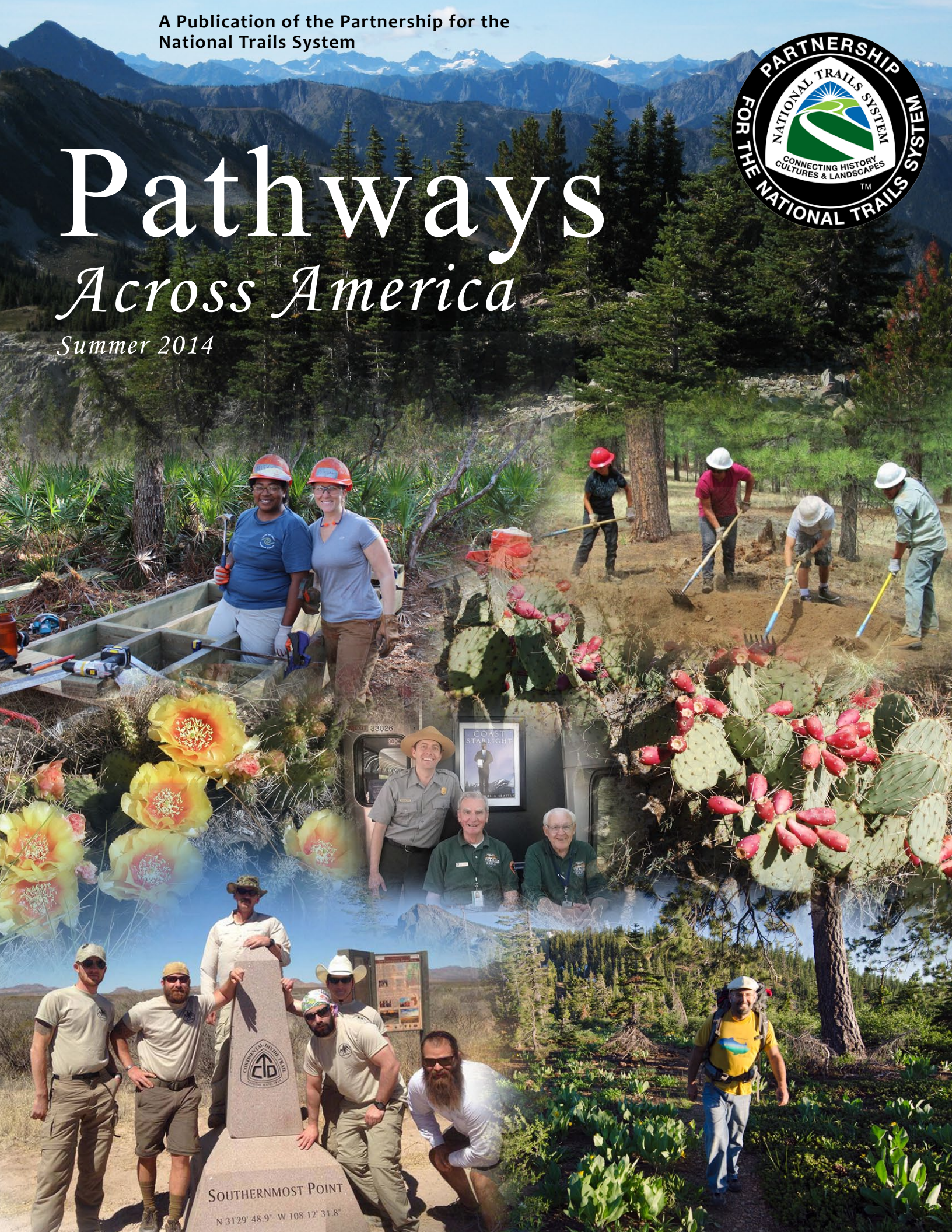


A Publication of the Partnership for the National Trails System



Pathways *Across America*

Summer 2014



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 by the Partnership for the National Trails System under cooperative agreements with:



Department of Agriculture: USDA Forest Service

Department of the Interior: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Department of Transportation: Federal Highway Administration

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For information about the Partnership for the National Trails System or to learn how to contact any of our partner groups visit the PNTS web site at: www.pnts.org. Unless otherwise indicated, all material in *Pathways Across America* is public domain. All views expressed herein are perspectives of individuals working on behalf of the National Trails System and do not necessarily represent the viewpoint of the federal agencies.

Pathways serves as a communication link for the major partners of the following national trails:

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail
Appalachian National Scenic Trail
Arizona National Scenic Trail
California National Historic Trail
Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail
Florida National Scenic Trail
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
Iditarod National Historic Trail
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail
Natchez Trace National Scenic Trail
New England National Scenic Trail
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail
North Country National Scenic Trail
Old Spanish National Historic Trail
Oregon National Historic Trail
Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail
Pony Express National Historic Trail
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail
Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail
Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route
National Historic Trail



Building Community...

The National Trails Pathways Nationwide for

What is the National Trails System?

The National Trail System includes 3 main types of national trails: Scenic Trails, Historic Trails, and Recreation Trails.



Categories of National Trails:

National Scenic & Historic Trails

NSTs and NHTs are designated by Congress (see specific descriptions below). The Partnership for the National Trails System (see left) is the nonprofit dedicated to facilitating stewardship of the Scenic and Historic Trails as a group.

National Recreation Trails

Offer local and regional trail experiences in thousands of locations around the country. The nonprofit American Trails encourages the stewardship of the National Recreation Trails (NRTs). NRTs are designated by the Secretary of Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

19 National Historic Trails

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

National Historic Trails may be foot or horse paths, travel routes, roadways, or a combination of both designated as a route retracing a part of American history. Many National Historic Trails have interpretive centers and regular events to immerse you in the past. While historic trails may run through urban and suburban settings, they boast wilderness and hiking opportunities as beautiful and diverse as the National Scenic Trails.



Heritage • History • Hiking • Culture • Reenactments



Keeping History Alive...

Preserving Biodiversity

System... Discovery, Learning, & Understanding

Strengthening Communities

through heritage and ecotourism, public involvement, and community collaboration.



Enhancing Access

to natural areas and historic treasures through innovative interpretation and community outreach efforts.



