

Pathways

FALL 2022

Across America

Native Lands, National Trails
An Indigenous Mapping
and Research Project



**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.

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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

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

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



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
View along the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in California. Photo Credit: Bob Wick, Bureau of Land Management.

INSIDE
Left: People resting under a tree on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Table Bluff Segment. Photo Credit: PNTS.
Center: Reenactor during Junior Ranger Day at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site along the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail. Photo Credit: Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.
Right: Lockett Meadow in Flagstaff, AZ on the Arizona National Scenic Trail.

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This fall the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) held an in-person workshop. It drew well over 200 people from around the nation to New Mexico to learn, share and celebrate trails together.

A perennial highlight of our fall workshop is the participation of the

PNTS Trail Apprentices. The Trail Apprentice program is a career exploration program for emerging leaders aged 18 to 28 years. Trail Apprentices set and work toward goals through the program while learning more about different career paths available for professionals working in National Trails and other public lands. They also receive scholarships to attend the PNTS fall workshop so they may learn and network with active professionals and other trail enthusiasts.

This year, we welcomed seven Trail Apprentices, one of whom held a new position of peer leader, a second-year Trail Apprentice who takes on greater leadership within the program. Our very first Peer Leader, Callum Cintron, who also was recently named to our DEI Committee, led a 'Next Gen' roundtable at the workshop that brought together nearly 40 attendees to discuss their priorities, challenges and opportunities. The roundtable was so successful that we're planning to organize virtual 'Next Gen' roundtables in 2023 with help and leadership from the Trail Apprentices. The experience made a mark on Callum, both literally and figuratively.

In a message sent by Callum following the workshop, they shared, "I wanted to extend my deepest appreciation to you all. Overall my time with PNTS has

been amazing and has allowed me to engage with the outdoors in ways I thought my disability had taken from me. The workshop was inspiring and motivating... My work on various PNTS projects, the passion of the trails community and this last week (at the workshop) overall changed that for me." Callum even shared an image of a tattoo they had gotten to commemorate the experience that has an outline similar to the National Trails' logos.

You can see the impact of the PNTS next generation programs through this issue of Pathways Across America. Two of our Board members and one staff person are former Trail Apprentices. A fantastic podcast focused on the Oregon and California National Historic Trails features the work of a dynamic individual who remained involved with the trail organization following involvement through the PNTS Trail Intern Grant program. Regularly, we learn that staff working for trail organizations or Federal agencies became involved with National Trails through a PNTS program for emerging leaders. In fact, a recent survey showed that 83 percent of PNTS next generation program participants who responded to our survey report that they are currently working in, or engaged with, work related to outdoor recreation, conservation, or another field related to trails.

As the only national nonprofit organization focused on National Historic & Scenic Trails, PNTS plays the important role of being both a convener and coordinator for learning, collaboration and exchange. We couldn't be more thrilled to work to expand the network of supporters for trails and to bring together seasoned and emerging leaders to collectively work to actualize a vibrant National Trails System for all.

All the best,



Image 1. The 2022 Trail Apprentices. Left to Right: Callum Cintron, Melissa Olivar, Paola Hinojosa, Karly Toledo, María Rodríguez, Lisette Perez, and Maura Hanley.



Image 2. Callum's tattoo. Courtesy of Callum Cintron.

Emma Connors: 2021-22 Trail Apprentice

This column shines a light on rising leaders in public lands and outdoor recreation who participate in PNTS' Trail Intern Grants or Trail Apprentice 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 grew up hiking trails around Bozeman almost every day of the summer, and genuinely I am the person I am today because of that experience. Hiking trails taught me grit, gave me an appreciation for diversity and care for the vulnerable, showed me the kind of person I wanted to be, and helped me discover my passion for the outdoors and desire to spend my life caring for it,” said Emma Connors, a 2021-22 Trail Apprentice and recent graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

Emma’s passion for the outdoors has led them to participate in a range of service and professional activities that allow them to combine their skills in graphic design, leadership, trail maintenance, and more. Emma found the PNTS Trail Apprentice Program (TAP) through her supervisor from the Montana Conservation Corps Youth Program (MCC) which they worked for as a Senior Expedition Leader this summer. Since completing the TAP, Emma has continued to volunteer for and support PNTS, and they hope to continue building connections with other organizations that work to conserve the outdoors.

