



Pacific Crest Trail Association's 2011 Year-End Program Review





2011 was another outstanding year of accomplishments for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) and its partners along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT).

PCTA and its partners focused on:

- Leveraging strategic partnerships as the cornerstone for sustainable recreation experiences.
- Utilizing an “all-lands” approach to work across agency boundaries and private land for conservation and restoration.
- Enhancing quality recreation experiences through restoration efforts and providing trail user information.
- Engaging Americans as citizen stewards on public lands.
- Engaging youth in conservation and restoration efforts in America’s Great Outdoors.
- Generating jobs for youth on public lands in natural resource and recreation programs through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding.

Leveraging Strategic Partnerships

Strategic partnerships are vital to providing sustainable recreation experiences, especially in the protection and preservation of the PCT.

More than 75 key partners make up PCTA's extensive partnership network including federal, state, county, and local agencies; conservation and volunteer-minded nonprofits; businesses and retailers; and schools and universities. This large, diverse group has been brought together with the same collective view: to protect, preserve, and promote the 2,650 mile PCT as a national treasure.

Each year, the PCTA works with more than 100 individual agency units within the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service, and California State Parks. The PCTA's professional Trail Operations staff, including a Trail Operations Director, a Trail Operations Manager, and five Regional Representatives, not only oversee the management and protection of the PCT, but also spend a significant amount of time to maintain and build partnerships to strengthen resources for this National Scenic Trail. In 2011, PCTA staff conducted 593 meetings with agency partners; these collaborative partnerships produced outstanding on-the-ground results and contribute to the long term sustainability of the PCT.

The Deschutes and Willamette National Forests continued their outstanding support by partnering for the fourth year with the PCTA's Windigo-Skyline Trail Crews. While some of these extended-weekend projects are roadside accessible, a majority take volunteers far into the backcountry with equestrians packing in necessary tools, kitchen gear, and other supplies. Sixty-three volunteers donated 1,925 hours to 13 projects in this program.

While all agency partnerships are extremely valuable, 2011 saw the PCTA expand its work with the National Parks. For the first time, Yosemite National Park hosted a PCTA volunteer project. A crew of 11 experienced PCTA volunteers dedicated 822 hours during a week in Yosemite to narrow and restore more than three miles of heavily used trail in the popular Tuolumne Meadows. For the second year, PCTA organized a restoration project in Crater Lake National Park. Nine volunteers dedicated 245 hours to remove encroaching vegetation and repair the tread.

PCTA's new community-based volunteer group, the North 350 Blades, dedicated 1,590 hours to the PCT last year in Washington's Okanagon-Wenatchee National Forest.





A California Conservation Corps youth crew devoted 5,295 volunteer hours to the PCT in California's Mt. San Jacinto State Park on Fuller Ridge. The PCTA took the lead role coordinating volunteer packers from the Backcountry Horsemen of California. Contributing more than 1,100 hours, the pack teams moved more than 8,000 pounds of gear, tools, food, and supplies seven miles to the California Conservation Corps base camp for this project.



The PCTA's network of partners extends well beyond just the land management agencies. It teams with a variety of like-minded non-profits to preserve the PCT as a sustainable recreation experience. In 2011, these non-profit partners contributed significant volunteer time to restoring the PCT:

- Backcountry Horsemen of California 3,525 hours
- High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew 3,561 hours
- Washington Trails Association 4,985 hours

The PCTA continued its work with California State Parks, California Conservation Corps and Backcountry Horsemen on the reconstruction of Fuller Ridge. In California's Mt. San Jacinto State Park, Fuller Ridge is notorious for its challenging navigation and unsafe trail tread for equestrians. Its location in a designated Wilderness Area makes it very difficult for crews to access, so trail improvements have been severely limited. Started in 2010 and continuing again in summer 2011, the Park worked for six months with a Corps crew to make significant improvements to this section of the PCT. The PCTA took the lead role coordinating volunteer packers from the Backcountry Horsemen of California. Contributing more than 1,100 hours, the pack teams moved more than 8,000 pounds of gear, tools, food, and supplies seven miles to the California Conservation Corps base camp for this project. While originally slated as a two-year project, work on Fuller Ridge will continue in 2012 to complete the much-needed restoration.

Nine regional volunteer groups are managed by the PCTA and span the entire length of the Trail. Each group has adopted a local trail segment to maintain and restore. In 2011, two new and growing regional groups were developed in the Northern Cascades and Northern Sierra. More than 290 volunteers worked on these community-based crews, contributing 4,915 hours maintaining 50 miles of the PCT.