Facilitating Public-Private Partnerships

for preservation of history, natural environments, and human health through outdoor recreation.



11 National Scenic Trails

The National Scenic Trails represent some of the most magnificent long-distance hiking trails anywhere in the world. Virtually every major ecosystem in the US is traversed by a National Scenic Trail, from deserts, temperate rainforests, tundra, mountains, prairies, temperate deciduous forests, wetlands, and rivers. The National Scenic Trails 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

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THE PATHWAYS COVER

The *Pathways Across America* cover features the Pacific Northwest NST running through the Pasayten Wilderness, by Jon Knechtel of the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, F-Troop trail builders Allison Williams and Megan Donaghue (courtesy of the Florida Trail Association), student trail volunteers along the Arizona NST (courtesy of the Arizona Trail Association), Hells Canyon Prickly Pear by Keith Thurlkill along the Nez Perce NHT (courtesy of the USFS), Rails to Trails Interpreters along the Anza NHT, (courtesy of the NPS), Warrior Hike participants setting off from the southern terminus of the Continental Divide NST (courtesy of Warrior Hike), and hiker Scott Chatenever along the Pacific Crest Trail in Tahoe National Forest, by Richard Reid (courtesy of the Trust for Public Land).

Inside cover photos from left: staff of the Florida NST, Pacific Crest NST, and Continental Divide NST at the 2014 NST Workshop in Lake Tahoe (courtesy of Teresa Martinez); a station at the *Call to Arms* Education Program (courtesy of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association); and along the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway, Nez Perce NHT (by Roger Peterson, USFS).



Scenic Historic Trail Hikes, Historic Scenic Trail Hikes...

The PNTS is pleased to continue our ongoing presentation of the multi-faceted assets of the national scenic and historic trails. Many scenic trails traverse historic sites, providing depth and background to the pathways hikers traverse. Likewise, many historic trails offer magnificent scenic hiking opportunities as the stories they tell feature settings of exceptional natural beauty. We hope that by showcasing the diverse nature of each type of trail, trail enthusiasts will be better able to appreciate the links and commonalities across the trails of the NTS.

Flight 85: Orville in flight over treetops, covering a distance of approximately 1,760 feet in 40 1/5 seconds; Huffman Prairie, Dayton, Ohio. Public domain photo from the Library of Congress archives.



Historic Hikes along the North Country NST



Material about this historic route adapted with permission from the North Country Trail by Ron Strickland and the North Country Trail Association. Find more information at www.metroparks.org.

Hiking Aviation History

One of the most urban sections along the North Country NST, the Dayton, Ohio route from Huffman Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center to Deeds Point MetroPark takes hikers along the original flying test grounds for the Wright Brothers. Wilbur and Orville Wright used the Huffman Prairie to build and test the aviation innovations that allowed airplanes to fly for a sustained period and change direction. This legacy is commemorated at the Huffman

Prairie Flying Field Interpretive Center, a part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park. The interpretive center gives hikers an opportunity to appreciate the aviation heritage of this trail segment. This hike's aviation theme is enhanced by passing along the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base.

The trail route itself is characterized by a combination of urban landscape and wooded park areas as part of the Mad River Recreation Trail. While walking along Mad River, hikers will likely see a wide range of outdoor enthusiasts, as the waterway is popular with canoeists and kayakers. The route concludes at the Deeds Point MetroPark, as part of the Great Miami Recreation Trail. Deeds Point features a statue of the Wright brothers and an aviation timeline. Interested hikers can take a short detour to the nearby RiverScape Metropark, which offers the Dayton Inventor's Riverwalk and its interpretation on the history of innovation in the city.



Photos at left: The Dayton Inventor's Riverwalk and a sculpture of the Wright brothers at Deeds Point Metropark. Courtesy of Five Rivers Metroparks.

Brule – St. Croix Historic Portage

Long used as a canoe portage by Native Americans, explorers, fur traders, and pioneers, this 4-mile up-and-back hike along the North Country Trail was a crucial passageway for those crossing between the Great Lakes and the Mississippi watersheds. This historic route features a series of markers identifying notable people who used the trail over the past several hundred years, including explorer Daniel Greysolon Sieur du Lhut, who traversed the area in 1679 and for whom the city of Duluth, Minnesota is named. Other notable travelers identified include Jonathan Carver, an English cartographer who traveled the area in 1768 hoping to find a northwest passage to the Pacific Ocean, and George Stuntz (1852), a government surveyor and frontiersman who was one of the first settlers in the region.

Adjacent to the Brule River State Forest, this hiking route offers birch, balsam, scrub oak, and pine forests of varying ages. The steep route, while offering magnificent views of the valley below, makes it particularly impressive to envision early travelers traversing the route loaded with canoe and supplies. Native Americans and early European pioneers alike often preferred steep and direct to longer, flatter routes. One segment of the trail is characterized by a growth of new trees following massive destruction of vegetation by a severe hailstorm in August 2000.

Material for the Brule – St. Croix Historic Portage hike adapted with permission from the North Country Trail by Ron Strickland and the North Country Trail Association, and the Historic Portage Trail & Brule Bog guide assembled by the Brule-St. Croix Chapter of the NCTA. Available at: <http://northcountrytrail.org/bsc/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/bruleguide.pdf>.



Scenic Day Hikes Along the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail



The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail (NPNHT) includes nearly 3,000 miles of Auto Tour routes. Those routes include Mainstream Travel Routes which follow all-weather roads, Adventurous Travel Routes, which allow travelers the option of following the route of the events of the summer of 1877 more closely, and Rugged Travel Routes, where travelers are taken even closer to the actual sites associated with the 1877 war and flight.

Auto Tour guides have been created for all eight segments of the NPNHT. During the past several years the NPNHT staff has been busy updating these Auto Tour guides. The guides are available as pamphlets, with maps and graphics providing a wide range of information about the NPNHT. They can be found at visitor facilities along the entire length of the NPNHT, can be downloaded from the NPNHT website, or mailed upon request.

As part of the recent updates to the Auto Tour guides, the NPNHT staff has made a concerted effort to include opportunities for people to get out of their vehicles and enjoy hiking opportunities along the NPNHT. The following is a sampling of scenic day hikes visitors can enjoy along the NPNHT.

