



**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM**  
**2022 ANNUAL REPORT**

# ABOUT US

As the only national nonprofit focused on National Scenic and Historic Trails, PNTS is a collective voice, convener, resource, and hub of information that champions a vibrant National Trails System for all to enjoy. PNTS was founded by many of the nonprofit trail organizations that make up our membership to help trail managers, advocates and stewards connect and work together to advance shared goals for the National Trails System. Since 2001, the Partnership has embodied the collaboration of the National Trails System Act with representatives of Trail member organizations, Federal partners and a growing network of trail enthusiasts playing an active role in our work.

## '22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barney Mann, *President*

Luke Kloberdanz, *VP of Governance* • Ice Age Trail Alliance

John Hoffnagle, *VP of Fundraising* • Retired\*

Kaleo Paik, *Treasurer* • Ala Kahakai Trail Association\*

Liz Thomas, *Secretary* • Treeline Review

RG Absher • Overmountain Victory Trail Association

Oforiwaaw Pee Agyei-Boakye • Gonigs Inc., University of Minnesota, Twin Cities

Justin Fisch • Stoel Rives LLP

Steven Gonzales • El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association

Andrea Ketchmark • North Country Trail Association

Jamie Loucky • Washington Trails Association

Kristin Murphy • Consultant

Tony Richardson • Rock Creek Conservancy\*

Ron Tipton • Retired

*\*term has ended*

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Kiana Etsate-Gashytewa, *Indigenous Mapping and Research Coordinator*

Jacqueline Thompson, *Operations Coordinator*

Ashley Wheeler, *Communications Coordinator*

Cara Yendrzeski, *Program Coordinator*

## '22 TRAIL LEADERS COUNCIL

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Troy Ainsworth • El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (CARTA)

Ron Andersen • Mormon Pioneer Trail Association

Judy Bittner • Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Clare Cain • Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Sarah Cawley • Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

Liam Cregan • Appalachian Mountain Club

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

Royce Gibson • Florida Trail Association

Steven Gonzales • El Camino Real de los Tejas Association

Patrick Hearty • National Pony Express Association

Andrea Ketchmark • North Country Trail Association

Jeff Kish • Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Justin Kooyman • Pacific Crest Trail Association

James L. Mallory • Lewis and Clark Trust Inc.

Matt Mallinson • Oregon-California Trails Association

Bill Martin • Oregon-California Trails Association

Teresa Martinez • Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Paula Mitchell • Old Spanish Trail Association

Brendan Mysliwicz • Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Matthew Nelson • Arizona Trail Association

Bill Niedringhaus • Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Matt Nowak • Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Kaleo Paik • Ala Kahakai Trail Association

Reed Perry • Chesapeake Conservancy

Melissa Pierick • Ice Age Trail Alliance

Larry Short • Santa Fe Trail Association

Elizabeth Stewart • Anza Trail Foundation

Tony Turnbow • Natchez Trace Parkway Association

Ellen von Karajan • The National Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US)

Deloris Gray Wood • Trail of Tears Association

## '22 TRAIL MEMBERS:

Ala Kahakai Trail Association

The Anza Trail Foundation

Appalachian Mountain Club

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

Arizona Trail Association

Chesapeake Conservancy

Connecticut Forest and Park Association

Continental Divide Trail Coalition

Continental Divide Trail Society

E Mau Nā Ala Hele

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association

Florida Trail Association

Ice Age Trail Alliance

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance

Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Lewis and Clark Trust, Inc.

Mormon Trails Association

Natchez Trace Parkway Association

National Pony Express Association

Nez Perce Trail Foundation

North Country Trail Association

Old Spanish Trail Association

Oregon California Trails Association

Overmountain Victory Trail Association

Pacific Crest Trail Association

Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Potomac Heritage Trail Association

Santa Fe Trail Association

Trail of Tears Association

The National Washington-Rochambeau

Revolutionary Route Association, Inc. (W3R-US)