Two outdoor recreation retailers partnered with PCTA, sending volunteers as a way to better their local communities. Twenty staff members from Outdoor Research volunteered 163 hours working with PCTA's North 350 Blades to remove encroaching vegetation and restore drainage on more than a mile of the PCT. Seven staff members from Eugene, Oregon's REI store participated on a PCTA Windigo Trail Crew. They volunteered 148 hours to complete heavy trail reconstruction on two miles of the PCT that had been subject to storm damage.



This 10-member PCTA Windigo-Skyline Trail Crew volunteered 495 hours on a five-day project building three rock walls on the Willamette National Forest.

Utilizing “All-Lands” Approach for Conservation and Restoration

Meandering from Mexico to Canada for 2,650 miles, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail connects diverse landscapes, offering a gateway to recreational adventure and a connection with nature. Traversing three states, three National Monuments, five California State Park lands, seven National Park lands, 24 National Forests, 34 Congressionally-designated Wilderness Areas, and countless parcels of private land, the PCT is truly managed with an “all-lands” approach.

The mission of the PCTA is to protect, preserve, and promote the Trail across these diverse boundaries. Working closely with agency partners, the PCTA takes an active leadership role in the management and protection of the Trail within

“An all-lands approach brings landowners and stakeholders together across boundaries to decide on common goals for the landscapes they share. It brings them together to achieve long-term outcomes. Our collective responsibility is to work through landscape-scale conservation to meet public expectations for all the services people get from forests and grasslands.”

~ U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell

agency units, as it crosses intra- and interagency boundaries, and on privately owned land. Wildfires, floods, vegetation encroachment, erosion, resource development, and illegal use are constant threats to the PCT and the surrounding landscape. These challenges know no agency or private land boundaries. In 2011, the PCTA was an active leader using this “all-lands” approach to management, conservation, and restoration of the PCT.

Sunrise Powerlink

The Sunrise Powerlink is a San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E) project that will transmit power from Imperial County to San Diego through the use of a 500-kilovolt electrical line. Transmission towers must be built to support the line and many of the towers are to be constructed on BLM land near the boundary of the Cleveland National Forest. Unfortunately, the line must also cross the PCT three times as it descends into Hauser Canyon. The PCTA and agency partners used an “all-lands” management approach to mitigate the affect on the PCT.

Relocation of the Trail, which will soon be under the power line, is possible. SDG&E supports moving the PCT onto Cleveland National Forest lands. Prior to moving the section of Trail, PCTA, BLM, and the Forest decided to conduct an Optimal Location Review to ensure the Trail is relocated to the most optimal location. To complete the Optimal Location Review process, the PCTA and partnering agency staffs are analyzing the first 28 miles of PCT, from the southern terminus on the Mexican Border to its crossing under Interstate 8. This is the first step in a multi-year project. Additional field surveys, designing and flagging of the final route, and an Environmental Assessment must be completed before new trail construction will begin.



Working with the BLM using “all-lands” management, staff from the PCTA and Cleveland National Forest look for possible new locations for the PCT descending into Southern California’s Hauser Canyon.

BLM Medford Timber Thinning

The BLM's Medford District office proposed two separate timber-thinning projects, Sampson Cove and Cottonwood, that would affect the PCT in Southern Oregon. Both projects include thinning timber units that come within 200 feet of the Trail or, in some cases, overlay the Trail. PCTA staff is working with the BLM to mitigate negative impacts to the Trail and protect the user experience within the boundaries of the project. An Environmental Assessment was completed for the Sampson Cove project. In 2011, the PCTA worked with the BLM to integrate mitigation measures into the Environmental Assessment for the Cottonwood Project. The PCTA will continue to work with the BLM as the Environmental Assessment process moves forward in order to protect the PCT, a unit of BLM's National Landscape Conservation System.

Permanent Protection

As the PCTA works to permanently protect the last 250 to 300 miles of the Trail corridor, it continues to think creatively. As opportunities for increased land protection arise, PCTA works with both agency and private partners in an "all-lands" effort to permanently protect the Trail. In one case, a small private in-holding with a willing seller was submitted to the Forest Service Regional Office for inclusion in the acquisition program. The parcel is next to the Trail within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's administrative boundaries. In Northern California, a family trust is willing to sell hundreds of acres of alpine country on Mount Eddy that contains one mile of the PCT. In this instance, the PCTA and Shasta-Trinity National Forest are working in partnership with the Trust for Public Land in hopes of making a monumental land-acquisition opportunity a reality.

Stehekin Valley Road Relocation

While the PCT is administered by the Forest Service, roughly 19 percent of the Trail traverses National Park Service lands, making the agency another primary partner in the "all-lands" management of the Trail.