Wallowa Whitman National Forest/Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Trail # 1727

Near Imnaha, Oregon. Difficulty Level: Moderate

Hikers have an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Chief Joseph and his people. The trail offers outstanding views and opportunities to view elk, deer, and bighorn sheep, as well as other kinds of wildlife. The prickly pear cactus is abundant. The cactus is generally in full bloom during the spring. People are often dropped off at the trailhead and meet their driver at Dug Bar. *Photo at right: Hells Canyon Prickly Pear by Keith Thurlkill, USFS.*

Nez Perce National Historical Park White Bird Battlefield Trail

Near Grangeville, Idaho.

Difficulty Level: Moderate

The battlefield provides an opportunity for those who wish to experience the area up close. Visitors can hike a 3-mile trail through the battlefield with interpretive signs detailing the battle. The trailhead begins at 1,700 feet and climbs an additional 460 feet in elevation.

Photo above: White Bird Battlefield by Roger Peterson, USFS.



Bitterroot National Forest Trail #406

Near Sula, Montana. Difficulty Level: Most Difficult

This section of the NPNHT is 3.1 miles long. The trail gives the ambitious hiker an idea of the forbidding terrain. Nez Perce, among others, stripped the bark from ponderosa pine trees to eat the sweet cambium, or inner bark. Scarred trees are still visible in the area. Captain William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and his party also used this trail in 1806.

Photo far left: Along the Chief Joseph Scenic Byway. Photo near left: Bitterroot National Forest. Both photos by Roger Peterson, USFS.



Partnerships and LWCF Funding Enable Acquisitions Along Pacific Crest NST

Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument

Through partnerships between the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and the Conservation Fund, 930 acres were added to the Cascade Siskiyou Monument in March 2014 and are now being managed by the BLM. The Conservation Fund purchased the land formerly owned by the Hancock Timber Resource Group with monies from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.



Left: Cascade-Siskiyou National Forest by Tom Kaplan, courtesy of the Conservation Fund.

The Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, located at an intersection between the Cascade, Siskiyou, and Klamath mountain ranges in Southern Oregon, is renowned for its biodiversity and beauty. The Pacific Crest Trail runs right through the national monument, offering hikers a chance to enjoy the magnificent area. With the addition of the newly-acquired 930 acres, the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument now spans 61,700 acres.

Parcel acquisition information courtesy of the Conservation Fund.

Pyramid Peak

In September 2013, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) successfully helped the U.S. Forest Service acquire and conserve the 480-acre Pyramid Peak parcel, located in the Central Cascade Mountains, through the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Pyramid Peak provides commanding vistas of volcanic peaks and glaciers and is surrounded by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forest, both popular and easily accessible from Seattle.

The Pyramid Peak acquisition follows a series of successful land protection initiatives along the PCT coordinated by the Trust for Public Land, including (but not limited to):

- 713 acres encompassing a portion of the summit of Mt. Eddy, which was added to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest in October 2012.
- 808 acres in Kittitas County, Washington, which was added to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests in September 2012.
- 835 acres of mature forestland and lakeshore habitat leading up to the summit of the Sierra Buttes, the northernmost major granite outcropping in the Sierra Nevada range, was acquired in April 2011.

Right: Pyramid Peak, courtesy of TPL.

Parcel acquisition information courtesy of the Trust for Public Land.



Ice Age Trail Alliance Becomes First NSHT Stewardship Organization to Become Accredited Land Trust

In February 2014, the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA) was awarded land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance. Accredited land trusts can display the official accreditation seal (at right) to demonstrate to the public that they meet national excellence standards. Currently 254 land trusts around the US are accredited; the IATA is the first of the NSHT stewardship partners to receive this accreditation.



The accreditation process is rigorous, as organizations have to submit detailed documentation and undergo an extensive review of their land acquisition processes. IATA Director of Land Conservation Kevin Thusius played a pivotal role in guiding the organization through the strenuous accreditation effort, which the IATA undertook as a way to strengthen the organization and enhance long term acquisition planning. IATA Executive Director Mike Wollmer notes that “Now, as an accredited land trust, the Alliance has earned a new level of credibility with its current and future donors, partners and supporters.”



About the Land Trust Alliance

The Land Trust Alliance is a national conservation group that works to increase the pace and quality of conservation by advocating favorable tax policies, training land trusts in best practices, and working to ensure the permanence of conservation in the face of continuing threats. The Alliance publishes Land Trust Standards and Practices and provides financial and administrative support to the Commission. It has established an endowment to help ensure the success of the accreditation program and keep it affordable for land trusts of all sizes to participate in accreditation. More information can be found at:

www.landtrustalliance.org

Potomac Heritage NST Partnerships Enable Pedestrian, Bicycle Route Linkage Between Railway Station, National Wildlife Refuge, and National Scenic Trail Route

The Eastern Lands Division of the Federal Highway Administration announced in mid-March funding in the amount of \$585,000 from the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for design and construction of a 1.2-mile segment of the Potomac Heritage NST between and within a Virginia Railway Express station and Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge. While contributing to completion of the Potomac Heritage NST, an evolving network spanning five physiographic provinces, the project is also a lesson in planning, perseverance, and local use of a NST designation.

Survey data for the most recent edition of the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP), which serves as the statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan, places “trails for hiking and walking,” “trails for bicycling,” and “natural areas” as the top three “most-needed” forms of outdoor recreation in the region. The project for which funds were awarded will address all three needs.

The Trail has been referenced and included in many plans, including the County Comprehensive Plan and amendments and the last three editions of the Virginia Outdoors Plan, in which the Trail has become increasingly more prominent. Trail partners have also completed plans specific to the Trail in Prince William County. A 2012 “gap analysis” of the Trail corridor in Northern Virginia, completed by staff of local agencies, the Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the Virginia Dept. of Conservation and Recreation, the NPS, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, and volunteers recognized the project as a priority. As important, County Supervisor Principi convened a Trail committee with ties to the County trails and “blueways” council.

