





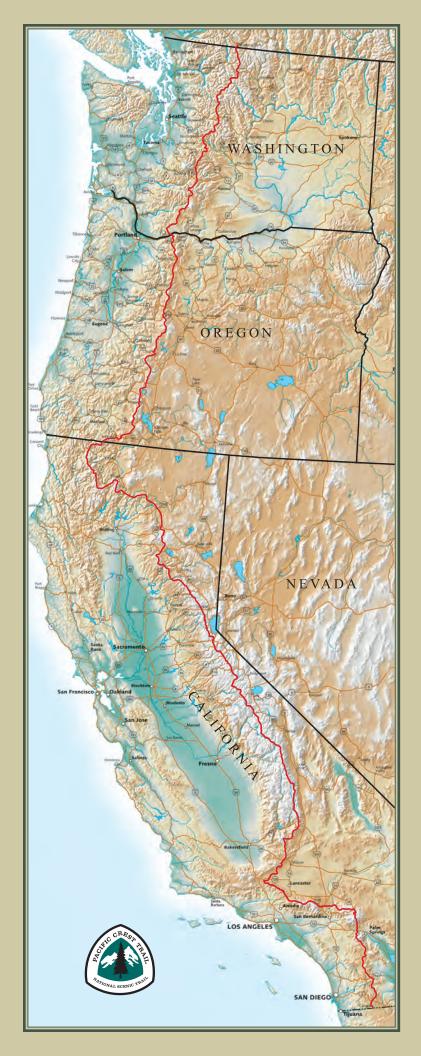


PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FY 2016 Appropriations Request



Prepared by: Pacific Crest Trail Association www.pcta.org





Graphic design and printing donated by



Cover Photos by Deems Burton, James Mater and Mark Rooke-Jones



FY2016 Appropriations Request

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) respectfully asks Congress to support the following FY2016 appropriations to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT):

I. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

<u>PCT Corridor Acquisition Projects</u> U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Budget Request

- \$5.0 million
 - California—<u>Donner Summit</u>, trail and resource protection within the Tahoe National Forest; <u>Donomore</u> <u>Meadows</u>, trail and resource protection within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, immediately south of the Oregon-California state line.
 - Washington—<u>Columbia Gorge</u>, trail and resource protection in and adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; <u>Snoqualmie Pass</u>, relocate trail away from a developed ski area.
- \$250,000—LWCF line item for program administration Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Budget Request
- \$1.4 million
 - California—<u>California Desert Southwest</u>, purchase parcels within the San Gorgonio Wilderness to create an uninterrupted wilderness experience.
 - Oregon—<u>Cascade-Siskiyou Area</u>, trail and resource protection in southern Oregon near the Klamath Basin.

\$6.6 million

II. Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Trails (CMTL)

\$2.1 million

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Budget Request

- \$2.1 million—allocation for PCT in the USFS Region 5 CMTL account to fund the following ongoing programs:
 - Full-time USFS PCT Program Manager
 - Half-time Program Assistant
 - Forest/Project Planning & optimal trail location reviews
 - Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the PCTA and other private partners to support volunteer trail maintenance and public education programs
 - Trail maintenance, construction, reconstruction and user information
 - Trail management and operations
 - · Youth and Corps Trail Crew Programs

III. Trail Maintenance \$500,000

National Park Service (NPS) Budget Request

- \$200,000—line item for PCT maintenance on NPS lands Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Budget Request
- \$300,000—line item for PCT maintenance on BLM lands





Trail Funding Justification—FY2016

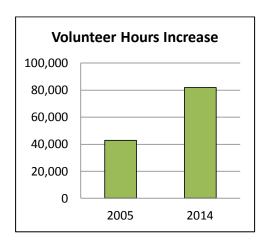


The U.S. Forest Service has overall responsibility for the PCT, but operational responsibility is shared by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and several state and county parks through which the trail passes. The PCTA is the major private partner, as codified in a Memorandum of Understanding, with these land management agencies. As such and as demonstrated below, the PCTA leverages limited federal dollars

through the extensive use of volunteers and private donations to ensure the PCT is protected, preserved and promoted as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people.