In 2011, congressional legislation was reintroduced to alter the boundary of the Stephen Mather Wilderness Area, within the North Cascades National Park, to accommodate the relocation and reconstruction of the upper Stehekin Valley Road. The road originally provided access from the town of Stehekin into the heart of the Wilderness but was washed out during a major flood. Unfortunately, the proposed location overlaps three miles of the PCT. According to National Park Service statistics, thru-hikers and riders, weekend backpackers, and even day hikers, actively use this stretch of the Trail.

The PCTA visited this segment of the Trail on several occasions in 2010 to learn more about the proposal and to perform the necessary field work for potential trail relocation. After failing to find a suitable route, PCTA staff determined that there is no appropriate sustainable alternative for a National Scenic Trail in this area. As a result, the PCTA wrote and circulated an opposition statement to those involved in the decision-making process. In September 2011, the National Park Service officially testified against the bill. The reasons included the high cost of the project, the lack of funding, and the small number of people the project would benefit. Members of the community originally thought that the number of visitors to the area would decrease because of the road closure; however, the number of visitors accessing this area has continued to grow each year. The result has been more visitors to the Stehekin Valley. The PCTA does not expect a new bill to pass and will continue to follow the issue in order to protect the PCT experience.

Enhancing Quality Recreation Experiences through Ecological Restoration Efforts

Each year the PCT is subject to heavy use, floods and fires, and overgrown vegetation that causes erosion, trail blockage, and, in some cases, permanent ecological damage. The annual maintenance and restoration of the PCT to meet national quality standards is a major undertaking of the PCTA. The goal is to create a quality wilderness recreation experience that allows Americans to connect with the great outdoors. As a result of PCTA volunteers' hard work, hikers and equestrians alike will tell you the PCT is one of the finest wilderness trails in existence.

The PCTA's projects improve the trail user's recreation experience while at the same time lessening the Trail's impact on the environment. For example, drainage control projects work to keep the Trail in place while minimizing sedimentation of nearby streams. Improving the Trail's crossings of such streams by design or through the use of structures also helps improve the user experience while protecting the riparian areas.

On rare occasions, severe erosion might necessitate trail relocations in order to protect ecological resources. In Southern Washington's Gifford Pinchot National Forest's Mount Adams District, a poorly aligned section of PCT had become so badly eroded that it was discharging significant sediment into the watershed. The PCTA collaborated with the Forest Service and completed an Environmental Assessment and relocated the Trail. In August 2011, a crew of 25 youth returned to the site to perform ecological restoration on the old trail section. By improving existing water bars and constructing nearly 100 log check dams, the crew created conditions where the old gullied trail will fill itself in, significantly decreasing the amount of discharged sediment. The PCTA and Forest Service will continue to monitor the site and work with agency botanists to determine if the area needs to be replanted with native species.



PCT projects not only improve the trail user's recreation experience but at the same time they lessen the trail's impact on the environment. Left: Volunteers rebuild a bridge approach in the Tahoe National Forest. Right: On the Gifford Pinchot National Forest, youth volunteers restore an unused section of trail to reduce sediment discharge into the local watershed.



A 2011 relocation in Southern Oregon moved the PCT away from a dirt road and through open mountain meadows with sweeping views of the Siskiyou Crest and the Rogue Valley below, thereby offering a quality recreational experience to hikers and equestrians alike.

A prominent theme throughout PCTA work is a quality recreational experience for PCT users. One way the PCTA strives to protect, preserve, and promote the PCT as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians is through the use of Optimal Location Reviews (OLR). The OLR is a collaborative process whereby the PCTA works closely with agency partners, stakeholders, and local volunteers to identify the best route for the PCT. Many factors are considered when conducting an OLR, but the desired result includes a trail location that will offer users an outstanding quality recreational experience on public lands.

Between 2005 and 2006, an OLR was conducted on approximately 50 miles of PCT within BLM administrative boundaries in Southern Oregon. Following an Environmental Assessment, in 2009, work began on the mile and a half relocation. Through a combination of youth crews, AmeriCorps crews, and local volunteers, the new section of PCT was completed and opened to the public in May 2011. The original location of the PCT was on the east side of the Green Springs Mountain where it paralleled an oft-used dirt road and offered limited views. The new section is on the west side of the mountain away from the road and through open mountain meadows that offer sweeping views of the Siskiyou Crest and the Rogue Valley below. It's a much-improved recreational experience for hikers and equestrians.

In addition to its restoration efforts, PCTA serves as the primary clearing house for PCT information, connecting not only Americans but the international community with the great outdoors' quality wilderness recreation experiences. The PCTA website, electronic newsletters

and quarterly magazine provide up-to-date and historical information encouraging the safe use, enjoyment, protection, and preservation of the PCT. PCTA maintains a toll-free telephone line and trail conditions web pages with trail closure and other important information. The PCTA also assists the Forest Service by issuing permits to trail users traveling more than 500 miles.