Local staff and the County District Supervisor had successfully eliminated many legal and administrative hurdles, negotiating with attorneys for CSX Corporation, Virginia Railway Express, and others to establish trail continuity. With this foundation and a NPS staff review of potential projects within the Trail corridor, the principals who would become involved in development of the application reviewed the FLAP criteria and the scope of the project in mid-February 2013 and the Department of Parks and Recreation agreed to serve as the applicant and to dedicate staff time. The NPS regional transportation program coordinator provided technical assistance to develop the application, which benefitted from inter-agency coordination, many letters of support, and the importance of public access to natural areas.

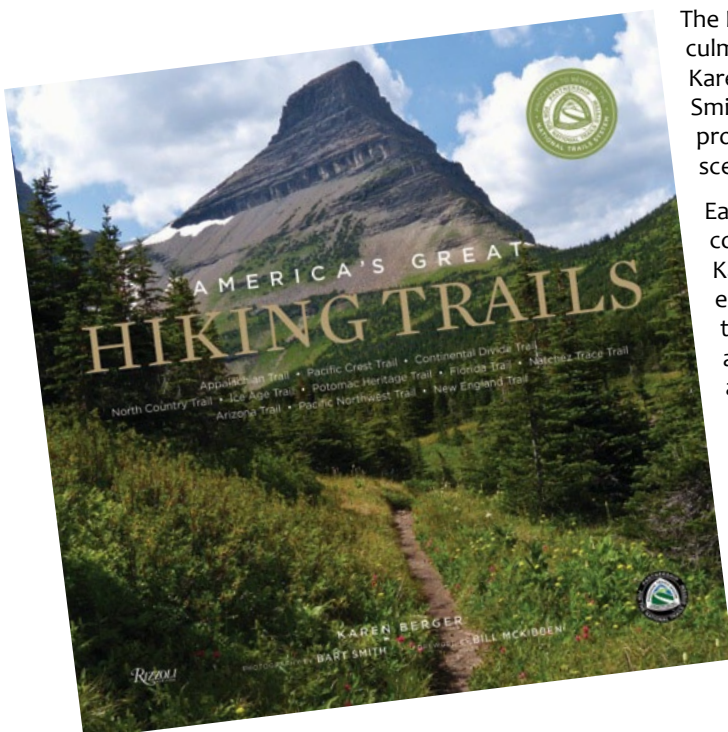
Article and photos submitted by Don Briggs, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage NST.



Above: FWS photo of the Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge.



Newly Released *America's Great Hiking Trails* Showcases All Eleven National Scenic Trails



The PNTS is delighted to announce the culmination of years of effort by hiker-author Karen Berger and hiker-photographer Bart Smith in *America's Great Hiking Trails*, which provides an in-depth look at the national scenic trails of the National Trails System.

Each featured trail has its own section, complete with a map and photo gallery. Karen Berger invites the reader on an exploration of what makes each one of the most magnificent hiking experiences anywhere in the world. Trail histories accompany detailed hiker-friendly descriptions that highlight areas of note, along with suggestions for shorter weekend and day hikes. The stunning photographs take the reader on a visual adventure conducted by Bart Smith, the first person to hike all eleven national scenic trails from end to end. *AMERICA'S GREAT HIKING TRAILS* is perfect for anyone interested in outdoor recreation and conservation.



AMERICA'S GREAT HIKING TRAILS

By Karen Berger
Photography by Bart Smith
Foreword by Bill McKibben
In association with the Partnership for the National Trails System.
A percentage of proceeds to benefit the Partnership for the National Trails System.

Rizzoli New York
September 2014
PRICE: \$50.00 US
ISBN: 978-0-7893-2741-3
Hardcover / 336 pages

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Wilderness Act

Article Information adapted from www.wilderness.net and www.wilderness50th.org.

Four years before his signing of the National Trails System Act, in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the Wilderness Act, establishing the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and setting aside 9.1 million acres of wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. Since then, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system.

The NWPS offers many direct and indirect benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. The 758 wilderness areas within the NWPS are managed by all four Federal land management agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

A BRIEF HISTORY

The signing of the Wilderness Act was the product of decades of effort by multiple conservation groups around the country that had worked to increase public awareness of the need to protect the environment and preserve natural areas in perpetuity. Pioneering environmental advocates Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, and Arthur Carhart had succeeded in raising enough awareness and support for the idea of wilderness that various policies and wilderness-oriented designations began as early as 1924 at local administrative levels of the Federal agencies.

The leader of the Wilderness Society, Howard Zahniser, saw a need for a national system in which congressionally designated areas would be recognized and managed with consistent principles and approaches. Zahniser constantly advocated for wilderness areas and personally lobbied every member in Congress. He composed 66 separate drafts of the Wilderness Act and guided it through 18 Congressional Hearings over the 8 years despite rapidly declining health that took his life just months before it was signed by President Johnson.

WHAT MAKES WILDERNESS DIFFERENT FROM OTHER PUBLIC LANDS?

Wilderness designation is the highest form of protection the government can give to a public land. No roads, vehicles, or permanent structures are allowed in designated wilderness. A wilderness designation also prohibits activities like logging or mining. A wilderness designation helps ensure treasured lands from coast to coast are protected for future generations.

Like national scenic and historic trails, individual wilderness areas are designated by Congress through the same types of grassroots local campaigns and citizen support that have enabled the trails of the NTS. Once an area of public land has been designated, the boundaries of that Wilderness area can not be modified without Congressional approval.

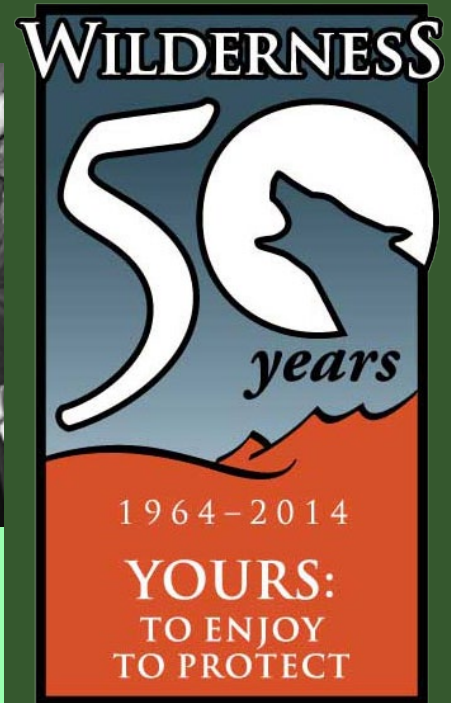
WILDERNESS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

A national team, called Wilderness50, is a coalition of federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and other wilderness user groups whose purpose is to plan and implement hundreds of local, regional, and national educational events, projects, programs, and products to raise awareness of wilderness during the 50th anniversary year.