## '22 AFFILIATE MEMBERS:

American Discovery Trail Society

American Hiking Society

American Trails

Back Country Horsemen of America

Benton MacKaye Trail Association

Mike Dawson

Justin Fisch

Mormon Battalion Association

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

Washington Trails Association



**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.**

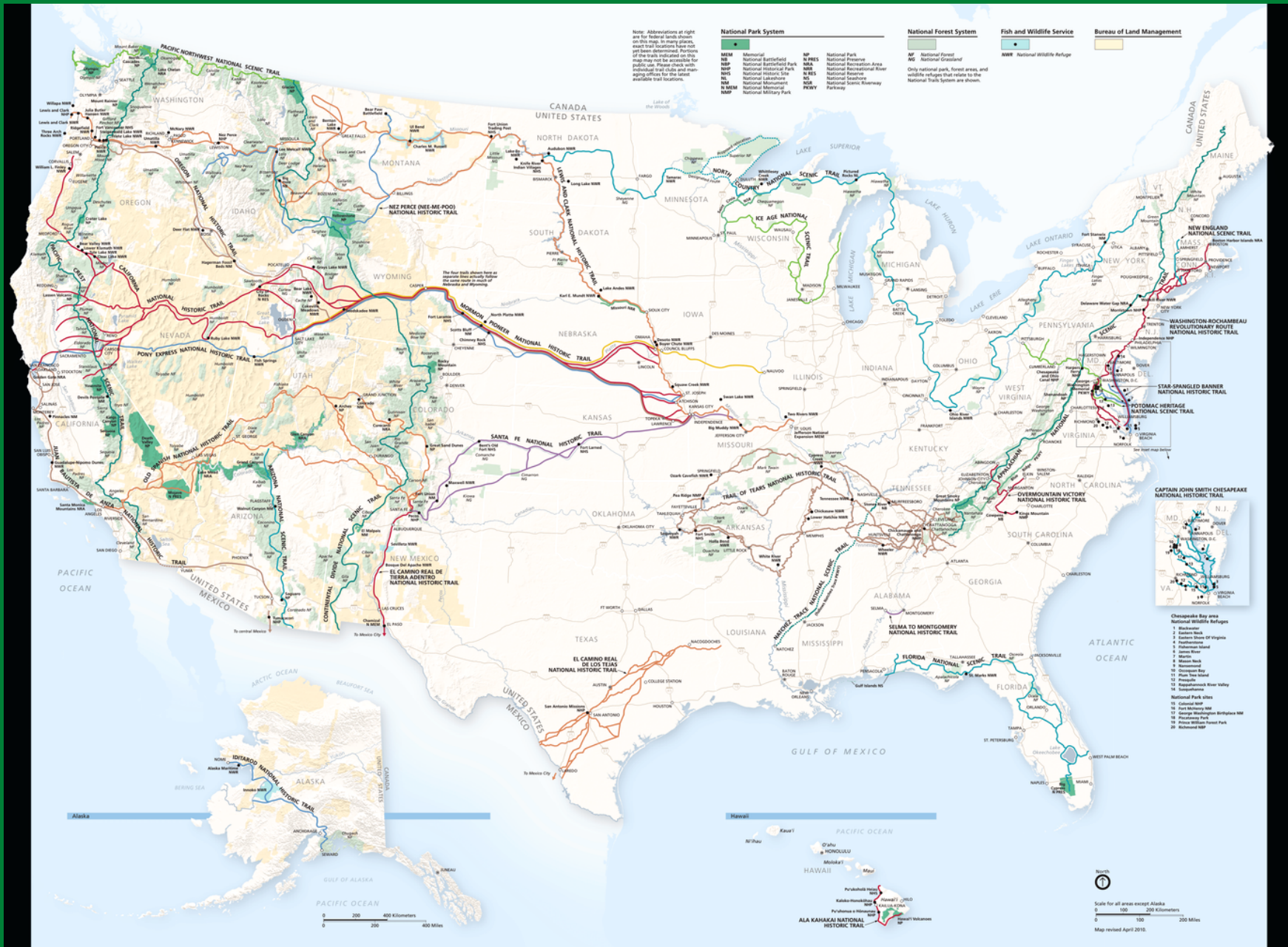
## **VISION**

**A world class system of National Trails that preserve natural and cultural values and provides recreational benefits for all.**

## **MISSION**

**To empower, inspire and strengthen public and private partners to develop, preserve, promote, and sustain the national scenic and historic trails.**

# THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM



# ABOUT THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

The National Trails System Act was 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), 21 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.

Per the National Trails System Act, National Scenic and Historic Trails are designated by Congress and stewarded by Federal and volunteer organization partners. These trails offer myriad benefits, including:

- Strengthening communities through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration
- Providing 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.