PCTA Contribution Over the Past 10 years (2005—2014):

The USFS and PCTA partnership continues to produce outstanding results. Volunteer hours have increased significantly because of the PCTA's Regional Representative Program. Five PCTA Regional Representatives cover 2,200 miles of the PCT and provide volunteer support through their local offices. Volunteers now have access to trail project information, training, tools and supplies needed to do their jobs.



Total Volunteer Hours: 864,000

Value of Volunteer Hours: \$18,200,000

Private Dollars Raised: \$ 9,650,000

Total PCTA Contribution: \$ 27,850,000





Table of Contents

This booklet outlines the two key FY2016 appropriations to the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) necessary for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), which the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) respectfully asks Congress to support.

Tab 1: LWCF

The 2,650-mile PCT is not completely protected. The PCTA and the USFS have identified more than 1,500 private parcels, which remain at risk of development or other noncompatible uses. Key to bringing these parcels into public protection is use of Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations. With the \$6.6 million requested for FY2016 as part of the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Proposal, the USFS and the BLM are ready and able to procure, from willing sellers, critical components of the PCT.

Tab 2: CMTL & Trail Maintenance

Each year, the combined forces of fire, flood, tree-fall and other factors adversely impact the PCT. The USFS and partner public agencies cannot provide sufficient manpower to adequately repair the damage. The PCTA, however, annually enlists and trains battalions of volunteers, who spent about 78,000 hours last year working to keep the trail passable. The money that the USFS receives from taxpayers is vital to keep those volunteers out on the trail, as they need supervision, tools and training to do their work.

Tab 3: Congressional Maps

The PCT passes through three states and 18 Congressional districts.

Tab 4: Letters

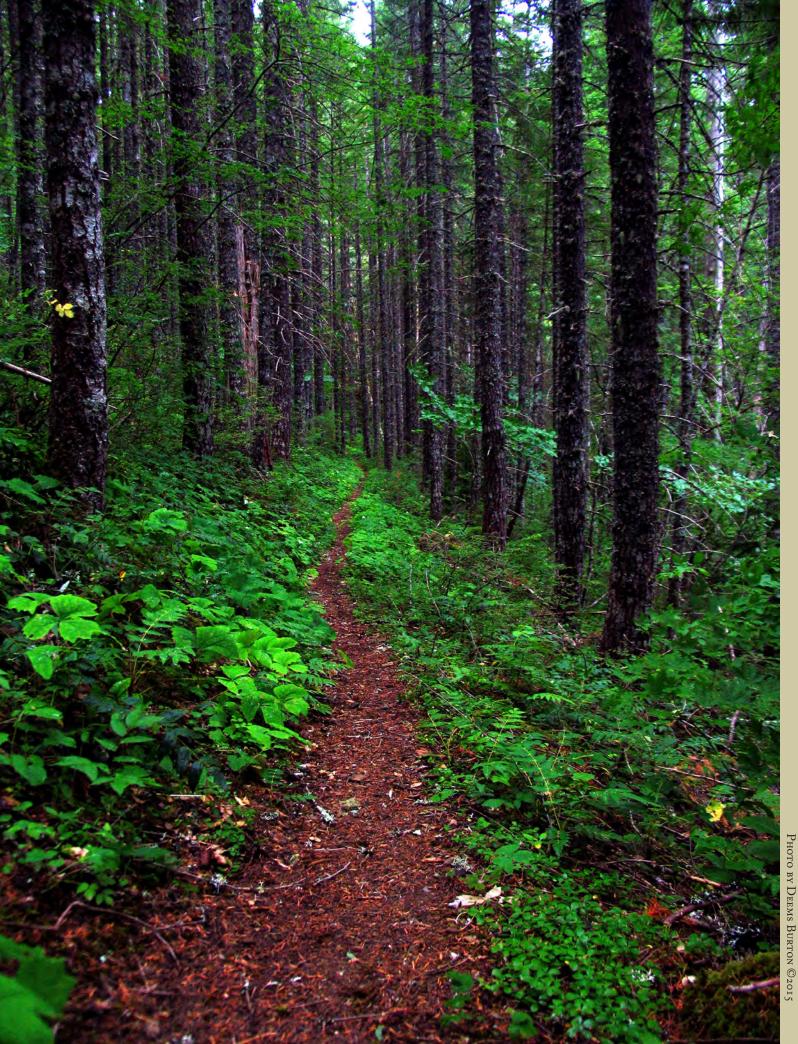
In the past, members of Congress have shown support of the PCT Appropriations Request by signing a letter addressed to the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. We are asking members of Congress to again show support by signing a letter in support of the entire National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Proposal.