The national celebration will take place in October 2014, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, including the National Wilderness Conference and the Wilderness50 "Get Wild" Festival, which together are expected to draw over 5,000 participants.



Signing of the 1964 Wilderness Act, by President Lyndon Johnson. NPS Photo.



THE WILDERNESS ACT - AT A GLANCE

- 758 Wilderness Areas
- 109,504,348 acres, half of which are in Alaska
- 2.7% of contiguous U.S. is protected as Wilderness (about the size of Minnesota)
- Managed by 4 agencies: USFS, FWS, BLM, and NPS

DEFINITION OF WILDERNESS ACCORDING TO THE WILDERNESS ACT:

- "...lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition..."
- "...an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man..."
- "...an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvement or human habitation..."
- "...generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable..."
- "...has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation..."
- "...shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreation, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historic use."



Pasayten Wilderness, which is traversed by the Pacific Northwest NST. Photo by Jon Knechtel.

WILDERNESS & THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYTEM

The National Trails System and the National Wilderness Preservation System share many common themes. Like national scenic and historic trails, wilderness areas preserve large landscapes, offer additional layers of protection for public lands, and provide magnificent recreation opportunities for those looking to enjoy pristine natural areas unchanged by development. Due to their shared goals and values, whenever possible, national trails run through

Wilderness Areas along NSHTs

Ala Kahakai	1
Appalachian NST	25
Arizona NST	8
Continental Divide NST	26
Iditarod NHT	1
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	2
Lewis and Clark NHT	3
North Country	3
Pacific Crest NST	48
Pacific Northwest NST	6
TOTAL	123

or along wilderness areas. Of the 758 wilderness areas, 123 are currently traversed by national scenic and historic trails. Their commonalities, both thematically and geographically, create a great opportunity for combining stewardship and advocacy efforts.

THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

Just as the National Scenic and Historic Trails have the PNTS, and National Recreation Trails have American Trails, the Wilderness Lands have The Wilderness Society to advocate for and educate about America's wildlands.

The Wilderness Society's efforts to protect pristine wilderness areas began in 1935, long before the Wilderness Act was signed, and the organization has played a pivotal role in raising support for protection of public lands, including the Wilderness Act.



THE
WILDERNESS
SOCIETY

MORE RESOURCES

www.wilderness.net offers an extensive collection of resources, including an interactive GIS map and detailed data of wilderness areas, policy, management, and training information. The site is managed in partnership between the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center, the Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute, and the Wilderness Institute at the University of Montana.

www.wilderness50th.org highlights the partnerships working together to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. It provides a map and listing of all local, regional, and national 50th anniversary events that are occurring nationwide, including the National Wilderness Conference.

Wildernesses Managed By: ■ Bureau of Land Management ■ Fish and Wildlife Service ■ Forest Service ■ National Park Service



“Walking Off the War” with Warrior Hike

Adapted with permission from information at www.warriorhike.org.



A new program, Warrior Hike, expands on an idea long understood—nature as healing. The first person to complete a through-hike of the Appalachian NST, Earl Shaeffer, was a veteran returning from World War II who told others he needed to “walk off the war”. Extended wilderness experiences, such as long distance hiking, offer a wealth of physical, mental, and spiritual benefits for those returning from the trauma and chaos of serving in combat. Veteran Sean Gobin, who served three terms in Iraq and Afghanistan, (photo at right) founded Warrior Hike after hiking the Appalachian NST himself in 2012 upon his return home to the US. Last year, the inaugural group of Warrior Hikers traveled the Appalachian NST; this spring three separate groups, along the Appalachian, Continental Divide, and Pacific Crest NSTs, are currently hiking the trails.

Warrior Hike is open to any veteran who has served in a combat zone with an honorable discharge. The program provides a variety of services and support to all participants, including providing necessary equipment and supplies for thru-hiking a NST, collaborating with a variety of supporting partners along their journey, and employment assistance following the hike.



How Does Long-Distance Hiking Help Veterans?

- Thru-hiking a 2,000+ mile National Scenic Trail gives returning veterans time to decompress, reflect, and literally put distance between themselves and traumatic wartime experiences. The outdoors are becoming an increasingly recognized form of therapy, with wilderness offering peace and tranquility to help counteract the chaos, stress, and destruction of war.
- The Warrior Hike “Walk Off The War” program adds camaraderie, understanding, and friendship as veterans experience their journey and the transition process with the support and company of other veterans who also understand the challenges of returning from combat.
- Interaction with members of trail town veteran organizations and local communities facilitates veterans’ reintegration into society, restores their faith in humanity, and builds a network of life-long friendships and relationships.

Engaging Community Supporters Along the Trail

All along the each trail, from the launch at the southern terminus to the finish at the northern end, Warrior Hike partners with a myriad of local organizations and trail communities to support, greet, and provide cheer to the Warrior Hikers. Community gatherings are planned at certain dates and trail locations corresponding to where the hikers are in their journey. Supporting organizations, including the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, coordinate trail town support within the hiking communities. The Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and Marine Corps League also coordinate trail support within military communities. Other major program partners include Orion International, which helps veterans find jobs after their hikes, and Southern Georgia University, which is researching the effects of long-distance hiking on veterans.



The 2014 Warrior Hikers begin their 6 month 2,185 mile journey along the Appalachian Trail at Amicalola Falls on March 17th, 2014.



The Warrior Hikers at the southern terminus of the Continental Divide Trail in Crazy Crook, NM, on April 12, 2014.



The Warrior Hikers at the southern terminus of the PCT in Campo, CA on April 12, 2014.

Santa Fe Trail Association Launches First “Geo Tour” in the National Trails System

History buffs and adventure seekers now have a new opportunity to explore the story behind the Santa Fe Trail with the official launch of their geocaching project, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Geo Tour, on April 15, 2014. Geocaching is a modern-day version of treasure hunting, with nearly 2,000,000 caches placed all over the world. Participants use hand-held GPS units, or their smart phones to seek the location of hidden objects, known as “caches”. Geocaching.com is the world’s largest location-based entertainment portal in more than 180 countries around the world.