For Emma, trails are important for all people and should be accessible to all because they are essential for wellbeing, happiness, and social connections. But the connections do not end with people; Emma appreciates the way trails help us see the connections within ecosystems that include “plants, bugs, rocks, and animals” as well as humans. Seeing these connections have given Emma “an appreciation for the diversity and deep care for the vulnerable.” Trails are places where meaningful connections can be made.



Image. Emma Connors.

Participating in the TAP solidified Emma’s career trajectory in the outdoors. They said, “it helped me articulate my specific passion, to work in a career that makes the outdoors—trails, forests, parks, rivers, mountains—more accessible to all.” Moving forward, Emma hopes to be part of creating a future where trails are accessible to everyone, and everyone feels safe and welcome in the outdoors. “I especially hope to see more Indigenous representation in the groups who make decisions about the future of trails and recreation—this land we all are privileged to enjoy is theirs, and they know best how to care for it.”

Emma recently began a full-time position with the City of Bozeman Parks Department where they will “help manage parks as well as trails throughout the town,” and make a “direct impact on creating outdoor spaces for all folks to enjoy.” They will also continue to do freelance graphic design and work with outdoor organizations to amplify their message.

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.

7
2022 Trail Apprentices exploring trails careers

13
Intern Grants awarded for trail projects in 2022

16
Trail interns supported in 2021 through Intern Grants

SUPPORT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT
Our programs support and encourage young adults to explore careers in trails. Donate to our programs at bit.ly/FALL22PW

Native Lands, National Trails: An Indigenous Mapping and Research Project

By Kiana Estate-Gashytewa, *Indigenous Mapping and Research Project Coordinator*

Historically, cartography and maps have been used as an instrument of colonization which has been severely detrimental to the adequate representation of Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples and communities were often left out of the conversation.

In January 2022, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) launched the Native Lands, National Trails (NLNT) project to provide space for Indigenous voices. In collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Native Land Digital (NLD) and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps Indigenous nations, communities and organizations are being invited into the conversation to help steward, provide Indigenous ways of knowing, and the histories/stories that have been excluded previously on public lands. This project is collaborative and does not aim to define Indigenous communities but instead provide an inclusive mapping and resource platform that includes all Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, recognized and non-recognized tribes.

‘Native Lands, National Trails,’ consists of an interactive GIS map and resource kit that will serve as a cultural awareness tool that shows the intersection and relationship between Indigenous lands and the National Trail System “in a manner that respects Tribal sovereignty and achieves mutually beneficial outcomes for Tribal and Indigenous communities.”* The interactive GIS map is hosted through ESRI, to make it accessible to the public, federal agencies, trail organizations, tribal nations and/or Indigenous communities.

The map overlays an Indigenous Territories layer from NLD onto the National Trail System map and showcases the Indigenous communities that have inhabited these lands over time. The NLD data is a work in progress that relies on contributions from the community to create inclusive and accurate information. As this dataset is continuously being updated, the map will never be perfect. Suggestions for improvement can be made via NLD at info@native-land.ca.



Image 1. *Native Lands, National Trails logo artist Autry Lomahongva and project coordinator Kiana Estate-Gashytewa.*

It is crucial to understand that borders and boundaries have been fluid when it comes to describing territory or landscapes within Indigenous communities. This differs from Native Federal land (reservation and trust land) as these boundaries are considered to be political. The Nation-to-Nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations is governed by law and differs from the public engagement and collaboration with Indigenous communities that is offered here. Our map does not represent any official or legal territory boundaries, reservations, trust lands, etc. Please contact tribal governments and proper agencies for this data.

The 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT) on the map are representations of the Congressionally designated trail routes and should not be used for navigation purposes or detailed planning. Consult administering agencies for up to date information.

The resource kit/hub features examples of Indigenous collaboration on NSHT’s, information from Indigenous organizations and information pertinent resources for