Tab 5: PCT/PCTA Information

The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. The PCT is one of the first two National Scenic Trails designated by Congress in 1968. (The Appalachian Trail was the other.) The USFS is responsible for administering the trail and depends on Congress to appropriate funds annually for that purpose.

The PCTA is a private, nonprofit membership organization. Since 1977, its volunteers and small staff have worked in partnership with the USFS, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and California State Parks to ensure the protection, preservation and promotion of the PCT.









Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): \$6.6 million

LWCF Request:

1) USFS PCT Corridor Acquisitions:

Priority Projects	State	Congressional District	Request	
1 Donner Summit	CA	CA-01	\$ 800,000	
2 Donomore Meadows	CA	CA-01	\$ 200,000	
3 Columbia Gorge	WA	WA-03	\$ 1,040,000	
4 Snoqualmie Pass	WA	WA-08	\$ 3,000,000	

2) USFS Program Administration:

\$ 250,000

3) BLM PCT Corridor Acquisition:

Priority Projects	State	Congressional District	Request
5 California Desert Southwest	CA	CA-08	\$ 476,000
6 Cascade-Siskiyou Area	OR	OR-02	\$ 878,100

Total LWCF Request:

\$6,644,100

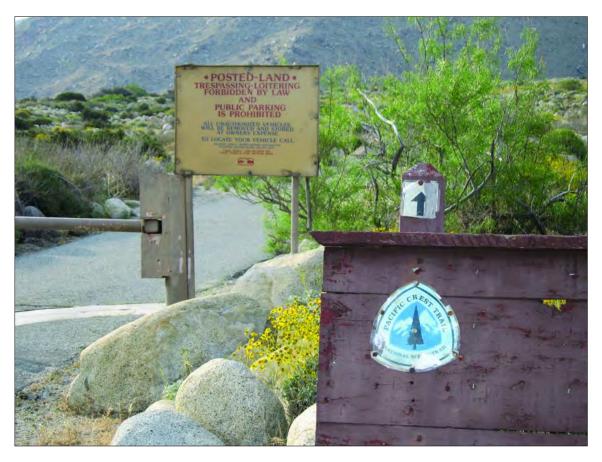


Castle Peak (Donner Summit project area); Photo courtesy of the Trust for Public Land; photo by Scot Hampton





Why is this needed? For most of the 2,650 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, hikers and horseback riders can experience some of the most sublime outdoor scenery in the world. But, in far too many spots along the way, this experience is harshly interrupted by stretches of private lands with logged-over areas, inappropriate barriers and incompatible development. More than 30 years after the 1968 Congressional designation of the PCT as one of the first National Scenic Trails, it is still not completely protected. Approximately 10% of the trail remains marred by inadequate public rights to travel and to protect the user's experience through what should be a gorgeous and wild landscape.



The Land and Water Conservation Fund will be critical in efforts to complete the PCT. The USFS, with its partner public agencies and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, has identified critical parcels for purchase from willing private sellers. In recent years, LWCF appropriations have not been adequate to keep the PCT land acquisition program on track. Opportunities to purchase some of the properties along the PCT constantly come and go. When those opportunities are missed, some permanent changes in land use that conflict with PCT use can take place. Thus, it is urgent for the USFS to continue its efforts to identify and secure those parcels crucial to the trail.