Sponsored by the Santa Fe Trail Association, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail Geo Tour is set to launch with over 70 caches, placed in historic locations relating to the Santa Fe Trail. A GeoTour is a tailored series of geocaches hidden at a destination’s points of interest. Covering over 900 miles, participants visit historic sites, museums, physical remnants, and a varied landscape that makes up the legacy of the Santa Fe Trail through the popular outdoor activity of geocaching. This GeoTour joins over 30 other GeoTours around the globe hosted by parks, visitor bureaus, and communities.



The series of geocaches in a Geocaching GeoTour helps visitors discover a destination by conveying a historical story, revealing hidden vantage points, or bringing them to scenic locations. Tourists and adventurers search for geocaches—cleverly hidden containers that hold a logbook and often small trinkets for trade—using a GPS device or the Geocaching app for the iPhone, Android or Windows Phone. A collectible challenge coin is offered to the first 500 who travel the Santa Fe Trail and obtain a code word to confirm at least 50 finds. Visitors must record the code word in a special passport available at www.santafetrail.org/geocaching.

Article adapted from the April 15, 2014 SFTA press release, courtesy of the SFTA. Photos courtesy of the SFTA.

To learn more about the Santa Fe NHT Geo Tour, how to begin geocaching or how you can obtain your very own collectible challenge coin, go to:

www.santafetrail.org/geocaching or www.geocaching.com/adventures/geotours/santa-fe-trail

Silver City, NM Becomes First Designated Continental Divide NST Community

On April 23, 2014, the Continental Divide Trail Coalition (CDTC), and town leaders from Silver City, New Mexico held a ceremony celebrating their designation as the first Continental Divide Trail Community with a proclamation signing and speakers including Mayor Mike Morones, CDTC Director Teresa Martinez, Andrew Brennan of the 2014 CDT Warrior Hike Team, State Senator Howie Morales, representatives from Congressman Steve Pearce’s and Senator Tom Udall’s offices, and Senator Martin Heinrich. (Photo below left, courtesy of the CDTC.)

Designation as a Continental Divide Trail Community aims to:

- Engage community citizens, trail visitors, and stewards
- Thank communities for their decades of service to hikers
- Act as a catalyst for enhancing sustainable economic development
- Aid local municipalities and regional areas with conservation planning
- Help local community members see the Trail as a resource and asset



Teresa Martinez, Director of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, stated, “These new partnerships will increase local stewardship of public lands, support community initiatives for sustainable economic development and conservation planning as well as support healthy lifestyles for community citizens.”



Three Trails Joint Conference Explores Opportunities for NHTs in Urban Settings

On March 14 and 15, members of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, the Oregon-California Trails Association, and the Santa Fe Trail Association came together in Kansas City and Independence, MO for a joint conference. Participants spent the first day of the conference touring several sites relevant to the trails and learned about recent endeavors to establish walking paths (referred to as retracement trails) following original trail routes.

The second day of the conference took place at the National Frontier Trails Museum, which provided the ideal setting for a discussion about practical approaches to preserving and promoting historic trails in urban settings.



Photo below: Discussion at the Frontier Trails Museum. Photo and event information courtesy of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.



Potash Proposal on the California Trail in Utah

Submitted by Ray Kelsey, BLM Salt Lake Field Office



North of the town of Wendover in western Utah lies a scenic section the Hastings Cutoff route of the California National Historic Trail in an area little changed from the days of the overland pioneers. The trail passes just to the north of the famous Bonneville Salt Flats and crosses a large mud playa known as Pilot Valley before finally arriving at Donner Spring. This emigrant route across the eastern Great Basin, first pioneered by John C. Fremont's 1845 expedition, was made infamous in its promotion by Lansford Hastings and subsequent use by the Donner-Reed Party in 1846.

For parties that chose to attempt the Hastings Cutoff, the crossing of Pilot Valley and arrival at Donner Spring was the final desperate leg of a nearly 90-mile waterless passage across the Great Salt Lake Desert that caught most emigrants unaware and ill-prepared. Because of its central location on the trail, this 2-3 day passage usually had to be endured by man and beast in August, over mud and sand, in near triple digit temperatures. During its historical use from 1846-1850, numerous first-person journal accounts document harrowing ordeals involving extreme dehydration, dead and dying livestock, abandoned wagons, stranded or delirious emigrants, and heroic rescues. The Donner Reed Party's loss of oxen in Pilot Valley likely contributed to their later winter entrapment and forced cannibalism in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In November 2011, the BLM received potash prospecting permit applications covering approximately 50,000 acres of federal public land in the Pilot Valley. Potash is a leasable mineral associated with the manufacture of agricultural fertilizers. BLM review of the proposal included relevant federal laws, regulations and resource management plans (RMPs). Several site visits and view shed analyses were conducted to determine existing conditions and resource values in Pilot Valley. BLM confirmed the trail section in question is listed as a NHT high potential route segment and is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In October 2013, after careful consideration, the BLM issued a decision denying the potash applications. Among several important resource issues, the decision notes that the California National Historic Trail was designated after the resource management plans for the BLM lands in the area were adopted and that the NHT designation constitutes a change in



Above: Pilot Valley, Utah. Photo: BLM, 2012.

circumstances which warrants a land use plan amendment "so that BLM may carefully consider with full public input, the potentially competing resource values and uses in the area and establish appropriate land management prescriptions for the subject lands in light of Congress' designation of the NHT." The BLM decision is currently under appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA).

Today, trail enthusiasts can drive maintained dirt roads an hour north of Wendover, Utah along the scenic Silver Island Mountains Backcountry Byway and view the Hastings Cutoff route in a setting largely unchanged from when emigrants struggled through this dramatic and hauntingly vast landscape. If one knows where to look, trail traces are still detectable across the mud playa and mountain benches. The Oregon-California Trail Association (OCTA) and BLM have placed route markers and signs at Donner-Reed Pass. The NPS and OCTA maintain an excellent interpretive site at Donner Spring near the base of Pilot Peak. Stories and actual artifacts from the trail can be viewed today by appointment at the Donner Reed Museum in Grantsville, Utah. Several outstanding sources on the Hastings Cutoff across Utah are readily available, including important works by Charles Kelly and Dale Morgan. For more information, visit www.donner-reed-museum.org or contact the BLM Salt Lake Field Office at 801-977-4300.