Native Lands, National Trails Resources

NLNT Resource Toolkit

bit.ly/NativeLandsNationalTrails

NLNT Interactive GIS Map

bit.ly/NativeLandsNationalTrailsMap

Project Overview Video

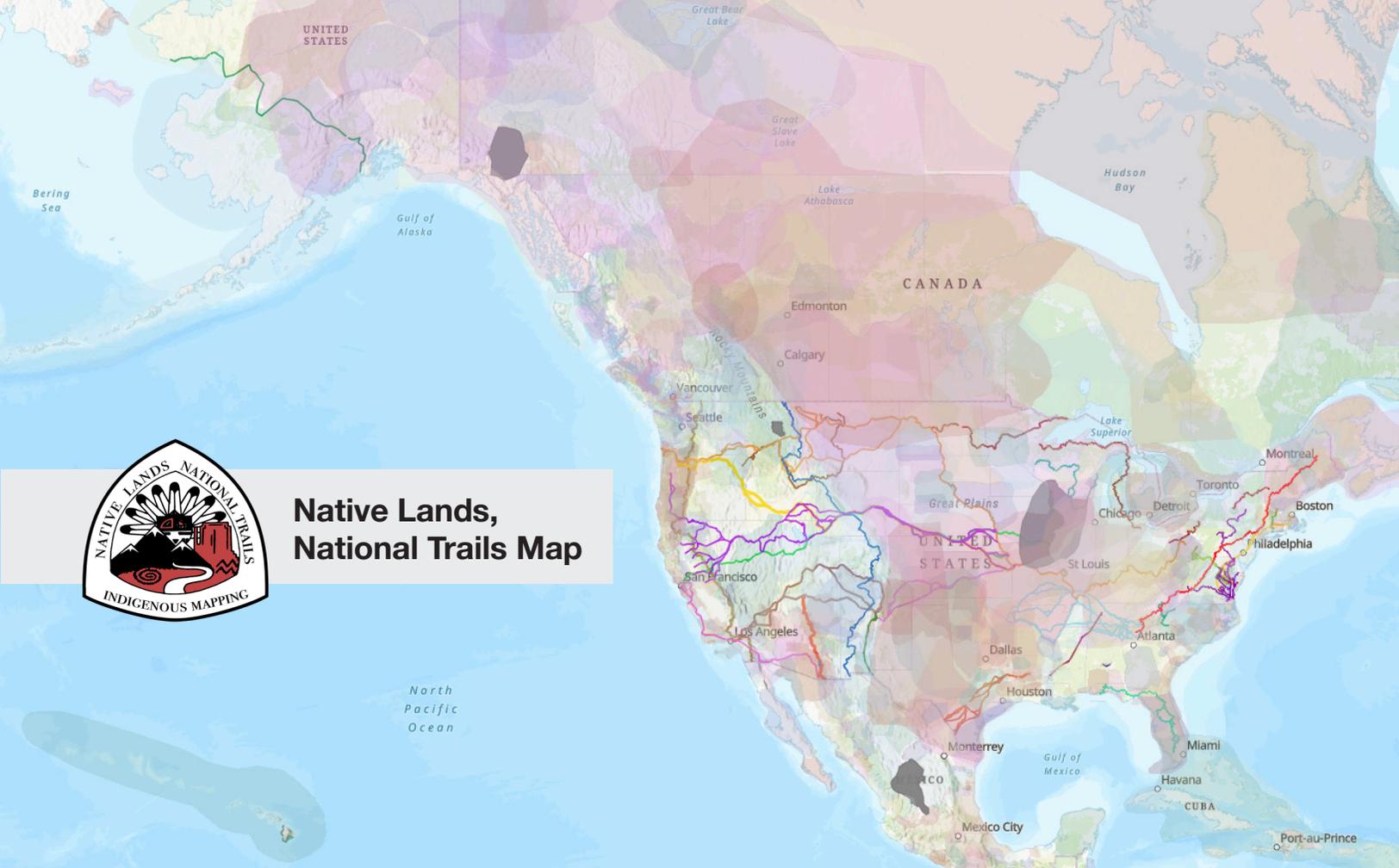
bit.ly/pntsimrp

Tribal Consultation Webinar Series

bit.ly/TribalConsultationSeries

Engagement and Education with the Indigenous Mapping and Research Project Webinar

bit.ly/IMRP-Webinar



Native Lands, National Trails Map

Image 2. Still image of the Native Lands, National Trails interactive GIS map featuring Indigenous territories and the Congressionally designated routes of the 30 National Scenic and Historic Trails.

using the NLNT map. These educational resources should be used in conjunction with PNTS' Tribal Consultation webinar series which is available to watch online.

We encourage you to play around with the features on the map, explore the resources in the toolkit, and learn more about the ancestral territories you reside on or recreate through! We hope this project will contribute to the ongoing efforts to advance National Trails System knowledge of Indigenous ancestral lands and increase partnerships and collaborations with Indigenous communities and nations along trails.