National Scenic and Historic Trails are administered by three Federal agencies: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and US Forest Service.

Learn more at [www.pnts.org](http://www.pnts.org)

## NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS

- Ala Kahakai
- Butterfield Overland
- California
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake
- Chilkoot
- El Camino Real de Los Tejas
- El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro
- Iditarod
- Juan Bautista de Anza
- Lewis and Clark
- Mormon Pioneer
- Nez Perce
- Old Spanish
- Oregon
- Overmountain Victory
- Pony Express
- Santa Fe
- Selma to Montgomery
- Star-Spangled Banner
- Trail of Tears
- Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route

## NATIONAL SCENIC TRAILS

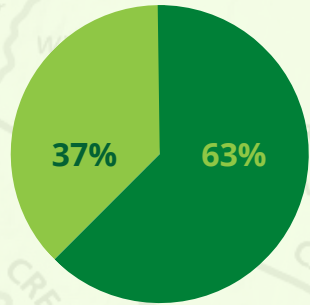
- Appalachian
- Arizona
- Continental Divide
- Florida
- Ice Age
- Natchez Trace
- New England
- North Country
- Pacific Crest
- Pacific Northwest
- Potomac Heritage

A lush green forest with tall trees and ferns, featuring a dark green semi-transparent banner with white text.

# 2022 NATIONAL TRAILS HIGHLIGHTS

# Each year Partnership for the National Trails System compiles information from its members and Federal partners to provide a snapshot of the incredible work that is happening on National Trails. A few highlights include:

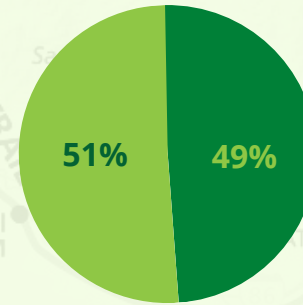
Since 1995, National Scenic and Historic Trail nonprofit partners leveraged Federal investment to raise and invest **\$757,223,191**



## 1995 - 2022

- Private Financial Contributions  
\$282,310,800
- Value of Volunteer Labor Hours  
\$474,912,391

In 2022, National Scenic and Historic Trail nonprofit partners leveraged Federal investment to raise and invest **\$43,731,706**



## 2022

- Private Financial Contributions  
\$22,256,718
- Value of Volunteer Labor Hours  
\$21,474,988

## Visitation and Accessibility

Most trails reported an increase in use despite 13,605 acres of trail land being damaged by natural disasters, and 338 trail miles being closed for longer than four months.

### Engagement

4,015 programs engaged 977,510 people including:

- 49,750 youth K-12
- 4,656 young adults 18-25
- 615 veterans

542 programs were designed to highlight/expand diversity on trails

### Collaboration

225 State, Tribal, regional, and local government agencies worked with Federal and nonprofit trail managers through formal agreements.

79 Indigenous communities or nations collaborated with NSHT organizations or Federal agencies in sustaining and supporting trails.

## National Historic and Scenic Trails

**Over 55,000 miles of NSHT designated to date**

- 37,400+ miles as part of National Historic Trails
- 17,900+ miles as part of National Scenic Trails

### National Trails connect people and landscapes

NSHT connect and travel through:

- 390+ National parks, forests, wildlife refuges, nationally designated wilderness areas
- 230+ Major urban areas and towns
- 100+ Bureau of Land Management land management areas

## Land Protection and Restoration

- 5,474 miles of trail preserved
- 2,879 acres of viewshed protected

**11,286 miles of trail were constructed or maintained**

221 new trail miles were built, including 45 miles that closed gaps and 32 side or connecting trail miles. 467 miles of trail were reconstructed.

**903 maintenance and construction activities**

Qualified Service or Corps members spent 95,282 hours performing maintenance or construction activities.

### Local Impact

**236 Trail Towns or Gateway Communities**

Gateway Communities or Trail Towns programs promote local communities and attract visitors and tourists to local businesses, resulting in increased foot traffic and increased recognition of both towns and trails.



# ADVOCACY & POLICY



## ***PNTS is a leading voice for the National Scenic and Historic Trails System***

We bring together member organizations and allies with an interest in a strong and vibrant National Trails System for all.

