)

**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

## THE 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), over 1,300 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) including 35 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
- Over 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 over 100 major urban areas
- Nearly 1 million hours of volunteer labor help build and maintain annually

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

## RAIL TRAILS

- Part of 1983 amendment to National Trails System Act
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
- Total over 25,000 miles through 50 States and the District of Columbia

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

## RECREATION TRAILS

- Designated by Secretary of Interior or Secretary of Agriculture
- Stewardship facilitated by the nonprofit American Trails
- Over 30,000 miles through 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico

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

Fone's Cliff along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail. Photo credit: Peter Turcik

#### INSIDE

**Left:** Volunteers and Ice Age Trail Alliance Staff gather on the newly finished Ringle Segment to have a champagne toast celebrating 5 years of hard work. Photo by Patrick Gleissner.

**Center:** Solar car at Scott's Bluff National Monument along the Oregon National Historic Trail. Photo courtesy of the American Solar Challenge.

**Right:** Great Basin, WY on the Continental Divide Trail. Photo credit: Matt Berger. Courtesy of Continental Divide Trail Coalition.

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



When I read an issue of *Pathways Across America*, I'm often struck by the uniqueness of each National Historic and Scenic Trail, as well as the Trails' connectedness both as parts of the National Trails System and as parts of the communities they traverse.

Across the National Trails System, young professionals and emerging leaders are exploring careers and taking on diverse projects to meet the needs of different trails such as some that are featured in this issue that involve venturing into nature to construct trails or putting writing and public relations skills to use to engage local businesses and communities.

Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) member organizations are actively working to recognize Indigenous ancestral lands and partner with Tribal and Indigenous communities. As you'll read, the Chesapeake Conservancy, purchased and donated 465 acres of waterfront property in what is now Richmond County, Virginia, to the Rappahannock Tribe, who restored its original name of Pissacoack while the New

England Trail its partners are conducting an Indigenous Site Survey Project along the Trail corridor. Cross sector partners are coming together to make the Trails more accessible and engaging as you'll see when reading about binational collaborations and a challenge that retraces historic wagon paths in solar powered vehicles. While the collaboration and creativity results from the work of the people involved with each individual National Historic or Scenic Trail, the examples and lessons learned are shared across the National Trails System.

Trails are as diverse as the places they traverse and stories they interpret yet, the National Trails System stitches together trails and the landscapes and communities they connect, as well as the stories of past and present and opportunities for the future they present. The multitudinous experiences and cross-disciplinary nature of the National Trails System enables people with different interests and abilities to enjoy trails or share their talents to benefit trails and the people who appreciate them. This summer, I hope each of you enjoy some of the wonderful trail experiences highlighted in this or previous issues of *Pathways Across America*.

All the best,

## PNTS PROGRAMMING UPDATE

This Summer, PNTS began a webinar series on Tribal Consultation. The three-part series is intended to provide relevant information and best practices for Tribal Consultation as they pertain to the work of trails professionals in the non-profit and governmental spheres. Visit our website for complete information about each webinar including speaker details, dates for live sessions and recordings of past sessions.

**Part 1: Foundations of Federal Indian Law.** July 13, 2022 - 3:00pm EST

Learn about the history of Tribal - U.S. Government relations, Federal Indian Law, recent trends in federal Indian Affairs, and Tribal perspectives regarding protection and access to Sacred Places. You'll walk away with an understanding of the main components of Federal Indian Law, how your work relates to it, and your role in Tribal engagement.



### Featured Speakers:

**Brett Lee Shelton** (Oglala Sioux Tribe), Senior Staff Attorney for the Native American Rights Fund



**Joe M. Tenorio** (Pueblo of Santo Domingo), Staff Attorney for the Native American Rights Fund

**Part 2: Foundations of Tribal Consultation & Visions of Its Future.** August 24, 2022 - 3:00pm EST

Learn about the history of Tribal consultation, the basics of the process, examples of Tribal consultation on National Trails, the cultural injustice inherent in the process, and what it could look like in the future.