**From the "Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge" November 30th 2022*

Project Acknowledgement

Trails are Indigenous.

Trails flow and live through the territories and are guides for many histories, people, animals and entities living and nonliving.

We acknowledge that this project aims to strengthen relations for National Trails and Indigenous communities throughout Indigenous Territories and what is now considered United States.

Project Partners

The Native Lands, National Trails project was possible through partnerships and support from several organizations and governmental agencies.



Artist Selected to Design the Indigenous Mapping and Research Project Logo

This summer, PNTS put out a call for an artist to design a logo for the Indigenous Mapping and Research Project (IMRP) to represent the project in online material, outreach, and promotional materials. Since this project seeks to create connections between Native lands and National Trails, Native or Indigenous youth were strongly encouraged to apply. The open call asked artists to submit a portfolio of past work as well as answer a few questions related to their relationship

to trails and their vision for a logo. PNTS received many fantastic applications. A panel composed of IMRP project partners worked together to choose one artist to hire to design the logo.

Autry Lomahongva, who is Hopi and Navajo (Diné), was selected as the project artist. Autry worked with members of the IMRP project team to develop a design concept and complete the logo artwork.



“Growing up with traditional teachings and a thirst for more traditional knowledge I seek to show how beautiful Native art can be. Take a mountain for example, an average person would see a mountain but for an Indigenous person such as me, I see a relative. I see a place that was once visited by the ancestors that would leave prayer feathers as offerings. Through the art that I create the viewer gets a small peek out of the eyes of what an Indigenous person would see.”

- Autry Lomahongva

For Autry, a major motivation for his artwork is “a need to uphold designs made by [his] Hopi and Navajo ancestors.” Autry’s artistic inclination emerged after being taught traditional arts of the Navajo and Hopi cultures. Through mentorship from his uncle who is an artist, Autry built skills in weaving and carving but really succeeded in fine Hopi pottery designs.

Creating designs goes beyond just drawing, it is a form of meditation. “I can let my pencil and pen flow and from my head to my hands the designs come into reality,” said Autry. This rhythmic meditation not only fuels creativity but serves as a major motivator for Autry’s work.

Although Autry was surprised to be selected as the IMRP artist, he wowed the project partners with his intricate designs and imaginative visions for the IMRP logo. In the logo design, Autry sought to incorporate stylistic elements of the National Trails System and Hopi pottery designs. Autry said, “I was brought up in the old teachings of my cultures and so I have an eye for old and traditional art pieces.” Through ongoing conversations with the IMRP team, Autry developed a beautiful and layered logo rich with meaning. “I see trails as pathways that can lead you to spectacular places. Maintained properly you can see the amazing landscapes the world has to offer,” said Autry. The

integration of both Indigenous iconography and elements of the National Trails System logo works to form a visual that resonates with the purpose of the IMRP.

Autry’s artwork was designed by hand using pen and marker. PNTS staff digitized the artwork to create the final logo.



Image 1. Autry's handdrawn design for the logo.

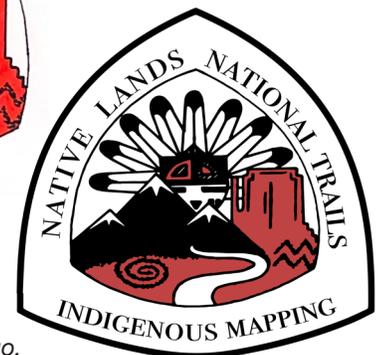


Image 2. Digitized logo.

Holistic Inventory Methods for National Trails

By Carin Farley, National Scenic and Historic Trails Lead, Bureau of Land Management

The relationship with place strengthens our understanding of historic events and patterns in North American history. National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT) are places of cultural and natural significance, where the landscapes are bound to everything that was and still is. Currently the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) NSHT inventories are separated out by the scenic, natural, cultural/historic, and recreational resources or landscape elements. Once these elements are inventoried and thought of holistically, as part of the larger landscape, they come alive! Through our inventory methods, the BLM is focusing efforts on integrating this holistic way of understanding into our work and training.

The BLM manages approximately 6,000 miles of congressionally designated National Scenic and Historic Trails in over 100 field offices in 15 states through policy Manuals 6250 and 6280 that were created in 2012. In 2019, BLM developed an Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring (IAM) methodology to build a baseline for NSHTs and establish a consistent agency process for recording and analyzing resources along trails that can create defensible NSHT corridors for protection.