With active input from an Advocacy and Policy Committee and our Trail Leaders Council, PNTS mobilizes support for system-wide priorities in Congress and beyond. We bring together members and Federal partners to discuss policy, identify and work through challenges and take advantage of emerging opportunities for the National Trails System, and coordinate responses to important policies that would have a System-wide impact.



*Trail partners meet with Rick May, the new DOI Senior Advisor.*

# **HIKE THE HILL 2022**



Hike the Hill® is a joint effort between American Hiking Society and Partnership for the National Trails System to bring together the trails community to advance shared trail priorities with congressional and Federal agency leaders. In 2022, the event drew one of its largest groups of trails and hiking enthusiasts from across the nation to advocate for legislation, learn about new policies, and meet with federal partners, elected officials and their staff, and fellow trail organizations.

PNTS members educated officials and leaders about the benefits and needs of National Trails. Over 120 attendees participated in the virtual event that featured:

- 4 topical briefings to prepare participants for meetings
- 4 meetings with Federal agency leaders
- 4 meetings with congressional committee staff

Like all things PNTS leads, members played an active role in identifying System-wide priorities and sharing valuable perspectives as trail co-managers during meetings. Topics of discussion for the 25th annual event included new trail designations, staffing, and capacity issues of Federal land managers. Relevant legislation and issues were also discussed including: the Outdoors for All Act, Continental Divide Trail Completion Act, National Scenic Trail Parity Act, BOLT Act, Outdoor Recreation Act.



**TRAININGS,  
EDUCATION &  
NETWORKING**

**PNTS trains, educates, and creates forums for trail professionals, enthusiasts, and others to network and exchange through webinars, interactive workshops, working groups, and roundtables.**

## WEBINARS

PNTS hosted **14** webinars with **1,581 people** registered, a **260%** increase over the previous year! Webinar topics included:

- Addressing Disparities in Outdoor Access & Inclusion
- Engagement and Perspectives of the Next Generation
- A three-part Tribal consultation series
  - Foundations of Federal Indian Law
  - Foundations of Tribal Consultation & Visions of Its Future
  - Tribal Engagement: Distinguishing Consultation from Coordination

## WORKING GROUPS AND ROUNDTABLES

Forums for peer exchange bring together PNTS members and partners to share resources, learn together, and discuss successes and challenges of priority topics within the trails community. They increase collaboration and help strengthen trail programs.

The Volunteer Program Working Group and the Trail Operations Working Group continued strong in 2022, and we added The Small Shop Roundtable to provide a space for organizations with little to no staff or 100% volunteer-run to connect and collaborate on issues related to capacity and education.

## NATIONAL TRAILS WORKSHOP



*The 2022 Trail Apprentices at the National Trails Workshop*

The 2022 National Trails Workshop was the first in-person workshop since the onset of COVID-19 and took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico, November 2-4. Over 200 participants learned about a variety of topics:

- Day 1 - Tribal sovereignty, engagement with Indigenous communities and co-led stewardship
- Day 2 - advocacy campaigns, gateway communities, diversifying trail visitors and creating equitable workplaces
- Day 3 - inventory & monitoring tools, working with non-traditional partners, environmental justice and outdoor careers.

# EMERGING LEADERS & NEXT GENERATION PROGRAMS



# TRAIL APPRENTICES



Melissa Olivar



Lisette Perez



Marfa Rodríguez



Paola Hinojosa



Karly Toledo



Maura Hanley



Callum Cintron

**The Trail Apprentice Program helps young leaders explore careers in recreation, natural resource management, conservation, environmental studies, history, or a related field.**

A hallmark of the program includes a scholarship to attend the annual National Trails Workshop, organized each year by PNTS with help from a Host Committee. This allows them to learn alongside active professionals, and helps them to develop a network of professional contacts.

The **7 apprentices** (aged 18-28) learned about a variety of potential careers in National Trails, enjoyed opportunities to network and meet with professionals, and learned important skills.

"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) changed that for me."

-Callum Cintron, 2022 Trail Apprentice Peer Leader

# TRAIL INTERN GRANTS

**Trail Intern Grants provide funding for young adults to build capacity on National Scenic and Historic Trails.**

In partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service, PNTS awards grants of up to \$10,000 to the organizations and agencies that administer and manage National Scenic and Historic Trails so that they may hire interns to take on important projects on National Trails.

**13 Trail Intern Grants** were awarded, totaling **\$100,000**. These grants supported a broad range of projects such as building trails, historic research, and website and app development.