LWCF Progress:

PCT Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Activity	FY2000—FY2015
LWCF Appropriations to the U.S. Forest Service for the PCT	\$20,257,200
PCT Completed Acquisitions using LWCF funding	
Angeles NF—Agua Dulce (parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
Angeles NF—Soledad Canyon (parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
Cleveland NF—Hook Ranch	
Klamath NF—Copper Butte	
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF—Plum Creek (parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
Rogue River NF—Siskiyou Gap Rogue River Siskiyou NF—Brown Mountain	
San Bernardino NF—Fleming Ranch	
San Bernardino NF—Lookout Mtn	
San Bernardino NF—Mission Springs & Onyx Peak (parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
Shasta-Trinity NF—Mt. Eddy	
Tahoe NF—Barker Pass	









California Desert Southwest

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$476,000

Congressional District: CA-08, Representative Cook

Acres: 233

Number of Tracts: 5

Acquiring Agency: BLM

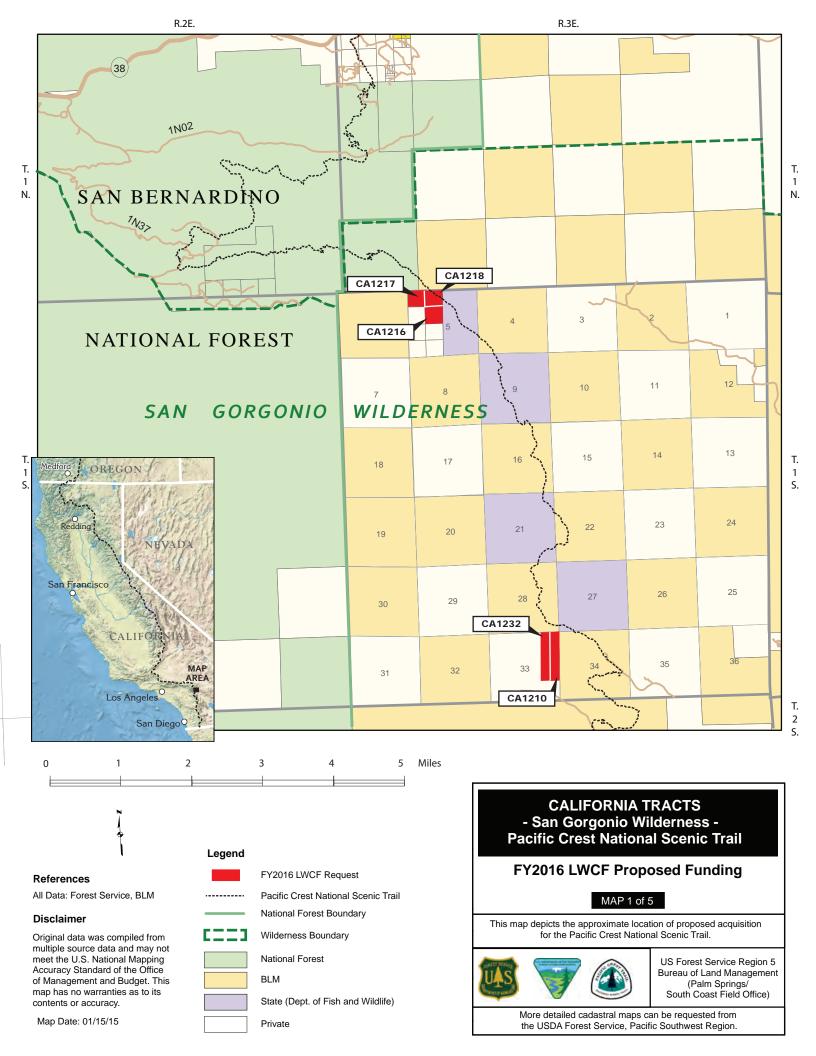
Project Description: Nestled between the south and north forks of Mission Creek, these parcels are located within the San Gorgonio Wilderness along and adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail. They help to create a contiguous Wilderness and an uninterrupted wilderness experience for PCT hikers and equestrians. In addition, these parcels all fall within the proposed Sand to Snow National Monument. They provide outstanding and remote recreation opportunities to PCT hikers and equestrians.

Benefits of Protection: Purchasing these inholdings would create a continuous Wilderness. All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience. In addition it would provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions provide critical open space to link areas of existing public lands.

Threats to the Landscape: Residential development, visual intrusion and lack of public access.

Partner Contributions: The BLM, with the assistance of the Mojave Desert Land Trust, is actively seeking to consolidate land ownership in the San Gorgonio Wilderness. BLM is in the process of acquiring more than 4,100 acres of land in the Wilderness already. These additional lands would almost eliminate private lands on or adjacent to the PCT in the San Gorgonio Wilderness.