Below: Donner Reed Pass, Utah. Photo: BLM, 2011.

Below: Cutoff and Pilot Peak, California NHT. Photo: BLM, 2012.



In Memoriam - Susan “Butch” Henley 1932-2014



Photo courtesy of the American Hiking Society.

Susan “Butch” Henley will be forever remembered by the trails community for her passion, enthusiasm, adventurous spirit and unyielding dedication to hiking. Butch began her involvement with trails after hiking the entire Appalachian Trail. She became an avid trails supporter, participating in Hik-a-Nation in 1981, following the route of what is now The American Discovery Trail. Susan became the Administrative Director of the American Hiking Society (AHS) after serving as a board member, inspiring the development of National Trails Day, then went on to work for the American Discovery Trail Society. She was instrumental in birthing American Trails, a merger of the National Trails Council and the American Trail Network. She helped establish National Trails System leadership positions in the National Park Service and other land management agencies, worked to obtain funding for the NPS Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program (RTCA), and learned how to support trails through the Intermodal Surface Transportation Act of 1991 (ISTEA). In 1991, Butch was instrumental in helping Gary Werner and others establish the “Committee of 17” which later became the Partnership for the National Trails System, and in founding this very magazine, Pathways Across America. Summing up her years of trail activism, Butch stated:

Well, my vision was to have an interconnected system of trails akin to the national highway system. By damn, it's happened!

Dedicated Trails Advocate, Guide, and Mentor

By Gary Werner, PNTS Executive Director

Although she was short in stature, Susan “Butch” Henley was one of the giants of America’s trails community. While consistently avoiding the spotlight of public recognition, she quietly worked for many years to forge coalitions and action groups that provided the necessary public support to pass legislation or change administrative policy which profoundly increased government support for “trails across America.”

Susan, along with Marianne Fowler and others, found a way to get leaders of the motorized trails and of the nonmotorized trails interest organizations to fashion an acceptable distribution of funds for all trails in the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). Fighting amongst the various trail interest groups had stalled this innovative proposal in Congress until “Butch” helped them to find a way to work together. The RTP and other programs of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), the revolutionary 1991 refocusing of the Federal transportation programs, have provided billions of dollars for development of all types of trails throughout America over the past two decades resulting in scores of new trails in our cities and countryside.

Another of her achievements had a similarly profound positive impact on the National Trails System. In the late 1980s, Susan teamed with Louise Marshall to convince the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees that the National Park Service needed an annual appropriation to fund a coordinator for the National Scenic and Historic Trails in the Washington Office. This funding established the position in which Steve Elkinton served for over 20 years and provided the impetus for beginning to imagine administering the scenic and historic trails as a National Trails System rather than as a collection of trails. We are still working on working out how to implement that profound idea.

Recognizing the benefits that collective advocacy on the part of the national scenic and historic trails organizations would have for those trails, Susan and Reese Lukei, representing the American Hiking Society and the Appalachian Trail Conference respectively, came to the 2nd Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails determined to organize the group of leaders. This National Trails Conference, in November of 1991, was organized by Steve Elkinton shortly after he started working in the position funded by her effort. Through her persuasive conversations and those of Reese and several of the trail organization leaders “The Committee of 17” was formed with a charge to advocate to Congress for annual operating funding for each of the national scenic and historic trails so that each would have a full-time Federal administrator. “The Committee of 17” did outlast the Conference, succeeded in its early advocacy to secure additional funding, and over the ensuing decade evolved into the 501(c)(3) nonprofit Partnership for the National Trails System.

To help strengthen the citizen advocacy she had set in motion, Susan secured corporate funding and in her role as staff for the American Hiking Society, worked with the Sierra Club and The Wilderness Society to operate an annual lobby week for several years. Citizen activists were trained in the nuances of lobbying and briefed on the intricacies of legislation and various pending issues affecting trails. This activity fostered by Susan Henley has persisted as “Hike the Hill” for the past two decades. She was always a patient and very generous mentor to me and dozens of other activists for trails. I had the privilege and pleasure to work and learn from her for 20 years.

Those who travel trails all throughout America owe Susan “Butch” Henley a huge “Thanks” for the opportunities that her many years of persistent work have provided for us. “Butch” Henley forged trails both long and fruitful throughout our beautiful land. We have much to do to fully realize the good work she began and so ably practiced.

- Gary Werner – June 2014

ANZA STORIES ALONG THE COAST STARLIGHT - Trails & Rails Interpretive Program



Through the dedicated interpretive efforts of a team of volunteer docents with the Trails and Rails program, passengers along the Amtrak Coast Starlight can learn about the history of the Juan Bautista de Anza NHT while travelling the route of the trail. The volunteer docents ride in the observation car, providing narration and materials for those interested in learning about the history of the landscape they traverse.

Trails & Rails is a partnership program between the National Park Service and Amtrak. The Anza Trail is one of about 20 National Park Service units around the country with an active program.

Docents board weekend trains between Santa Barbara and San Jose. The Coast Starlight's route skirts the same coastline encountered by Juan Bautista de Anza and the colonists who accompanied him to San Francisco in 1776. In addition to sharing information about the Anza Expedition and its legacy, the docents point out features of the natural landscape and recount tales of more modern history, including the site of a rare Japanese submarine attack on the U.S. mainland during World War II.

Many of these dedicated volunteers' years with the program pre-date their affiliation with the National Park Service. The South Coast Railroad Museum in Goleta, CA, developed the docent program in the mid-1990s. Because of the route's proximity to the Anza Trail, it was folded into the national Trails & Rails program in the early 2000s.

The museum continues to manage the docents through a cooperative agreement with the Anza Trail. The volunteers' impact is profound. In 2013, the 27 Anza Trail docents engaged with more than 39,000 Coast Starlight riders. Their 2,000 hours on the train accounted for more than 10 percent of all Anza Trail volunteer hours that year.