2011 PCTA Trail User Information

Number of information updates made to the toll-free telephone line	27
Number of calls made to the toll-free telephone line	721
Number of updates to the Trail Conditions on the PCTA website	220
Number of issues of the PCT Communicator distributed	41,500
Number of wilderness permits issued for PCT travel in excess of 500 miles	1,211
Number of visits to PCTA's website	686,913

Engaging Americans as Citizen Stewards on Public Lands

Each year the PCTA works hard to provide meaningful and rewarding citizen stewardship opportunities that connect American communities with the great outdoors. We also offer quality training programs to enrich the safety and trail skills of these stewards.



In 2011, 115,400 volunteer and corps crew hours were contributed to maintenance of the PCT.

Volunteers give valuable time, energy, and dedication to this 2,650-mile Trail, both on the ground and in the office. They cut encroaching vegetation with hand saws, remove fallen trees with crosscuts, blast fallen rocks to clear a path, construct new foot bridges, and enter data into the computer for the hundreds of trail projects that occur every year.

Volunteers provide dedication, energy, and assistance allowing organizations to function and even thrive in a way that would not be possible without them. Each year the United States' Corporation for National and Community Service sets a dollar value on volunteer time. This number is based on the average hourly earnings of non-supervisory, production workers. According to this value, in 2011 the PCT volunteer community, including non-trail maintenance activities, contributed 118,450 service hours, an in-kind value of \$2,500,000.

In 2011, 1,724 citizen stewards and corps crew members performed the hard, physical labor of annual maintenance and restoration of the PCT, giving others the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness while traveling on a safe, passable trail. By working with PCTA staff, crew leaders, and non-profit partners, PCT volunteers accomplished:

- 367 projects completed
- 1,096 miles of trail maintained
- 75 miles of trail restored/reconstructed
- 2 trail head kiosks constructed
- 3,640 square feet of cribbing constructed
- 460 feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed

The PCTA citizen stewards come in all ages and ethnicities. They come from local trail communities, urban areas, various states and even other countries. The PCT is easily accessible (anywhere from an hour's to a day's drive) from major metropolitan areas along the West Coast including San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento, Portland, and Seattle. Not only are urbanites attracted to the serenity of the PCT, these cities are easy starting points for volunteers flying in from other states and countries. In 2011, volunteers came from 37 states, Canada and the Netherlands.

Each volunteer has their own reason for dedicating their time and energy to the Trail. The common answers PCTA hears when asking people why they volunteer on the PCT include:

- *I want to meet new people who have the same goals and interests as me.*
- *I want the Trail to be there for future generations.*
- *I want to give back.*
- *I want to be outdoors.*

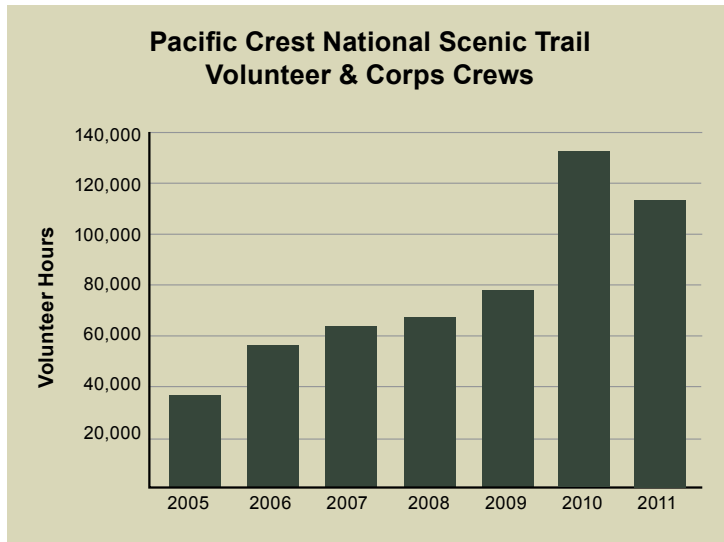
These comments are equally important but it is the last one that has become an increasing concern. Population is growing exponentially in the United States and, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation, more than 80% of Americans live in urban areas. It's no wonder that an increasing number of



In 2011, dedicated section caretakers and volunteers from PCTA's Mount Hood Chapter contributed 5,767 hours to maintain their 221 miles of the PCT.

"I really liked the experience that I got from volunteering with PCTA. The crew and the work that they assigned us was invigorating and I really enjoyed it. The food was terrific...hope I can do this again in the future!"

**"I can't wait for the 2012 season to open!"
~ PCT Trail Crew Volunteers**



Through its citizen stewardship programs, PCTA gives the American people the opportunity to become acquainted with the great outdoors.