**Part 3: Tribal Engagement: Distinguishing Consultation from Coordination.** September 29, 2022 - 3:00pm EST

Learn about the differences between Tribal consultation, coordination, and engagement, and the responsibilities of different entities to engage in each practice. Hear about successes, failures, and best practices for engaging Indigenous communities on trails.

Find out more at  
[pnts.org/new/webinars](https://pnts.org/new/webinars)

# 2021 Intern Grant Recipient: Jane Pollack

*This column shines a light on rising leaders in public lands and outdoor recreation who participate in PNTS' Trail Intern Grants or Trail Apprentices Program (TAP). Trail Intern Grants help organizations hire interns to further their missions and expand their capacities. The TAP helps up-and-coming and aspiring outdoor professionals aged 18-28 network and discover pathways to careers in trails or similar fields.*

“I wasn’t aware that working in the trails community was an option,” said Jane Pollack, who is now the Communications and Outreach Manager for the Florida Trail Association (FTA). “My view of working in the outdoors industry was limited. I thought I needed to do research, obtain a degree in a field I wasn’t encouraged to pursue, or work as a forest ranger. I was delighted when I realized that my skill set was needed in the trails community as well.”

Jane’s transition into the trails world came after receiving a Bachelor’s degree in English with an emphasis on postcolonial studies from the University of Florida. Her professional career began in publishing, but, as she nourished a deeper connection with Florida’s dynamic natural environment, she sought to pair her passion for the outdoors with her career path.

When the FTA posted their Gateway Communities Coordinator position, an internship funded by PNTS’s Intern Grants, Jane knew she had to apply. “I viewed the internship with the FTA as the perfect intersection of my personal passions and my professional ambitions,” she explained. Serendipitously, she was thru-hiking the Trail when she discovered and applied for the job.



After almost a year as Gateway Communities Coordinator, Jane successfully applied for and transitioned into her current role with FTA. She indebted her current success to the skills and relationships she built during the internship.

Looking forward, Jane hopes “to inspire people to take ownership of their community and get involved with the trail.” She approaches her career in trails as an educator who is responsible for fostering stewardship and leadership in others, building meaningful connections, and creating a welcoming environment for all.

Although Jane did not set out to have a career in trails when she began college or her professional career, her unique skillset is now an integral part of the FTA team.

## ABOUT PNTS



### 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

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.

## CONNECTING YOUNG ADULTS TO TRAILS CAREERS

27

2021-22 Trail Apprentices explored trails careers

16

Trail interns supported in 2021 through Intern Grants

13

Intern Grants awarded for trail projects in 2022

### SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

PNTS is connecting more young adults to opportunities to explore careers in trails than ever before.

Support youth programs by donating today at [bit.ly/Summer22PW](https://bit.ly/Summer22PW)



Image courtesy of Visit Albuquerque.

## Join us in Albuquerque November 2-4 for the **2022 NATIONAL TRAILS WORKSHOP**

The Workshop will be three days of learning, collaboration and networking amongst seasoned trails and tourism professionals, emerging leaders and people who are interested in getting involved with trails in their communities and across the nation. With a particular emphasis on learning from and with Indigenous communities, the workshop will provide opportunities to grow your trails skillset, collaboratively confront issues facing trails, and co-create solutions for specific and system-wide problems.

### DAY 1

Trainings will explore tribal sovereignty, engagement with Indigenous communities and co-led stewardship.

### DAY 2

Trainings will explore advocacy campaigns, gateway communities, diversifying trail visitors and creating equitable workplaces.

### DAY 3

Trainings will explore inventory & monitoring tools, working with non-traditional partners, environmental justice and outdoor careers.

### CONNECT

with fellow trails and outdoor professionals in formal and informal settings designed to produce actionable results and free-form exchange and co-creation.

### LEARN

from seasoned experts, emerging leaders, and others outside of the trails community who will bring unique and fresh perspectives to the field.