Donner Summit

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$800,000

Congressional District: CA-01,

Representative LaMalfa

Acres: 334

Number of Tracts: 1

Acquiring Agency: USFS



Photo courtesy of the Trust for Public Land; photo by Scot Hampton

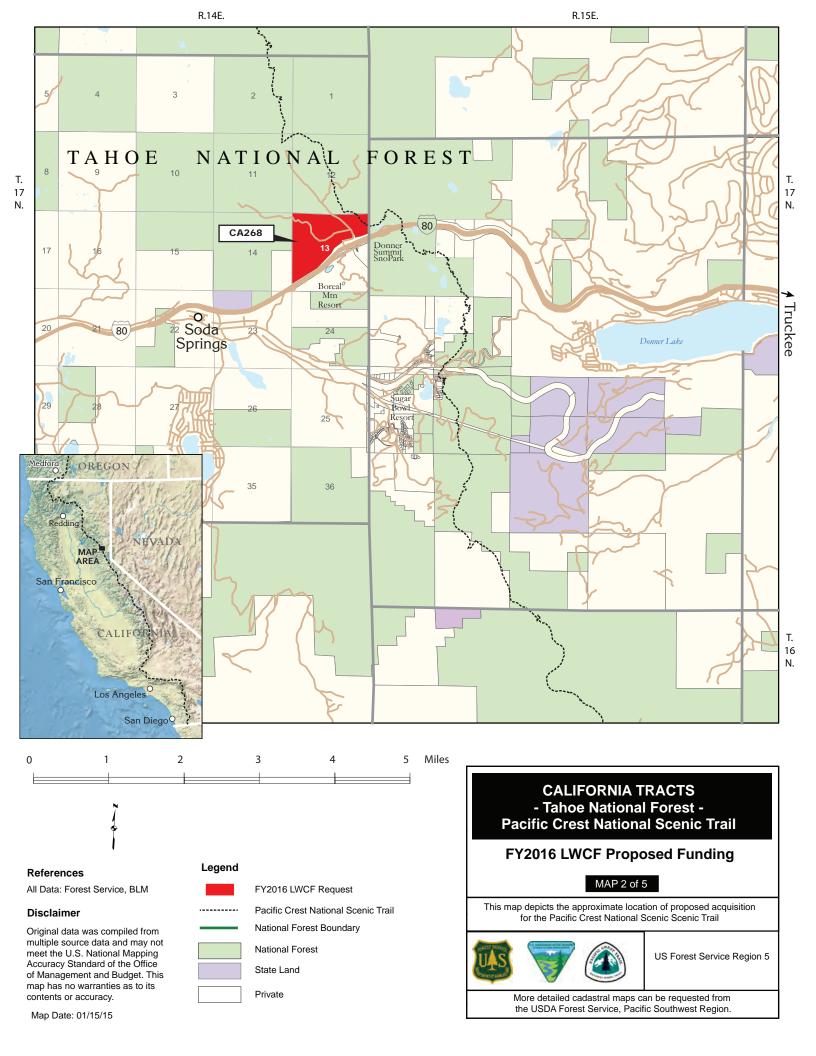
Project Description: The Castle Valley parcel near Donner Summit, just west of the town of Truckee, California, is of special importance to the PCT. This parcel is located just north of Highway 80 and below Castle Peak, which dominates the horizon. Not only does the PCT travel through a portion of the parcel, but nearly the entire 334-acre parcel is within the viewshed from the PCT. This parcel receives an incredible amount of use year round. In the winter months this section of the PCT, and the Castle Valley in general, is extremely popular with snowshoe enthusiasts and backcountry skiers. In the summer months up to 100 people a day can be observed hiking the PCT, or the Castle Valley Road, to earn the amazing 360-degree views afforded on the PCT at Castle Pass. The acquisition of the Castle Valley parcel is crucial in protecting and improving the PCT experience on this very popular section of trail on the Tahoe National Forest, Truckee Ranger District.

Benefits of Protection: The acquisition will provide crucial scenic protection to the PCT experience, particularly in proximity to urban areas and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide crucial open space to link areas of the existing public lands. Specifically, the acquisition of this parcel will provide the Tahoe National Forest the opportunity to develop the necessary trailhead facilities such as education materials, adequate parking, and sanitation facilities to accommodate the high level of recreation activities that occur on and adjacent to the Castle Valley parcel.