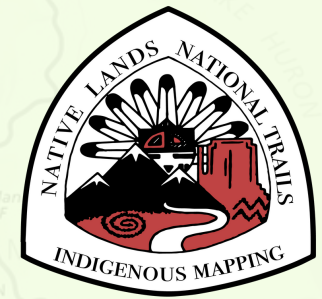


Trail maintenance on the Pacific Northwest Trail featuring PNTS Trail Intern, Evan Watson  
Photo Credit: Pacific Northwest Trail Association



# NATIONAL TRAIL RESOURCES & PROMOTION

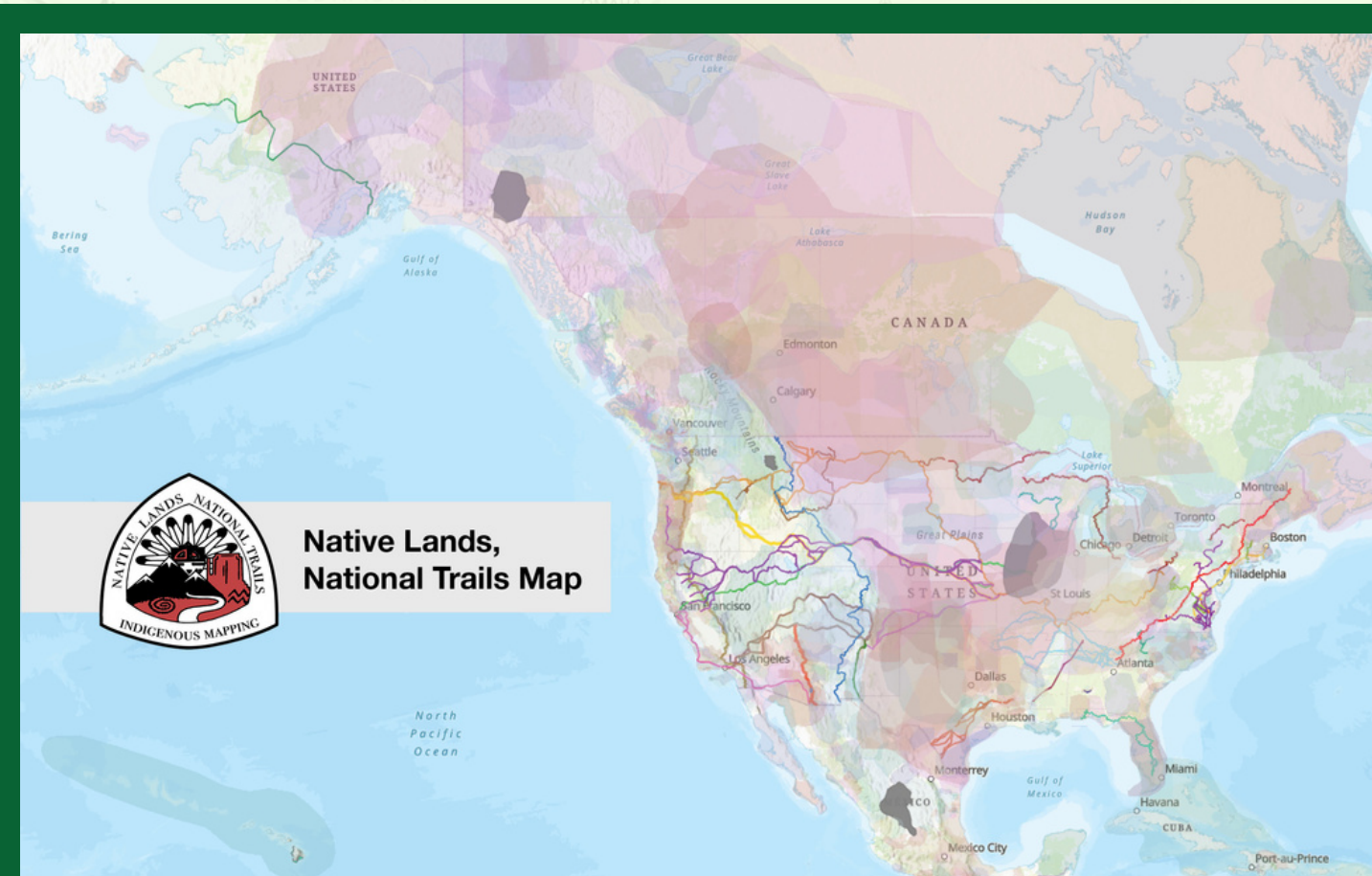
# NATIVE LANDS, NATIONAL TRAILS



PNTS launched the Indigenous Mapping & Research Project to create **Native Lands, National Trails**. It includes a map, resource guide and webinar series to inform the public and help National Trails and their nonprofit organization partners advance the National Trails System's knowledge of Indigenous Ancestral Lands through partnership and collaboration with Indigenous communities along National Scenic and Historic Trails. It was developed in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management, Native Land Digital and Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps.