### EXPLORE

the historic city of Albuquerque. Check out El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail and Route 66, which are among other local trails in the area.

Find out more and register at [pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/](https://pnts.org/new/our-work/workshops/)



Image courtesy of Visit Albuquerque



Image by Michael Hayes



Image courtesy of Visit Albuquerque

# 465 Acres Returned to Rappahannock Tribe Along the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

Press release by the National Park Service

**P**rior to European arrival, Indigenous peoples of the Chesapeake Bay lived and worked alongside the Bay's many rivers, whose abundant resources and inspiring landscapes provided both bodily and spiritual sustenance. Today, thanks to archeology, oral history among Tribal members and primary resources like Captain John Smith's map of the Chesapeake, Tribes are finding and reconnecting with the places that their ancestors once called home.

On April 1st, 2022, the Rappahannock Indian Tribe announced the return of 465 acres of land along the Rappahannock River. Friday's "Return to the River" celebration was attended by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland. Addressing a crowd of Tribal citizens and council members, drummers, donors, and leaders from local and national conservation organizations, Haaland remarked, "This historic reacquisition underscores how Tribes, private landowners, and other stakeholders all play a central role in this Administration's work to ensure our conservation efforts are locally led and support communities' health and well-being."

Chief Anne Richardson, whose father and grandfather were Tribal chiefs before her, reflected on her people's centuries-long separation from the Rappahannock River. "We have worked for many years to restore this sacred place to the Tribe," she said. "With eagles being prayer messengers, this area where they gather has always been a place of natural, cultural and spiritual importance."

The natural beauty of Fones Cliffs is immediately apparent to those who visit its shores. This beautiful landscape also boasts one of the largest bald eagle populations in the mid-Atlantic and is considered an Important Bird Area by the National Audubon Society.

The historic significance of Fones Cliffs is likewise undeniable. Listed as a "high potential route segment" in the Chesapeake Trail's Comprehensive Management Plan, this stretch of the Rappahannock River is where the Rappahannock first encountered and defended against Captain John Smith during his 1608 voyages.



*Image. Left to Right: Chief Anne Richardson, Superintendent Jerri Marr, Cultural Anthropologist Cindy Chance. Courtesy of National Park Service.*

In 2016, the Chesapeake Trail and its principal nonprofit partner Chesapeake Conservancy collaborated with the Rappahannock Indian Tribe and St. Mary's College of Maryland to complete an Indigenous Cultural Landscape (ICL) Report of the Rappahannock River.

"The Chesapeake Trail identified Fones Cliffs as a highly significant place early on," said the Chesapeake Trail's superintendent Jerri Marr. "We are proud to have played a part in documenting the Tribe's connection to this special landscape."

The Rappahannock Indian Tribe will place the land in trust with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Currently, the land is held in a permanent conservation easement donated to both the Tribe and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service by the Chesapeake Conservancy. The donation of the conservation easement to the Tribe ensures that this ancestral homeland will be protected from development and remain in the hands of Tribal citizens for generations to come.

The Tribe plans to make trails and offer educational programming on the site, build a replica 16th century town and expand the Return to the River program, which educates Tribal youth in the traditional way of life that depended upon the river.

# North Country Trail Next Generation Coalition Summit

By Felicia Hokenstad, *Next Generation Coalition Leader, North Country Trail Association*



**Image.** Katie Cothran, Aaron Soda Landon, Stephanie Sleda, and Matt Davis during a tool demonstration. Courtesy of North Country Trail Association

In early May, four members of the North Country Trail Association's (NCTA) Next Generation Coalition (NGC) met in northern Minnesota to assist in building a new, one-mile section of North Country National Scenic Trail (NCNST). This was the second NGC Summit: A gathering of NGC members from diverse backgrounds and regions of Trail, connecting in-person to gain trail work experience and training.