Threats to the Landscape: If left in private ownership, the parcel could be developed for residential or commercial use. Development of this property would have a significant negative impact on the scenic experience the PCT affords hikers and horseback riders.

Partner Contributions: The Tahoe National Forest, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Trust for Public Land, and the Truckee Donner Land Trust are working together to consolidate land ownership on the Tahoe National Forest. Much of the land on the Tahoe National Forest, north of Highway 80, is dotted by a public-private checkerboard pattern of ownership.







Donomore Meadows, Cascade-Siskiyou Area

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$200,000 (USFS); \$878,100 (BLM)

Congressional District: CA-01 and OR-02,

Representatives LaMalfa and Walden

Acres: 160 (USFS); 803 (BLM)

Number of Tracts: 3

Acquiring Agencies: USFS & BLM

Project Descriptions:



Donomore Meadows (USFS) – This 160-acre parcel is located just south of the California-Oregon state line, and is an inholding within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's administrative boundaries. Approximately half a mile of the PCT is adjacent to the parcel's western edge. The parcel contains a system of idyllic mountain meadows that abound with wildflowers in early summer. At the south end of Donomore Meadows, the PCT crosses Donomore Creek and walks the western edge of the meadow crossing in and out of a mixed conifer forest. Acquisition of the parcel would protect both the views of the meadows from the PCT as well as the important water source flowing through the meadows.

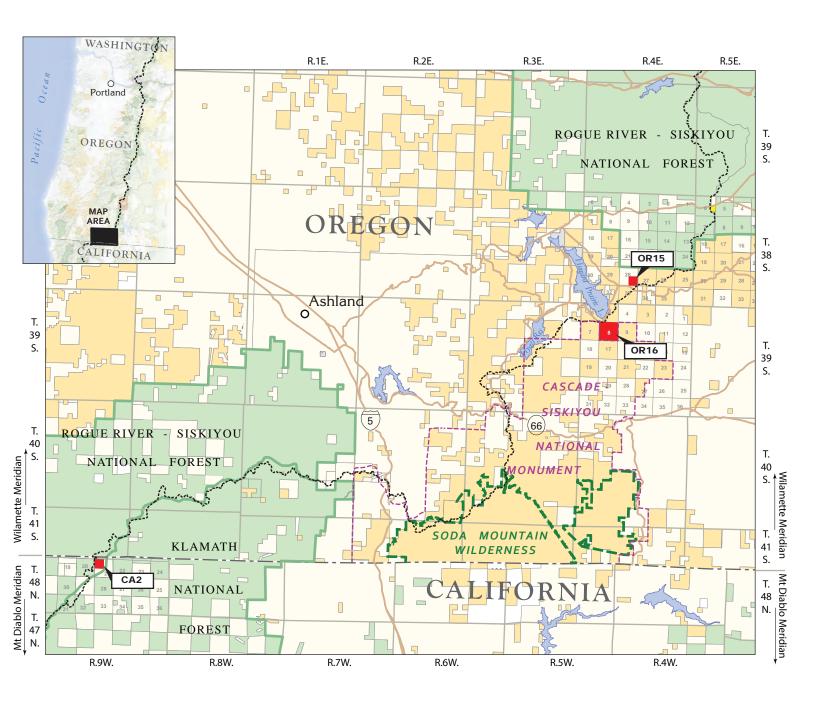
Cascade-Siskiyou Area (BLM) – These two parcels are located close to each other south and east of Howard Prairie Lake in Southern Oregon. As the PCT continues its northward path through the BLM-administered lands, it passes through the rolling hills and mixed coniferous forests east of the lake. The area is popular with recreationists throughout the year. The parcels are vital to the long-term protection of the PCT and its viewshed. In addition, acquisition would allow for a long-planned relocation of the trail away from a popular paved road and the surrounding dispersed recreation sites to a more idyllic setting of tall firs and rocky outcrops with views east to the Klamath Basin beyond.