In the summer of 2021, BLM Headquarters sought to acquire services from qualified Technical Assistance Contractors to increase program capacity, implement policy, and the IAM Methodology.

Logan Simpson was awarded the contract for their in depth understanding of data collection, analysis, and familiarity with National Scenic and Historic Trails. All BLM State Offices, District Offices, and Field Offices have access to this contract to acquire NSHT IAM services. To date, Alaska, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah have all worked on aspects of this methodology under task orders. At the Headquarters level, a NSHT Training Strategy was developed in the spring of 2022 in coordination with partners, and the first virtual interdisciplinary IAM Workshop was completed in August 2022.

IAM is a necessary component of the BLM's NSHT program to identify, locate, and appropriately manage the resources, qualities, values, associated settings, and primary trail uses that collectively define the nature and purposes of each unique NSHT. Monitoring

the inventory supports the BLM's understanding of resource conditions, the effects of decisions made, and the potential impact of emerging issues. Analysis and trend reports can be used to support relevant regional and national initiatives. Therefore, it is critical that every part of the inventory clearly, consistently, and accurately represents the entire landscape, the resources and values present, and their condition. IAM can foster easier program and agency coordination with improved data exchange for these cross-jurisdictional national assets.

Broad implementation of IAM methods will require substantial commitment and investment. With potential funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) the program hopes to contribute to climate resiliency through strategic inventory that results in conservation and protection actions. For example, proper inventory will result in informed management plans that can increase habitat connectivity in corridors and/or protect sacred landscapes. In a response to agency IRA proposals, Director Stone Manning stated that, "The BLM intends to more formally and firmly rest resource use decisions on data-driven knowledge of resource conditions." This work can be accomplished in coordination and support of the BLM's Civilian Climate Corps Implementation Plan and assist in establishing an Indian Youth Service Corps. The BLM will look to these programs, tribes, and other partnerships wherever possible to be a part of these inventories and foster the next generation of public land professionals.

With proactive inventory of the values for which these trails were established and a deeper understanding of the holistic landscape, the agency can protect them from impacts. The National Trail System connects people to the land, its natural and scenic wonders, and the Nation's diverse heritage. Together with other federal agencies, partner organizations and indigenous communities there are huge opportunities for landscape level connectivity and conservation. By leveraging shared boundaries, shared management authorities, and inventory baselines across jurisdictions we can as a nation assess the health and wellbeing of the system as a whole.

Santa Fe Trail Association Revisits "High Potential Sites and Segments"

By Joanne VanCoevern, Santa Fe Trail Association Manager



Image 1. Jill Jensen, Aaron Mahr, and George Elmore at Sharpe's Ruts, a potential High Potential Site and Segment. Courtesy of Joanne VanCoevern.



Image 2. Seth McFarland, Angelica Sanchez-Clark, Jill Jensen, Linda Colle, Aaron Mahr, George Elmore, Britt Colle, & Carolyn Kern at Sharpe's Ruts

The National Trails System Act (Act), originally passed in 1968, requires that National Historic Trails identify High Potential Sites and Segments (HPSS). While the Act states that "high potential historic sites" means those historic sites related to the route, or are in close proximity to the route and provide the opportunity to interpret the historical significance of the trail during the period of its major use, and that "high potential route segments" should afford high quality recreation experience, have greater than average scenic value, or provide the opportunity to vicariously share the experience of the original user, no specifics are laid out to make those evaluations.

The Santa Fe Trail was designated as a National Historic Trail in 1987 and in 1989, the Draft Comprehensive Management and Use Plan and Environmental Assessment were distributed to the public, governmental agencies, organizations, and individuals. A draft Map Supplement was also made available for review and comment. Included in that document was a list of HPSS. Because almost 30 years have passed since the document was published, and additional research has identified additional HPSS, the National Trails Office, Santa Fe, approached the Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) in 2019 about assisting with beta testing newly developed guidelines for evaluation of Santa Fe Trail related sites and/or segments that might qualify for the inclusion to the listing of "High Potential Sites and Segments." After reviewing the "Guide" and "Evaluation Sheets" developed by the National Trails Office, volunteers from the SFTA and staff from the National Trails Office, Santa Fe conducted visits to several sites being considered for nomination

to the HPSS listing.