Felicia Hokenstad, Katie Cothran, Sara Dudzik, and Stephanie Sleda met with a trail crew from the American Hiking Society (AHS), and Matt Davis, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator for Minnesota. Their goal was to replace a roadwalk on the NCNST's Arrowhead Reroute between the Chippewa National Forest and Grand Rapids, Minn.

Friday morning started with a pleasant surprise when NCNST thru-hiker, Aaron "Soda" Landon, arrived at the trailhead, ready to work.

Matt provided an introduction and demonstration of each tool. This was especially helpful to members with no trail building experience. One huge goal of the NGC program is to provide skill-building experiences like this for young volunteers across the Trail. This tool demonstration included a bow saw for cutting small trees and bushes, loppers for cutting small limbs or

saplings, a pick mattock for digging and moving dirt and rock, and a McLeod for removing duff layers and loose ground debris to create a level trail.

The AHS crew had been hard at work for a week already, so the corridor was cleared and trail tread was established. The group made quick work of the finishing touches, then joined NCTA Arrowhead Chapter members for trail maintenance on established Trail.

"It was a blast, to say the least," said Felicia. "Many of us had zero experience with trail building, but Matt did a spectacular job teaching us about how trails are built from scratch. It was also my first time using a hand saw to help trim small trees laying across the trail. Just super empowering stuff!"

"I was finally able to connect and bond with my peers in a way we had not been able to previously," wrote Sara Dudzik of Michigan. "Learning how to build trail with my cohort put me in a safe space to be vulnerable and learn, while also being an advocate and ambassador to the NCNST."

Following this successful day of trail work, the crew met at Klockow Brewing Company to enjoy beverages and barbeque. Between an impromptu performance from one of the AHS crew members and an intense game of Farkle around the campfire, it was the perfect night for connecting with each other and admiring the night sky.

"The Summit was such an empowering and uplifting experience," wrote Stephanie Sleda of Michigan. "It was great having camaraderie with like-minded people while making a difference for the Trail and those who use it."

NGC members spent Saturday afternoon on an urban hike through Grand Rapids, Minn. with Arrowhead Chapter members and thru-hiker Soda. The urban hike wound past murals by local artists including Leah Yellowbird, who collaborated with the NCTA in 2021 for the My NCT program.

"It was truly great to work alongside the NGC members as we built new trail," said Matt Davis, NCTA Regional Trail Coordinator. "The opportunity to teach them trail building and maintenance techniques, and seeing them doing the work afterward was special. The NCNST and NCTA have a bright future with the Next Generation Coalition stepping up to take on a leadership role."

Learn more about the Next Generation Coalition at [northcountrytrail.org/next-generation-coalition](https://northcountrytrail.org/next-generation-coalition)

# Indigenous Site Surveying on the New England Trail

By Kayleigh Moses, *New England Trail Community Volunteer Ambassador, National Park Service*



**Left Image.** Jay Levy leading the Indigenous History Hike on the New England Trail. **Right Image.** Menunkatuck Section Sign. Images courtesy of National Park Service.

To most trail goers in New England, the Mattabesett, Metacomet, and Monadnock are simply trail names that make up the 215 mile-long hiking route. The history of these names often go unnoticed, blanketed under centuries of oppression and ostracization, etching New England's Indigenous cultures into seemingly static renditions of the past. However, some Indigenous cultures in Connecticut and Massachusetts have persisted throughout time, crafting vibrant contemporary Tribal communities. The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation and Mohegan Tribe of Indians are the two federally recognized Tribes of Connecticut. Along with State-recognized Tribal communities, their complex histories gave rise to Indigenous place names on the New England Trail (NET). In an attempt to help uplift the histories and traditions that have for far too long gone unnoticed or ignored, the NET and its partners are conducting an Indigenous Site Survey Project along the Trail corridor.