Americans, particularly youth, are becoming detached from nature. A positive, easily accessible wilderness experience is increasingly valuable in the present day. Through citizen stewardship programs such as the PCTA's, the American people have the opportunity to become more acquainted with their own backyards.

On the PCT, users have the opportunity to learn about local flora and fauna as well as what is jeopardizing these valuable assets. Being on the Trail is a way to relax and escape the busy and hectic day-to-day life. It gives us a place to experience beautiful sunsets, cascading waterfalls, and towering trees with our families and friends or by ourselves. By maintaining the PCT, volunteers are helping to provide a 2650-mile borderless pathway so that countless hikers, equestrians, and the volunteers themselves can share in these experiences every year.

In a 2011 PCTA volunteer survey, more than 100 participants responded about their personal volunteer experience:

- 93.3 percent of volunteers agreed or strongly agreed that their motivations for volunteering were satisfied.
- 92.5 percent of volunteers agreed or strongly agreed that they would like to volunteer with the PCTA again
- 92.5 percent of volunteers agreed or strongly agreed they would recommend volunteering with the PCTA to a friend.

To help volunteers build their skills and be successful in their trail work, PCTA provides education, training, and oversight in safe trail construction and restoration. The signature training program of the PCTA is the Trail Skills College. The Trail Skills College curriculum was developed in 2009 with a grant from REI in collaboration with non-profit and agency partners. Using modular courses taught at multiple events held along the Trail, volunteers, PCTA staff, nonprofit partners, and agency staff serve as instructors to new and returning volunteers eager to increase their trail-maintenance knowledge and skills.

In 2011, the PCTA and its partner organizations sponsored 26 trainings. At these trainings, volunteers contributed 13,176 hours to teaching and learning trail stewardship and restoration skills. By training volunteers with the valuable skills needed to help protect and maintain recreation trails, they become the stewards and leaders, in turn giving countless hours to maintain the PCT and other trails across America’s public lands.

2011 PCTA Sponsored Trail Skills College Trainings

Number of chain and crosscut saw training events hosted	8
Number of volunteers attending chain or crosscut saw training	60
Number of volunteer hours spent on chain or crosscut saw training	1,391
Number of non-saw trail skills training events hosted	13
Number of volunteers attending non-saw trail skills training	553
Number of volunteer hours spent on non-saw trail skills training	11,400

The courses offered at the Trail Skills College cover almost every aspect of trail maintenance. Beginners develop “trail eyes” as they learn about basic hydrology, brushing, and berm removal. Intermediate and advanced participants can learn how to construct water bars and retaining walls; how to lead trail maintenance crews safely and effectively; and earn chain and crosscut saw certification, among other things. PCTA continues to expand and update courses in its popular Trail Skills College curriculum. These courses are available for free download online and have received positive feedback from trail organizations across the country.

By training volunteers with the valuable skills needed to help protect and maintain recreation trails, they become the stewards and leaders giving countless volunteer hours to maintain not only the PCT but also trails across America’s public lands. Volunteers spent 1,019 hours learning new skills at the Tahoe Trail Skills College on California’s infamous Donner Summit.





Inner-city Los Angeles' Environmental Charter High School students head out to the PCT project work site. Students from the High School and Middle School picked up new job skills while spending valuable time in the Great Outdoors. They volunteered 920 hours in 2011.

Engaging Youth in Conservation and the Great Outdoors

Each year, the PCTA works with adults who are passionate about the PCT, but we also work to actively engage youth in conservation and restoration efforts. In 2011, 50% of the PCT's 115,400 trail maintenance volunteer hours were accomplished with youth corps and other youth programs.

"I really enjoy all the hands on dirty work. It's my favorite thing about volunteering. I have volunteered for the past three years with my high school... My experience has always been extremely rewarding and I am proud of the work I get to do, and know that it does make a difference and allows a great organization like the PCTA to keep going."

~ PCT Southern California Youth Volunteer

This work has helped to connect youth to nature, develop future citizen stewards, and build professional job skills. Besides the actual trail maintenance skills developed on a trail crew, youths also learned about conserving America's great outdoors, leadership, team work, and safety on the job. PCTA was proud to have had 12 youth crews volunteering on the Trail in 2011. The following is a highlight of some of the youth projects:

For the second year, the Forest Service, PCTA, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

supported and funded an eight-week Native American youth trail crew in Oregon. The Tribes took an active role in protecting and maintaining the PCT along a 25-mile section of tribal land between Mount Jefferson and Mount Hood in the central Cascades. The 10-person crew of young adults (ages 18-24) contributed 2,446 hours rehabilitating 2,835 feet of the PCT. They also did annual maintenance on another 10 miles. Crew members were trained in first aid, food handling, Leave No Trace wilderness ethics and trail skills. For many crew members, it was their first job, through which they learned important life and job skills.