On-site visits have included:

Buckner, MO – Fire Prairie Creek Crossing; Kansas City, MO – Hart Grove Campsite (three trails corridor park); Allen, KS – 142 mile bridge; Council Grove, KS – Rock Creek Crossing; Tampa KS – Muddy Creek Crossing; Durham, KS – Donahue Ruts; Durham, KS – French Franks; Galva, KS – Turkey Creek Crossing; Windom, KS – Fry's Ruts; Chase, KS – Sharpe Ruts; Fort Dodge, KS – Coon Creek Crossing; Dodge City, KS – Chilton Monument/swales; Lamar, CO – John Martin Reservoir; La Junta, CO -- Sierra Vista Overlook; La Junta, CO – Timpas Creek; and Raton, NM – NRA Whittington Center.

Using a score sheet, volunteers and staff rated the various "potential site" locations for documentation of location, historical significance, interpretation opportunity, visual similarity to historical landscape, and inappropriate non-visual (smell, sound, etc.) intrusions, and visible historic remnants. Consideration for scoring for "potential segments" included confidence of location, recreational experiences, vicarious experiences, visual similarity and non visual intrusions. The final tally of the score sheets will then be used to determine if a site/segment qualifies to be added to the list of "High Potential Sites and Segments" for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.

Learn more about the Santa Fe Trail Association at
www.santafetrail.org

Over 1,800 Acres Acquired to Protect and Preserve the Ala Kahakai Trail

By Kaleo Paik, *Ala Kahakai Trail Association, Board of Directors Secretary*

Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) has just closed on acquiring over 1,800 acres of land at Kiolaka`a in Ka`u to protect and preserve the trail, cultural and natural resources as well as the view plane along the coast. This land acquisition took several years and was done in large part through the efforts of the Trust for Public Land. Funding for the purchase came from the State Legacy Land and the County of Hawaii PONC programs.

Below are comments from an article in the Trust for Public Land announcement from individuals closely tied to the project from our organization that reflect the deep commitment of ATA to the land and the community for the best possible efforts to steward the land.

“ATA looks forward to working closely with the Ka`u community and the County to create a community management plan that honors the legacy of our kupuna (ancestors) to mālama (steward) these lands for the next generation,” said Keoni Fox, Vice- President, Ala Kahakai Trail Association.

“When you connect kanaka maoli (Hawaiians) to their `āina kulāiwi (land of their ancestors) in places like Kiolaka`a, that foundation has great potential to further strengthen and foundate our Ka`u community,” shared Nohealani Kaawa, Stewardship Committee, Ala Kahakai Trail Association. “Strong communities are born out of each of us being our best selves and when given a space to work together, it allows for positive impacts, shaping the future of our keiki with all the resources that Kiolaka`a has to offer and teach.”

This last acquisition completes ATA's efforts in the Ka`u area. In total, we have acquired over 5,400



Image. Kiolaka coast. Image Credit: The Trust for Public Land.

acres in fee and approximately another 1,700 acres as administrative easement holder. A stewardship hui or committee has been formed and is actively working on how best to manage these lands. A Management Plan has been initiated and is close to completion for one of our parcels and we will have two other plans initiated in the very near future. All of the Management Plans will incorporate Hawaiian values, a strong commitment to preserving cultural resources, native plants and their habitat, and looking to incorporate best practices in land usage.

ATA is very grateful to the Trust for Public Land, the State and County of Hawaii for the funding, the Stewardship Hui for their continued commitment and the ATA Board for having the foresight and resilience to fight for these lands.

OUTREACH

New Visitors Center Along the Appalachian Trail

PNTS staff, *Adapted from Appalachian Trail Conservancy press release*

The Damascus Trail Center opened this summer through a collaboration between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) and the Town of Damascus.

The center serves as an informational hub for visitors and locals seeking to experience the great outdoors and learn about trail stewardship. At the heart is the desire to connect people with outdoor spaces so they are inspired to protect and conserve them.

"Damascus has always been an iconic part of the Appalachian Trail experience, so it's hard to imagine a more appropriate place for the new Trail Center to call

home," said Sandra Marra, President and CEO of ATC.

The center is also situated along the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail and Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail. As a regional hub for outdoor recreation, Damascus hosts a variety of people—from experts to novices—who will benefit from this new resource.