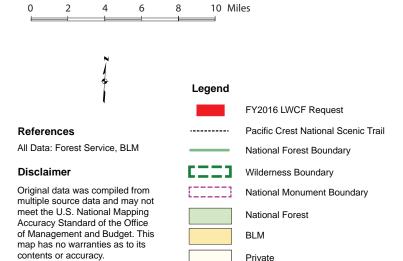
Benefits of Protection: All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to popular recreation areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by allowing land managers to route the trail away from roads and motorized recreation, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

Threats to the Landscape: Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

Partner Contributions: BLM and the Pacific Forest Trust are actively seeking to consolidate land ownership in and around the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which has 30,000 acres of private land. BLM has acquired more than 5,000 acres so far, and the Pacific Forest Trust and the Conservation Fund have donated funds for acquisition. PCTA worked with BLM and contributed the majority of the cost in purchasing a conservation easement in this project area, as has the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy for another tract.







Map Date: 01/15/15

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & OREGON TRACTS Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail FY2016 LWCF Proposed Funding MAP 3 OF 5 This map depicts the approximate location of proposed acquisition for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail US Forest Service Region 6 Bureau of Land Management (Ashland Resource Area/Medford District Office) More detailed cadastral maps can be requested from

the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.



Columbia Gorge

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$1,040,000

Congressional District: WA-03, Representative Herrera Beutler

Acres: 473

Number of Tracts: 2

Acquiring Agency: USFS

Project Description: Just north of the



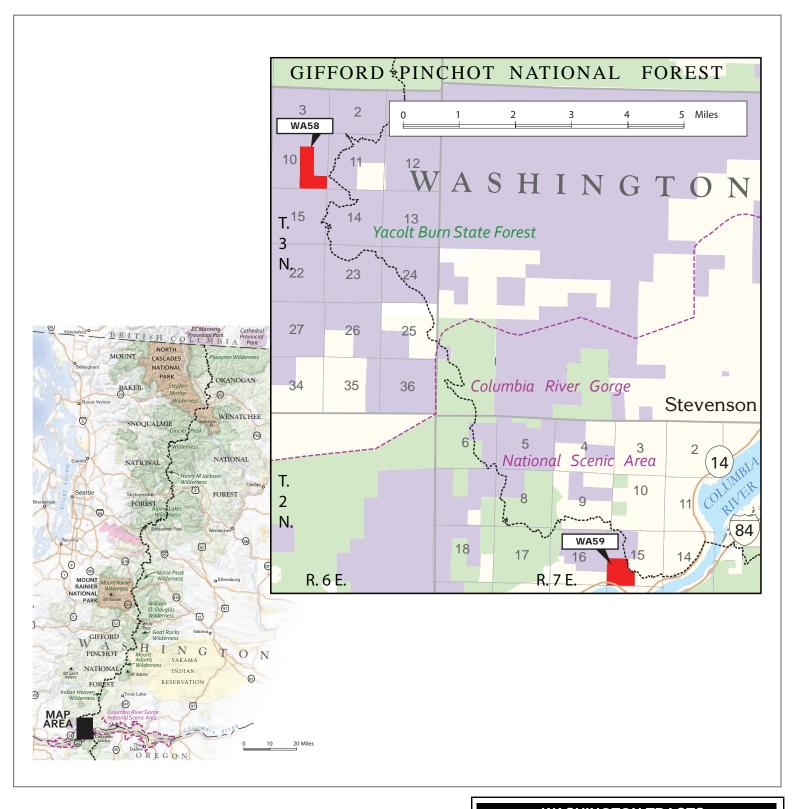
Bridge of the Gods, which spans the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington, a highly accessible and visible stretch of the PCT follows a narrow right of way across private lands with active logging and mining. Two willing-seller parcels have the potential to dramatically improve the PCT experience. Despite the fact that it is surrounded by Forest Service and Washington state land, a handful of private parcels had to be crossed in order to connect the PCT to the Bridge of the Gods. Trail easements across such lands are a hassle for the land owner when they are planning extraction operations, because arrangements need to be made to keep the trail open. Fallen trees have blocked trails, heavy equipment has damaged portions of the trail, and downed logs and heavy equipment also pose safety hazards. The project area is located in Skamania County, and within or adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. The area is heavily visited by the recreating public. Despite the fact that it is easily accessed from a major highway, this particular segment of the PCT is not as popular as it could be, because its appearance does not line up with trail users' expectations of the PCT. One of the two parcels would accommodate a small relocation out of clear-cuts and under mature canopy, along sparkling little ponds. Other scenic views are primarily dense forest with occasional glimpses of surrounding mountains. An abundance of wildlife inhabits the area.