**"A majority of trails under the National Trail System have Indigenous foundations or are Indigenous in creation. Indigenous nations have significant relationships in and around the trails themselves with deep historical, cultural and spiritual meanings."**

Kiana Etsate-Gashytewa, Indigenous Mapping and Research Coordinator for the Partnership for the National Trails System.



**"Our culture is alive, and our language is alive....Every time we go to a community and have some event or sign dedication commemorating the Trail of Tears, it is another opportunity for us to honor our ancestors who preserved the Cherokee as a distinct cultural and political entity."**

Troy Wayne Poteete, co-founder and Executive Director of the Trail of Tears Association and former Chief Justice of the Cherokee Nation

# RAISING AWARENESS FOR TRAILS

PNTS worked with two partners on national promotions to increase awareness of trails and PNTS

## Badger Sponsorship

The Trek hosted the Badger Sponsorship, a sweepstakes that awarded incredible prize packages of outdoor gear. People were encouraged to make a donation to PNTS when entering to win a package. 15 winners were selected.

- 1,482 participants
- \$24,547 donated to PNTS!

Special thanks to all participants, THE TREK and the following gear donors: Sawyer, Enlightened Equipment, Bedrock Sandals, Gossamer Gear, Zpacks, Six Moon Designs, North x North, FarOut, BUFF, Big Agnes, Granite Gear, Feathered Friends, Arc'teryx Equipment, Thrupack, Montbell, Katabatic, Vargo, Jetboil, Point6



## "Go Where The Trail Leads You"

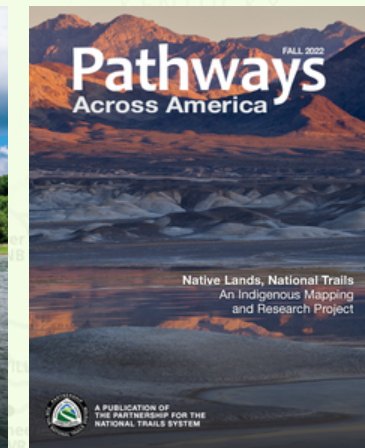
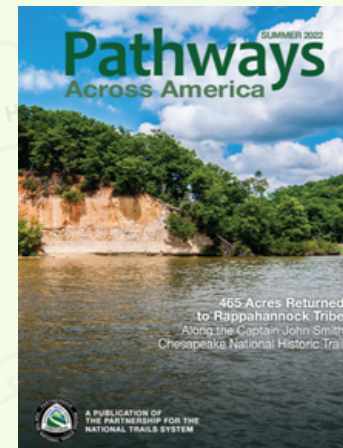
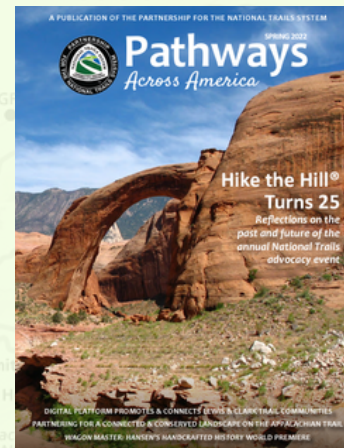
Bell's Brewery, one of the largest microbreweries in the U.S., continued a campaign to encourage people to explore and support trails in fall 2022. They donated \$5 to PNTS for each hour pledged up to \$20,000.

- 7,425 hours pledged
- \$20,000 donated to PNTS!

Thank you to everyone who pledged time to trails, and big thank you to Bell's Brewery for their generous support of the Partnership!

## COMMUNICATIONS

PNTS published four issues of its quarterly print and digital magazine, *Pathways Across America*, to share news and information about the National Trails System with trail professionals and the public. PNTS also disseminated a monthly e-newsletter to keep subscribers updated about the National Trails System.