Southern California Environmental Charter High School and Middle School focus on project-base learning and developing community leadership. PCTA has been working with this High School for four years and began working with the Middle School in 2011. Forty-five students from these schools were on trail crews in 2011 working in the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests where they contributed 920 volunteer hours. The High School had a unique opportunity to spend a weekend on the Trail, which not only included job skill opportunities, but camping and sleeping under the stars – a first-time experience for some.

For the third year, the PCTA partnered with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest to provide a holistic outdoor training experience for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People Urban Youth Rites of Passage students in Vancouver, Wash. PCTA staff, volunteer leaders, a six-member AmeriCorps crew, and youth mentors who previously graduated from the program teamed up to instruct and supervise fifteen students. These youth volunteers contributed 624 hours on two 3-day projects.

The Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps (NWSA) is a nonprofit that acts as a training and operational center for the AmeriCorps program. They continued to be a strong partner for the PCTA in 2011. Four NWSA AmeriCorps teams traveled along the Trail for five months. To start the season,



For the second year, Warm Springs tribal crew members worked with PCTA and Forest Service staff in Oregon to receive on-the-job training in first aid, food handling, Leave No Trace wilderness ethics, and trail skills. For many crew members, it was their first job, through which they learned important job skills.





Four Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps crews worked on the PCT in 2011. This crew reconstructed 3,750 feet of trail tread in the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests.

14 NWSA crew leaders spent six weeks in trail skills training. During the training, PCTA staff rotated to teach leadership skills to new team leaders as well as how to recognize and repair trail problems. The training concluded with the team leaders hosting a weekend volunteer project with the Environmental Charter High School students under the supervision of PCTA staff. This is a great example of how the PCTA's volunteer program leverages the NWSA and Student Conservation Association corps crews. These technically-trained crews provide training in trail crew leadership and advanced trail construction techniques as well as hands-on guidance to local volunteers. Throughout the summer and fall of 2011, 126 volunteers accompanied these AmeriCorps crews.

Student Conservation Association continued to be a major partner in 2011. The SCA offers conservation internships and trail crew opportunities to high school- and college-age volunteers from diverse backgrounds. Four trail crews were on the PCT for six-month periods. An additional specialized SCA crew spent eight weeks on the Trail. Seventy-eight volunteers accompanied these crews.

Generating Youth Job Opportunities and Career Pathways through ARRA Funding

In 2009, the Forest Service and BLM received approximately \$4 million dollars in funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The goal of ARRA was to put Americans back to work; on the PCT this meant hiring youth corps crews and young professionals for “shovel ready” trail resource management, construction, and restoration projects.

As the primary non-profit partner of both the Forest Service and the BLM for the management and operation of the PCT, the PCTA received almost \$1 million of these funds. Through this funding, PCTA provided technical oversight and staff to assist in the completion of backlogged maintenance and restoration using youth corps crews and volunteers. Not only did this work leave the PCT tread in better shape than it had been in decades, but it also introduced new generations to outdoor-based resource management jobs. The projects associated with this employment opportunity fulfill the intent of the ARRA by creating jobs for young adults and encouraging long-term community

service. Within the federal land-management agencies, large numbers of employees are reaching retirement age. As a result, these agencies have been looking to diversify the age of their staffs for the last several years. The hands-on experience that the PCTA provided through the ARRA program offered staff and corps members insight into agency employment opportunities and created job skills for crew members to potentially continue working in natural resource management.

Thanks to ARRA funding, the PCTA hired seven full-time employees for 2010-2011 to coordinate with agency partners, and develop and monitor field season work on the PCT. These staff members also managed youth corps crew projects, and recruited and managed volunteers. With diminished ARRA funding at the end of 2011, the PCTA maintained permanent jobs for two ARRA-funded employees while the remaining ARRA-funded employees used their valuable hands-on experience and training to successfully secure full-time employment with agency and nonprofit partners.

During the two years, the ARRA funding supported the PCTA's 2010 Windigo Trail Crew and allowed the PCTA to partner with the following ARRA-funded corps crew programs: EarthCorps (2010), Northwest Service Academy's AmeriCorps (2010 & 2011), Northwest Youth Corps (2010), and Student Conservation Association (2010 & 2011).



At a California Trail Skills College, PCTA ARRA-funded staff Brendan Taylor (left) uses a rolling orange to illustrate how water flows down the trail. Thanks to ARRA funding, the PCTA hired seven full-time employees to coordinate PCT work.