Learn more about the Damascus Trail Center
appalachiantrail.org/dtc

Junior Ranger Angler Program Connects Fishing with History on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake Trail

By PNTS staff with support from Remi Shuall-Thompson, *Communications Associate, Chesapeake Conservancy*

“Through fishing, young people learn a new skill that connects them not only to the natural world, but also the culture of the Chesapeake Bay, past and present. Fishing is a huge part of life in the Chesapeake Bay today and is also an important part of the story we tell here at the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail,” said Remi Shuall-Thompson, Communications Associate for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT.

This summer, 425 new Junior Ranger Anglers joined the forces protecting, enjoying, and caring for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail (NHT). The Junior Ranger Angler program provides an educational experience for young people to learn about fishing, responsible recreation, and the many recreational opportunities in our nation’s National Parks and Trails. After completing the program, participants earn a badge and the title of Junior Ranger Angler.

The Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT received a National Park Foundation grant to host programs along the trail this summer, which allowed both young people and adults with developmental disabilities to participate in the program and become Junior Ranger Anglers. The Trail partnered with Watermen's Museum in Yorktown, VA, the Zimmerman Center for Heritage in Wrightsville, PA, Machicomoco State Park in Gloucester County, VA, and Williamsburg ARC to host the programs.

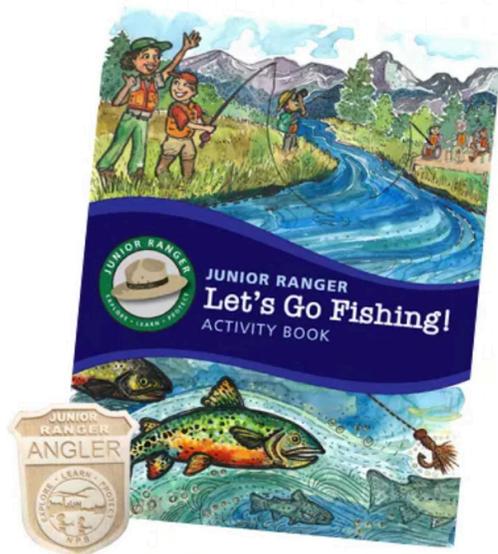


Image. Junior Ranger Angler activity book, Let's Go Fishing! Image by the National Park Service.



Image. Junior Ranger Angler participant learning from an expert angler. Photo courtesy of Remi Shuall-Thompson.

Participants were given the opportunity to try fishing in the York and Susquehanna Rivers, guided by expert fishers. Participants not only learned how to fish, but about the history and heritage of the Chesapeake Bay, including traditional fishing practices, Indigenous and colonial history in the area, and the role ecosystems of the Bay play in contemporary life. “We hope that participants of the Junior Angler program make connections between the cultures of the past and those of today. These comparisons help us think consciously about the mutual relationship between human beings and nature, including where our natural resources like food come from,” said Shuall-Thompson.

The Junior Ranger Angler program will remain a part of interpretive outreach on the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT. As programs continue, more Junior Ranger Anglers will gain meaningful experiences with a National Trail and, hopefully, develop a life-long relationship with the outdoors.

Learn about the Junior Ranger Angler Program
nps.gov/subjects/fishing/junior-ranger-fishing

Successful Junior Ranger Day on the Lewis and Clark Trail

By the Lewis & Clark Trust, Inc., *Friends Group of the Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail*

The award-winning Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program, developed by Caitlin Campbell, Interpretive Specialist at Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, was presented to an enthusiastic group of young visitors at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, Kentucky during the summer of 2022. The Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program received first place in the book category of the 2021 National Association for Interpretation Media Awards and was also given the Midwest Region Freeman Tilden Award for Excellence in Interpretation.

Claire Kolkmeier, Park Interpreter at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, took the program to a new high and organized a Junior Ranger Day Program that included volunteers from the Friends of Big Bone who provided displays of Big Bone replica materials and much needed tents for shade. Using the Lewis and Clark Trail Junior Ranger Program and the Fisher Lewis and Clark Discovery Chest along with a replica of "Big Bones," the event was an overwhelming success.

The effort of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, and the Friends of Big Bone is a vivid example of the strength of collaboration to educate and preserve.