This Project serves to better understand the cultural landscape of the Trail, while simultaneously enhancing interpretive programming for Trail users. Like many trails across the nation, the NET occupies lands that have been home to Indigenous peoples since time immemorial. The Indigenous people of now Connecticut and Massachusetts were caretakers and kin of the ecosystem long before European colonization. Today, they continue to conserve with longstanding stewardship practices. To honor such presence, the Indigenous Site Survey seeks to detail the Indigenous and Tribal histories of the NET and interpret its culturally

significant places. Though this Project remains in its early stages, we have found that partnerships between Tribal peoples and the trails community help contextualize the culturally relative information we are trying to compile.

Along with documenting these special places, an interpretive video series is being developed. The NET Team worked diligently during National Trails Day to acquire video footage, particularly from the Indigenous History Hike in southern Connecticut. Led by Jay Levy, a Tribal Consultant and Indigenous Archeologist, and the NET's lead on the Project, the hike was nothing short of spectacular. From volunteer trail maintainers to NPS staff, each individual who participated left with more knowledge of and respect for Indigenous cultures. To many, the most riveting moment was an impassioned vocalization from Jay, as he shared a traditional song in Mohegan / Pequot language while atop a Trail overlook onto Indigenous land.

Finally, the NET is working with PNTS to develop an interactive map showcasing locations of Indigenous territories at the point of colonial contact in the early 17th Century. This map shows hikers the history of the land they are traversing, akin to an on-the-go land acknowledgement. In our plan to continue uplifting the immense fortitude of Tribal communities along the Trail corridor, the NET and its partners remain immeasurably grateful for the intertribal collaboration required to make this project possible.

*Funding for this project is generously provided by the National Park Foundation.*

# Binational Cooperation Paves Way for New Spanish Webpage for El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

By Angélica Sánchez-Clark, Ph.D., *Lead Historian, National Park Service, National Trails Office, Regions 6, 7, 8*



**Image.** View along El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro near Santa Fe, NM. Courtesy of National Park Service.

The enabling legislation for both El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (ELCA) and El Camino Real de los Tejas (ELTE) National Historic Trails (NHT) authorizes cooperation among the United States and Mexican entities “for the purpose of exchanging trail information and research; fostering trail preservation and education programs; providing technical assistance and working to establish an international historic trail with complementary preservation and education programs in each nation.”

For over 30 years, the NPS and Bureau of Land Management have worked closely with Mexico’s Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) on many ELCA research, preservation, and promotional activities with the goal of preserving our shared cultural heritage. In 2016, the NPS National Trails office (NTIR) and INAH organized the binational workshop, LOS DOS CAMINOS: BRIDGING BORDERS ACROSS THE CENTURIES, held in Laredo, Texas. This workshop focused on the two caminos reales administered by NTIR and which originated in Mexico. These historic trails are significant to the heritage of North America and bridge the border between Mexico and the United States.

One of the priorities identified during the 2016 meeting was the translation into Spanish of the NPS El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro travel itinerary. Agency representatives from the US and Mexico reiterated this goal at the 2018 Dos Caminos binational data sharing workshop held in Santa Fe, NM, and at the 2021 Dos Caminos binational virtual meeting, in which participants expressed the need to expand access to materials about the two caminos in Spanish and English.

University of New Mexico graduate student María Nemelka provided the initial Spanish translation of the ELCA travel itinerary. Thanks to the hard work of Em Kessler, Interpretive Ranger and digital media specialist for NTIR; Nicole Segnini, a Latino Heritage Internship Program intern in the Office of Communication; and Nicole’s supervisor Victoria Stauffenberg, this project evolved into the creation of the Spanish-language ELCA website.

This binational cooperation continues as NTIR and partners work towards finalizing a binational interpretive plan for ELCA and initiating both a binational travel itinerary and interpretive plan for ELTE.



**Image.** El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Spanish language webpage.

Visit the Spanish language website at  
[nps.gov/es-es/elca](https://nps.gov/es-es/elca)

# PNTS and Bell's Brewery Encourage You to "Go Where the Trail Leads You" This Fall

The Second Annual Campaign Raises Awareness for the National Trails System

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) is once again teaming up with Bell's Brewery for a co-branded trails awareness campaign called "Go Where the Trail Leads You."