ARRA-funded Accomplishments on the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

	2010	2011	Total
Volunteer and corps crew hours	68,854	37,723	106,577
Miles of trail maintained	303	237	540
Miles of trail reconstructed	58	42	100
Trail projects completed	117	83	200
Square feet of cribbing constructed	1,542	2,961	4,503
Feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed	470	290	760

ARRA funding allowed PCTA to diminish the backlog of trail maintenance while providing much-needed staff to develop and enhance new youth and stewardship programs. Not only did the work of the past two years leave the PCT tread in better shape than it had been in decades, but it also strengthened PCTA programs that engage citizen stewards with meaningful volunteer opportunities in restoration efforts on public lands.

2011 Accomplishments

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Development and Maintenance

Maintain and/or monitor as necessary existing Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) and associated infrastructure to standard.

Volunteer and corps crew hours maintaining and reconstructing the trail.....115,400
 Miles of trail maintained1,096
 Trail projects completed367

Coordinate meetings with agency partners to plan a program of work:

	Local	Unit	Regional/ Trailwide	Total
U.S. Forest Service	253	85	86	424
Bureau of Land Management	48	9	26	83
National Park Service	5	2	5	12
Other	59	8	7	74
Total	365	104	124	593

Construct/reconstruct PCT to standard:

Miles reconstructed/constructed.....75
 Major structures constructed:
 Trailhead kiosks.....2
 Square feet of log and stone cribbing.....3,640
 Bridges1
 Feet of turnpike/puncheon.....460

Volunteer Recruitment, Training, Safety, & Management

Update, distribute, and keep current the PCT Volunteer Job Hazard Analysis.

Weeks JHA is posted and accessible on the PCTA website..... 52

Coordinate volunteer activities trail-wide to support the trail maintenance program to provide consistency and greater access to resources.

Staff hours spent coordinating PCTA volunteer program.....4,364
 Posting of upcoming trainings and volunteer projects on PCTA website:
 New trainings posted.....12
 New volunteer projects posted.....201
 Maintain inventory of tools and spike camp equipment:
 Tools purchased valued at more than \$250.....8
 Spike camp caches.....19



Development of the PCTA volunteer program:

New volunteers	621
Returning volunteers	1,103
New members	1,851

Coordinate and offer volunteer training opportunities that incorporate trail skills and worker safety into the training.

Sponsor volunteer training opportunities:

Volunteers attending Basic and Wilderness First Aid	21
Basic and Wilderness First Aid trainings hosted.....	5
Volunteers attending crosscut or chain saw training.....	60
Crosscut or chain saw trainings hosted	8
Volunteers attending trail skills training.....	553
Trail skills trainings hosted	13

Utilize Youth Corps Programs as a tool for encouraging youth and diversifying the volunteer base.

Outreach activities to diversify volunteer base:

High school programs contacted	10
University programs contacted	45
PCTA-affiliated youth corps volunteer hours.....	50,861
PCTA-affiliated high school volunteer hours	3,146

Volunteer hours reported reflecting age, gender, and ethnicity:

	Male	Female	Total
Under 18	119	41	160
18-54	692	605	997
55+	651	149	800
Total	1,462	495	
White (non-Hispanic)	1,177	391	1,568
Black (non-Hispanic)	25	8	33
Hispanic	123	28	151
Native American/ Alaskan Native	27	20	47
Asian/Pacific Islander	31	17	48
Total	1,383	464	

Volunteer hours for non-trail maintenance activities:

Administrative.....	786
Governance and committees.....	861
Outreach activities and events	493
Publications.....	231

Customer Service

Support trail users by providing information and answering questions about hiking and equestrian use of the PCT.

Responses to public requests for information:	
E-mails responded to.....	962
Written letters responded to	4
Phone calls responded to	709
Provide up-to-date information for emergencies and trail conditions:	
Updates to the toll-free telephone line.....	27
Calls made to the toll-free telephone line.....	721
Updates to the Trail Conditions page on PCTA website	220
Provide written information that assists with protecting, preserving, and promoting the PCT:	
Issues of the PCT Communicator distributed.....	41,500
Wilderness permits issued for travel in excess of 500 miles.....	1,211
Mt. Whitney climbing permits issued.....	355
Website visits on the pcta.org site	686,913

Participate in public conference and meetings and initiate forums to educate the public about the PCT.

PCTA staff hours spent participating on planning and attending National Scenic Trail events	533
Trail-related conferences, outreach events and meetings attended to promote the PCT	65

Trail Management

Provide advocacy at the local and national levels for the PCT to ensure protection and enhancement of scenic values and quality trail opportunities.

Ensure PCT protection by reviewing proposed projects that may impact the PCT trail corridor	
Meetings PCTA staff attended regarding proposed projects	78

Land Acquisition

Participate in finalization of the Optimal Location Review Format (OLR) and Process.