What is the Trails & Rails Program?

Trails & Rails is an innovative partnership program between the National Park Service and Amtrak. This program provides rail passengers with educational opportunities that foster an appreciation of a selected region's natural and cultural heritage. Currently, 12 separate Amtrak routes feature between 1-5 separate educational programs on-board. Find out more at: <http://www.nps.gov/findapark/trailsandrails/index.htm>.



MARKING AND INTERPRETATION EXPANDING ALONG THE ANZA TRAIL IN MEXICO

Officials in the Mexican state of Sonora have developed a Ruta Turística de Anza, a companion to the Anza Trail's Auto Route in the U.S.

The Mexican route links communities tied to the Anza Expedition, like Horcasitas, with other sites notable in Anza's life, including his burial site in Arizpe.

In addition to a map, Mexican trail staff and supporters have developed a logo for their trail and have installed interpretive waysides. Bilingual interpretive panels include one in Arizpe and one marking a spot where, in 1767, Anza barely escaped an Apache raid. The panels were inaugurated during the 2014 Anza Society Conference in Banámichi.

MEXICAN TRAIL LOGO US TRAIL LOGO



Juan Bautista de Anza NHT updates adapted from the Spring 2014 Noticias de Anza, articles by Hale Sargeant, NPS.



Map above right: The Map of the Ruta Turística de Anza (Anza Tourism Route).

Photo at right: Officials unveil signage during the Anza Society Conference marking the church in Arizpe where Anza is buried. Photo by Rita Vega-Acevedo, courtesy of the NPS.



Reflections on the 2014 National Scenic Trails Workshop

The 2014 National Scenic Trails Workshop brought together 70 leaders from the scenic trails community at Lake Tahoe, Nevada, from May 5-9. Five young adult trails apprentices also partook in the workshop, three of whom have participated in at least one previous NSHT conference or workshop. The five topic tracks for the workshop included Protecting NSTs and their corridors, Trail Management, Organization Management, and NST Potpourri. Special thanks to the staff of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, who coordinated the bulk of the workshop.

OPEN SPACE APPROACH

The workshop applied the Open Space meeting approach to maximize opportunities to bring up and address real challenges, problems, and obstacles leaders are facing in their day-to-day efforts to develop and sustain our scenic trails and to share approaches and successes that are working along their trails. At any given time, participants could choose from up to five concurrent sessions roughly related to the track topics. Time and meeting spaces were specifically set aside for last minute topics suggested at the workshop.

The idea of Open Space focuses more on the exchange of information, rather than formal presentations. Open Space is designed to allow time for informal discussion among participants and to create the opportunity for informal side meetings for participants to explore areas of common interest in more depth, or to blend ideas not previously considered to be related. Some half-day focus topic sessions followed a more

traditional presentation format to introduce topics or provide detailed information. The topics more formally presented included public lands policy, corridor protection, and local and regional marketing strategies for NSTs.

Photo at left: Trails apprentices at the NST workshop, with Teresa Martinez of the Continental Divide Trail Coalition, who coordinated the trails apprentice participation. Photo courtesy of Teresa Martinez.



PARTICIPANT COMMENTARY

"This workshop made huge leaps forward toward a synchronization of principles, consistencies, and strategies between the NSTs. By the end of the workshop, I felt that we truly were a National System of Scenic Trails. I look forward to continued successes in the future."

- Mark Weaver, Superintendent, North Country National Scenic Trail

"The Open Space structure of the workshop was really beneficial; it allowed ideas to flow organically between topics. What we talked about in the half-day sessions led to great discussions in the open dialogues. I've never been to a meeting like that and am looking forward to more events adopting that idea in the future."

- Grace Anderson, Trails Apprentice

"The Trails Apprentices were a great resource for information about developing social media and marketing for trail organizations. Developing strategies for using social media was one of the main things I had hoped to take away from the workshop, and the participating youth provided a wealth of valuable perspectives and ideas."

- Jon Knechtel, Director of Trail Operations, Pacific Northwest Trail Association

While the 2014 NST workshop did not feature any specific planned mobile workshops, the open format of the workshop provided plenty of opportunities for participants to venture out on their own to enjoy the magnificent hiking opportunities along the Pacific Crest NST at Lake Tahoe. *Photo at left: staff from the Pacific Crest, Florida, and North Country NSTs by Andrea Ketchmark, NCTA. Photo at right: Justin Fisch, trails apprentice, enjoying the scenery from a lookout while hiking along the Lake Tahoe (courtesy of Justin Fisch).*





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Trails Events Calendar Summer-Autumn 2014

August 3-6	46th Annual Meeting "The Great Columbia River"	Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation	Richland, WA	http://wa-lcthf.org/2014/index.html
August 5-9	Annual Conference - "Drama on the Medicine Road"	Oregon-California Trails Association	Kearney, NE	www.octa-trails.org
August 21-23	Minnesota Hiking Celebration	North Country Trail Association	Duluth, MN	www.northcountrytrail.org
September 5-7	PCT Days	Pacific Crest Trail Association	Cascade Locks, OR	www.pcta.org
September 14-15	Annual Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Trek	Santa Fe Trail Bicycle Committee, SFTA	Santa Fe, NM - Franklin, MO	www.santafetrailbicycletrek.org
September 18-20	Santa Fe Trail Association Annual Rendezvous	Santa Fe Trail Association	Larned, KS	www.santafetrail.org
September 21-October 7	40th Annual March to Kings Mountain	Overmountain Victory Trail Association	Abingdon, VA - King Mountain Military Park, SC	www.ovta.org
October 16-18	10th Anniversary Celebration of El Camino Real's Designation as an NHT and Annual Meeting	El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association	San Antonio, TX	www.elcaminorealdestejas.org
October 16-19	Annual Conference "The Old Spanish Trail Across the Mojave Desert"	Old Spanish Trail Association	Las Vegas, NV	www.oldspanishtrail.org
October 23-24	National Workshop on Large Landscape Conservation	Great Basin Landscape Conservation Cooperative	Washington, DC	www.greatbasinlcc.org
October 27-30	National Historic Trails Workshop	Partnership for the National Trails System	Salt Lake City, UT	www.pnts.org