It's easy to participate. Pledge an hour to trails on Bell's website between September 1 and October 31 and they will donate \$5 to PNTS. Hours can be pledged for hiking, biking, walking, volunteering for trail maintenance, learning about trails, and more. This year, Bell's will donate up to \$20,000 to help PNTS support trails.

But it's not just about the money. The promotion will leverage Bell's significant fan base to raise awareness about trails. Through social media, website visits, and in-store promotional materials, a new group of people will be encouraged to learn more about trails, and visit, volunteer with, and support trails near them.

The "Go Where the Trail Leads You" campaign is part of Bell's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship. "There are so many trails that exist around us, many of which community members haven't discovered yet. Enjoying these trails is one of the easiest ways to appreciate nature's beauty, and it's crucial that we work to protect them now, and for generations to come," said Bell's Executive Vice President Carrie Yunker.

This is a great reason to get out on a trail as the weather cools off this Fall. Visit [bellsbeer.com/trails](http://bellsbeer.com/trails), pledge your time or a donation to trails and enjoy the great outdoors!



*Image. "Go Where the Trail Leads You" poster that will be featured in Bell's Brewery retail locations across the country. Courtesy of Bell's Brewery.*

**VISIT**

[bellsbeer.com/  
trails](http://bellsbeer.com/trails)

**PLEDGE**

at least 1 hour  
to trails

**SHARE**

your pledge  
with your  
social networks

**INVITE**

your social  
networks to  
make a pledge

# American Solar Challenge Brings Collegiate Teams to Oregon National Historic Trail

By PNTS staff with support from Gail Lueck, *Event & Operations Director for the American Solar Challenge*

This summer, solar-powered cars travelled in the traces of oxen hooves and wagon wheels along the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT). The American Solar Challenge (ASC), a collegiate student competition to design, build, and drive solar-powered vehicles in a cross-country event, paired history with cutting-edge technology as solar cars raced along the Trail.

Participants began their journey at the eastern terminus of the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe NHTs in Independence, MO, ultimately arriving at the finish line in Twin Falls, Idaho. Hundreds of participants from multiple countries competed in the ASC as part of 10 university teams, introducing a new group of people to the Oregon NHT, and the National Trails System (NTS) in general.

“As an iconic trail, we are pleased to be able to bring the solar cars along this historic route, allowing the college students to experience the trail and the communities along the trail to experience the solar cars,” said Gail Lueck, Event and Operations Director for the ASC. Gail is part of the team at the Innovators Educational Foundation (IEF), the nonprofit which organizes the ASC and other collegiate solar car events to provide multi-disciplinary learning opportunities for college students.

The ASC is a long-term educational event that requires two years of dedicated planning, training, fundraising, and testing. Students who participate receive a hands-on experience that builds real-world skills applicable to participants’ future careers such as communication, teamwork, design, and project

management. Additionally, they are exposed to historic trails and outdoor professionals, which may lead to a deeper interest in the NTS or a consideration of a career in the outdoor sector.

During stops along the more than 1,400-mile route, local community members were given the unique opportunity to see the solar cars, meet the teams, and celebrate the journey of these new solar car “trail travelers.” Additionally, participants in the ASC had the opportunity to learn about and explore the Oregon NHT from National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Rangers.

The IEF has partnered with the NPS since 2016 to bring the ASC to public lands and trails. This year, the NPS National Trails office - Regions 6, 7, 8 provided interpretation of the trail’s history through a traveling interpretive display at stops along the trail. Park Rangers and interns shared history, guided visitors through an Oregon Trail game, and awarded new Junior Ranger badges to those who completed a trail-related activity.

The ASC is not new to National Historic Trails—the competition was held on the Oregon NHT in 2018 and the Santa Fe NHT in 2021. Each time the ASC follows a National Trail, a new group of young adults is exposed to the NTS, and potentially become trail fans for life.