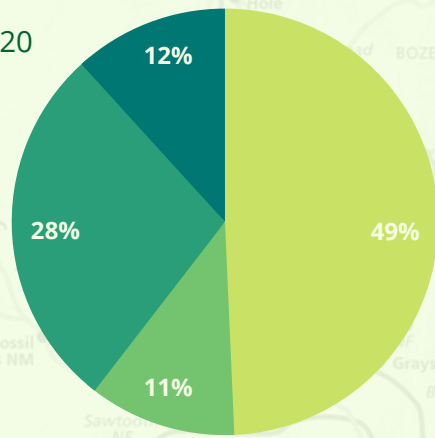




# FY 2022 FINANCIALS

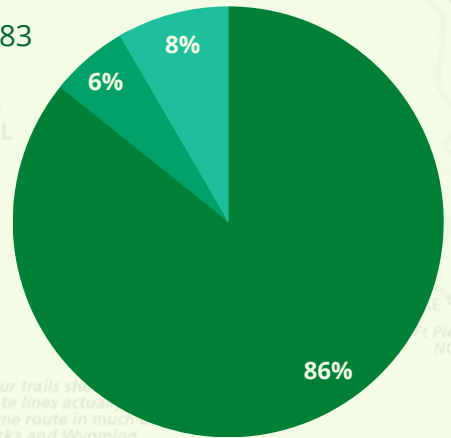
## REVENUE

- Government Assistance - \$308,112.20
- Membership Dues - \$69,787.65
- Private Contributions - \$173,627.90
- Miscellaneous Income - \$73,444.63



## EXPENSES

- Program Services - \$504,863.83
- Management - \$34,395.40
- Fundraising - \$49,498.93



# CORPORATE, FOUNDATION AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

*PNTS is incredibly grateful for the support we receive from our corporate, foundation and government partners!*

- |                           |                            |                                    |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| American Trails           | Environment Wisconsin Inc. | Logan Simpson                      | Sawyer Products Inc. |
| Amerind                   | Esri                       | Mapbox                             | US Forest Service    |
| Bureau of Land Management | HydroFlask                 | Morrison & Foerster Foundation     | USGS                 |
| Bell's Brewery            | Hyperlite Mountain Gear    | National Park Service              | Volgenau Foundation  |
| Clif Family Foundation    | KeyFactor                  | Rizzoli International Publications |                      |

# INDIVIDUAL SUPPORTERS

***PNTS extends heartfelt gratitude to our community of supporters. Your generosity enables us to champion a vibrant National Trails System and ensure the protection and expansion of this vital resource for all.***

R G Absher, Jr  
Kristin Ackerman  
Oforiwaa Pee Agyei-Boakye  
Satya Akquia  
Robert Ballou  
Thomas Barthelmess  
Rodney Bartlow  
Judith Bittner  
Ilissa Blech  
Derah Blount  
Margaret Blount  
Kent Borges  
Mary Boros  
Patrick Brennan  
Jeremy Campbell  
Cosmo Catalano  
Michael Chappell  
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Randolph Flood  
Marianne Fowler  
Nancy Frost  
Victoria Garren  
leslie gauff  
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Steven Gonzales  
Brooke Goudy  
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Cami Mojado  
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Kristin Murphy  
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Davies Nagel  
Ruth Nasrullah  
Jaron Nyhof  
Halima Omar  
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James Porterfield  
Cynthia Rachol  
Karina Ramirez  
Julia Raskin  
Rebeca Rodriguez  
Dean Thomas Ross  
Simon Rucker  
Amanda Santos

Barbara Schaefer  
Morgan Schetzle  
Joan Schumaker  
Helen Scully  
Steven Shattuck  
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Jeff Stump  
Shian Sung  
Nizhoni Tallas  
Elizabeth Thomas  
Ron Tipton  
Jennifer Tripp  
Lisa Volgenau  
Ellen von Karajan  
Andrea Waite  
Gary Werner  
Jason Williams  
Kent Wimmer  
Greg Winchester  
Nicole Wooten



Arizona Trail Association volunteers, PNTS Trail Intern and NPS staff team up to clear deadfall from the trail within Grand Canyon National Park near the North Rim.  
Credit: Arizona Trail Association.

# TRAILS UNITE US



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

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