Participate in determining the Optimal Location for the PCT

Hours spent by PCTA staff on OLRs	194
Hours volunteers spent on OLRs	0

Initiate or continue protection negotiations for trail segments within high priority acquisition areas as identified in the Optimal Location Review. Continue to assist governmental and non-profit partners to complete protection of the trail lands through personal contact, recognitions, acquisitions proposals, and/or attending applicable meetings and events of public, private, and nonprofit partners.

Participate in trail corridor protection for trail segments within high priority acquisition areas:	
Meetings attended by PCTA staff regarding high priority acquisitions or easements.....	28

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail 2011 Volunteer & Corps Crew Hours

Southern California Region

California Conservation Corps.....	5,295
Environmental Charter High School Club	920
NWSA AmeriCorps	3,353
PCTA Trail Gorillas.....	9,373
Student Conservation Association.....	11,046
William S. Hart High School.....	123
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	5,540

Southern Sierra Region

High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew	3,561
PCTA Can Do Crew.....	2,749
Student Conservation Association.....	2,577
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	2,196

Northern Sierra Region

NWSA AmeriCorps	4,634
PCTA Carsonora Trail Crew	1,050
PCTA Will Work for Krumm's Trail Crew	744
Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship.....	2,560
Student Conservation Association.....	2,882
Tahoe Rim Trail Association.....	124
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	3,911

Big Bend Region

Ashland Woodlands & Trails Association.....	122
Backcountry Horsemen of Calif. - Top of State....	2,265
NWSA AmeriCorps	5,124
PCTA Lyon's Pride Trail Crew	2,892
Save Burney Falls	138
Student Conservation Association.....	1,044
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	1,554

Columbia Cascades Region

NWSA AmeriCorps	6,792
PCTA Mid-Oregon Volunteers	6,987
PCTA Mt. Hood Chapter	5,767
PCTA Warm Springs Trail Crew.....	2,446
PCTA Windigo/Skyline Crews.....	1,925
Student Conservation Association.....	1,909
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	4,241

North Cascades Region

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington.....	227
NWSA AmeriCorps	572
Pacific Northwest Corps	519
PCTA North 350 Blades.....	1,590
Washington Trails Association	4,985
Miscellaneous Region Projects.....	409
Miscellaneous Trailwide	315

Total PCT Trail Program Hours..... 115,400



In 2011, volunteers contributed more than 3,050 service hours to non-trail maintenance activities including PCTA governance, outreach events, publications, and advocacy work.

Our Partners



Adventure 16, CA
ALDHA-West, National
Alta LandPeople, CA
American Hiking Society, National
Antelope Valley College Fire Academy, CA
Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association, OR
Backcountry Horsemen of America, National
Backcountry Horsemen of California, CA
Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon, OR
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, WA
Boy Scouts of America, National
California Alpine Club, CA
California Conservation Corps, CA
Can Do Crew PCTA, CA
Carsonora Area PCTA Volunteers, CA
Christian Brothers High School, CA
Columbia Gorge Runners Club, OR/WA
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, OR
Environmental Charter High School, CA
Equestrian Trails, Inc., CA
High Desert Runners, CA
High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, CA
ICF International, National
Juniper Ridge, National
Kern Recreational Landowners Association, CA
Kifaru, National
Leave No Trace, National
Los Angeles Conservation Corps, CA
Lyons' Pride PCTA Volunteers, CA
Mid-Oregon PCTA Volunteers, OR
Mt. Hood Chapter, PCTA, OR
Mt. Shasta Trails Association, CA

Moms Pie House, CA
NAACP Vancouver Branch, WA
Northwest Service Academy, WA/OR/CA
Oregon Equestrian Trails, OR
Oregon Youth Employment Initiative, OR
Osprey Packs, Inc., National
Pacific Forest Trust, CA/OR
Partnership for the National Trails System, National
REI, National
Rogue Riders Endurance Club, OR
San Diego Ultra Running Friends, CA
Save Burney Falls, CA
Sierra Buttes Trail Stewardship, CA
Sierra Health Foundation, CA
Siskiyou Outback, OR
Southern Oregon University, OR
Student Conservation Association, National
Tahoe Rim Trail Association, CA
Tarma Designs, National
Tehachapi Mountain Trails Association, CA
Trail Gorillas PCTA, CA
Trailspace.com, National
Truckee Trails Foundation, CA
Trust for Public Land, National
University of Florida, FL
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, WA
Washington Trails Association, WA
White Pass Ski Area, WA
Will Work for Krumm's PCTA Trail Crew, CA
William S. Hart Unified School District, CA
Wilderness Outreach Group
Wilderness Press, National



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL
ASSOCIATION

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