Learn more about the American Solar Challenge at [americansolarchallenge.org](http://americansolarchallenge.org)



**Image.** Solar Cars and teams in front of the Independence Court House in Independence, MO which is on the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe National Historic Trails. Photo by Kyla Willoughby, Appalachian State Solar Car Team. Courtesy of American Solar Challenge.

# Interagency Communication and Collaboration Across the National Trails System

By Vanessa Morales, National Trails System Communications Fellow



**Image.** Two National Historic Trail employees, one from the NPS National Trails Office and one from BLM's National Historic Trails Interpretive Center, stand in front of a covered wagon at the National Historic Trails Interpretive Center in Casper, WY. Photo courtesy of NPS.

The National Trails System's (NTS) 19 National Historic and 11 National Scenic Trails are administered by three Federal agencies: the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the US Forest Service (USFS), all with unique strategies for managing communications. These agencies are responsible for sharing news about the public lands they manage but for the NTS what is relevant for one agency, might be relevant to the others, as well. Establishing connections with digital media staff at Offices of Communication of the three agencies and PNTS was immensely helpful in getting the word out about NTS news.

During my Fellowship with the NPS National Trails office, an interagency NTS Communications Working Group was established to coordinate messaging between trails and agencies. It is a collaborative group that aims to develop a collaborative partnership approach for communication for the NTS. Together, the group develops methods for consistent and continuous messaging about the NTS and improve internal and external communication about the NTS.

When our partners at the American Hiking Society hosted National Trails Day in June, I worked with the Office of Communications at NPS to create internal communications guidance for the event to inform national parks about how to best promote their National Trails Day event. That guidance was also shared internally with the BLM and the USFS. All three agencies shared about the nation's largest trail event in a coordinated way on social media, and the awareness about National Trails Day would not have been possible without the assistance of the three agencies' willingness and commitment to share NTS related news.

Additionally, I assisted the NPS National Trails Office with the 2022 American Solar Challenge (ASC), a collegiate cross-country solar car rally that followed the route of the Oregon National Historic Trail (NHT). Many of the ASC checkpoints were located at NPS sites along the route, with one checkpoint at a BLM site. Both agencies were excited to share about this unique event along the Oregon NHT and because of this, the ASC reached hundreds of thousands of people on social media and gained television media attention.

Having interagency support greatly helps raise awareness about the NTS. By working together and taking a coordinated approach to NTS related communications, awareness about the System can be uplifted in a far more efficient and impactful way than each trail or agency attempting to do so alone.

The past year is only the beginning of the coordination and reach the NTS can achieve. The NTS Communications Working Group will continue to meet monthly to improve and increase interagency communications. Of course, many national trails depend on their partner organizations to take charge of communications. The next area of potential to raise awareness about the System is through the public and private partner organizations who work hard to promote, develop, sustain, and preserve the National Scenic and Historic Trails. Further involvement and coordination among the trails, agencies and partners will continue to uplift recognition of the NTS.

To get connected with communicators across the trails system contact

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

# Continental Divide Trail Coalition Celebrates 10 Years of Uniting the Divide

By Allie Ghaman, *Communications Manager, Continental Divide Trail Coalition*

As the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC) celebrates 10 years of cooperative stewardship in partnership with the communities and landscapes of the Divide, we have a great opportunity to pause on our trek, take a water break, and reflect on how far we've come — and to look forward to the path ahead!

CDTC was founded in 2012 when friends and employees from the former Continental Divide Trail Alliance, which had lately dissolved, decided to join together to form a new organization to continue to grow the cooperative stewardship of the Continental Divide between different government agencies and other stakeholders. Around a living room table on New Year's Eve, the friends wanted to reimagine what a trail organization could be. In a deliberate departure from prior management methods, the group, including Teresa Martinez (current Executive Director of CDTC), Bryan Martin, Kerry Shakarjian, and Josh Shusko, chose to form a decentralized coalition that emphasized community-driven stewardship over top-down institutionalism, and that designed the organization around four central pillars: Stewardship, Community Engagement, Trail Information and Outreach, and Organizational Governance.