Image. People participating in the Junior Ranger Day Program. Courtesy of Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

Memorandum of Agreement signed with the Town of Abingdon and Overmountain Victory Trail Association

By David Doan and Thomas Vaughan, *Overmountain Victory Trail Association*

Due to COVID-19, the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Tourism Department underwent a painful restructuring in 2020. One of the casualties was the Keller Interpretive Center at the Abingdon Muster Grounds which is the northern Trailhead of the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail that hosted over 10,000 visitors per year. Additionally, Abingdon had a cooperative agreement with the National Park Service to hold an annual Call-to-Arms for regional fourth grade students, which hosted approximately 1,500 students at a previous session. The students learned local history involving Colonels William and Arthur Campbell, and the Overmountain Men and their trek to the Battle of Kings Mountain. The students were also introduced to eighteenth-century skills such as cooking, lace-making, pottery, blacksmithing, salt-making, colonial games and others presented by 25-30 skilled reenactors in period clothing.

In a Memorandum of Agreement between the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) and the Town of Abingdon, which includes funding, the OVTA has reopened the Keller Interpretive Center at least five days per week and is again hosting visitors. In addition, the OVTA will be supporting additional events at the

Muster Grounds such as the Virginia Highlands Festival which is one of the largest festivals in the Southeast with tens of thousands of visitors yearly. The Town of Abingdon and the National Park Service also agreed to transfer funding for the Call-to-Arms to the OVTA. Due to this agreement, thousands of students and visitors are now welcomed back to learn about and experience the Overmountain Victory Trail.



Image. Reenactors at Abingdon Muster Grounds. Courtesy of Overmountain Victory Trail Association.

A Productive and Joyous Reunion at the 2022 National Trails Workshop



Images. Sessions during the 2022 National Trails Workshop. Photos by PNTS staff and volunteers.

Over 200 people gathered with PNTS in Albuquerque, NM this Fall for the 2022 National Trails Workshop. There were seasoned trail professionals, emerging leaders, and people interested in learning more about the work and world of trails. Over three days, this group workshopped pressing issues, shared significant knowledge and resources, and connected in a way that has not been possible for three years.

It was a time to reconnect and collaborate on shared challenges facing our National Trails and learn how to do so responsibly and respectfully, inviting in the communities who are impacted by trails. For some attendees, it was a good reminder of the importance of the National Trails System Act and its potential uses.

For others, it was a chance to challenge themselves to see how trails can be used for positive change and social justice, and to understand the inequity that currently exists on trails. And for others, it was an opportunity to work together to find solutions to various problems from conservation to persuasion.

To those of you who attended, we thank you for bringing your ideas and sharing them generously. And to those who spoke or led sessions, we cannot thank you enough for the fantastic information you shared and the discussions you generated.

If you missed this year’s workshop, we hope to see you next year. Join us in Orlando, Florida next Fall for the 2023 National Trails Workshop!

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We extend a special thank you to the Continental Divide Trail Coalition and the Host Committee and Subcommittee members.



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A Successful Campaign to Raise Awareness for Trails

We invited you to "Go Where the Trail Leads You" this Fall and you did!

PNTS teamed up with Bell's Brewery for the second year in a row for a co-branded trails awareness-raising campaign. Titled "Go Where the Trail Leads You," the campaign invited people to explore new trails, learn about trails, and support the trails in their backyard. By visiting bellsbeer.com/trails and pledging to spend time on trails, participants triggered a donation from Bell's to PNTS.

Like last year, the campaign was a success. The number of participants and hours pledged far exceeded our goal. Additionally, awareness-raising promotions reached over 1.25 million people!



Because we exceeded our goal of 4,000 hours pledged, Bell's donated \$20,000 to PNTS which will help us continue our work to support, promote, and conserve our trails.

Thank you to everyone who pledged their time and supported this campaign. An extra special thanks goes to Bell's Brewery for their ongoing commitment to trails and the great outdoors.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

WE WELCOME

- Nick Craig as the Realty Officer for the National Trails and Tiger Team Branch of the National Park Service Land Resources Division
- Jeff Ellison as the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail Administrator in the National Park Service
- Marcy DeMillion as the Arizona National Scenic Trail Administrator in the Forest Service Southwestern Region
- Ben Lara as the Continental Divide Trail Program Administrator
- Liz Schmit as the Community and Outreach Program Manager for the Continental Divide Trail Coalition
- Clay Showalter as the Arizona Trail Association's Youth Outreach & Education Coordinator for Northern Arizona
- Lisa Szela as the Volunteer Support Coordinator for the Ice Age Trail Alliance

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



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