In those early days, with the trail only 68% complete on public lands, a single CDTC trail maintenance project, and only 25 people attempting a thruhike of the CDT annually, the organizational landscape that the young Coalition was entering was vastly different from

present day. In 2022, the trail is now 95% complete, and closer than ever with the introduction of the Continental Divide Trail Completion Act in the House of Representatives last year, and the recent passage of the proposal from the House in the FY23 National Defense Authorization Act. The trail will also see at least 500 to 600 hikers attempting a thruhike this year, and a record 15 planned trail maintenance projects, as well as adopter trainings and new Gateway Community volunteer projects.

As CDTC has grown rapidly in tandem with the popularity of the CDT, even during the pandemic, maintaining programs that are central to our core values has been instrumental in ensuring that growth has been sustainable, equitable, and future-focused. Harkening to the foundational four pillars for CDTC has allowed us to stay close to the heart of our mission, even as we explore new ways in which a nimble, young organization can play a role in both local and national conservation efforts. As CDTC looks ahead to the next decade of our mission, we hope to strategize our next moves in an ever-shifting ecological and social landscape, and to retain those critical goals outlined around a kitchen table, which allow CDTC to remain firm in stewardship and accountability to the communities we serve.

Learn more about the 10th Anniversary at [continentaldividetrail.org/10-years/](https://continentaldividetrail.org/10-years/)

## THEN



## NOW

CDTC is founded around a living room table with the 4 Founders, Bryan Martin, Josh Shusko, Kerry Shakarjian, and Teresa Martinez.



14 full-time CDTC staff are located along the entirety of the trail, with interns, fellows, and seasonal positions supporting ongoing projects.

The CDT is 68% complete with many sections unmarked.



The CDT is 95% complete. CDTC participates in standing working groups across the trail on the major gap areas.

25 hikers attempt to thru-hike the CDT annually, with many section hikers and recreationalists enjoying the CDT in their own backyard.



400-600 hikers attempt the thru-hike the CDT annually, with the growing popularity of public lands brings thousands of new recreationists and international travelers to the CDT.

## COMINGS AND GOINGS

*This column highlights leadership and staff changes along the National Trails System. Join us in celebrating new trails leaders and professionals, and saying goodbye to those who move on to new adventures.*

### WE WELCOME

- Marcy DeMillion as the Arizona National Scenic Trail Administrator in the Forest Service Southwestern Region
- Mike Reynolds as the Deputy Director for Congressional and External Relations for the National Park Service
- Alex Faught as a Supervisory Realty Specialist in the NPS National Trails Land Resources Program Center
- Eric Giusti as a Supervisory Realty Specialist in the NPS National Trails Land Resources Program Center
- Heather Boyd as the Superintendent for Grand Portage National Monument on the North Country National Scenic Trail
- Kevin Eads as the Superintendent at Fort Larned National Historic Site on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail
- Chrissy Fichter as the Volunteer Engagement Specialist for the Arizona Trail Association
- Olivia Woods as the Field Coordinator for the Northern Arizona region of the Arizona Trail Association
- Bill Neidringhaus to the PNTS Trail Leaders Council as the Potomac Heritage Trail Association representative
- Royce Gibson to the PNTS Trail Leaders Council as the Florida Trail Association representative
- Jacqueline Thompson as the PNTS Operations Assistant

### WE SAY GOODBYE TO

- Kelly Van Patten who was the Trail Program Director for the Florida Trail Association
- Andrea Kurth who was the Gateway Community Program Coordinator for the Continental Divide Trail Coalition
- Isobel Lingenfelt who was the Western Regional Representative for the Oregon-California Trails Association

*Submit 'Comings and Goings' at your organization for publication in Pathways to **communication@pnts.org***



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# NATIONAL TRAILS WORKSHOP

November 2-4, 2022 | Albuquerque, NM

*Photo by MarbleStreetStudio.com. Courtesy of Visit Albuquerque.*

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