Benefits of Protection: Skamania County is well positioned to capitalize upon the Pacific Crest Trail's existing and future draw. Businesses and communities near the Pacific Crest Trail already benefit from recreation tourism, and stand to benefit more if the trail experience is improved. All acquisitions provide crucial scenic protection to the PCT experience, particularly in proximity to urban areas and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide crucial open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

Threats to the Landscape: Resource extraction, commercial development, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

Partner Contributions: Friends of the Gorge Land Trust has invested significant staff time in assisting with these parcels.





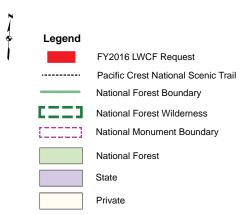


All Data: Forest Service, BLM

Disclaimer

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.

Map Date: 01/15/15



WASHINGTON TRACTS - Columbia River Gorge Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2016 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 4 of 5

This map depicts the approximate location of proposed acquisition for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.







US Forest Service Region 6

More detailed cadastral maps can be requested from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.



Snoqualmie Pass

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$3,000,000

Congressional District: WA-08, Representative Reichert

Acres: 72

Number of Tracts: 2

Acquiring Agency: USFS

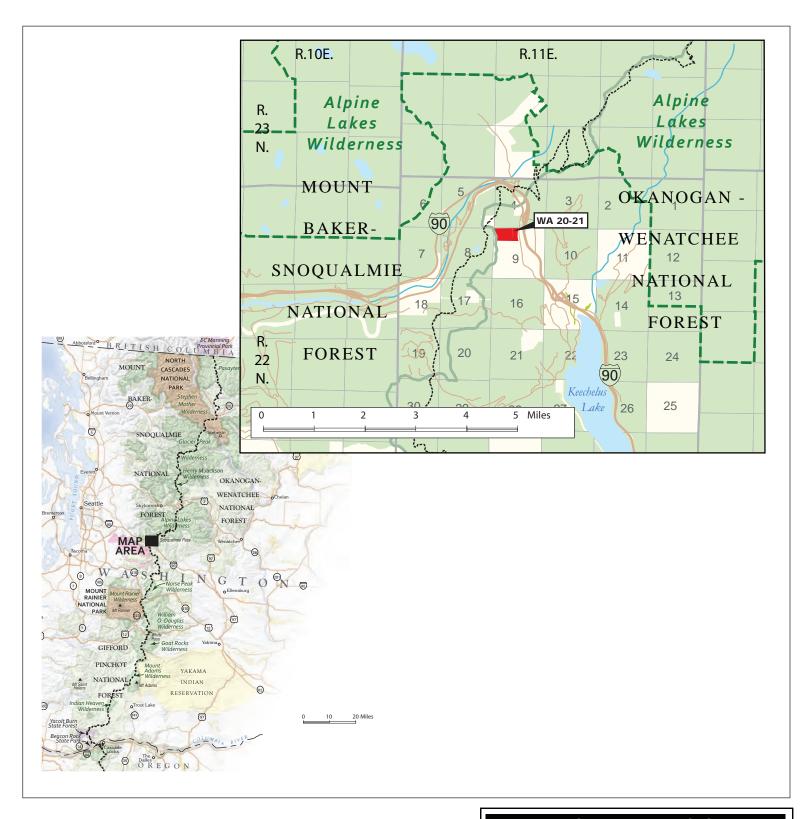
Project Description: This parcel is the key to proceeding with a substantial relocation out of the developed Summit West ski area on USFS lands. This will remove the PCT from under a number of ski lifts and take it to an undeveloped forest setting on the only undeveloped parcel available to bring the PCT to a crossing of I-90. This will allow us to mitigate current management conflicts, avoid likely future conflicts, and provide access to backcountry winter users to public lands south of the pass without the danger of intersecting downhill ski traffic. The location will switch the current interstate crossing from a heavily used exit underpass where the trail mixes pedestrian and equestrian public use with motorized traffic to a little used underpass with a much shorter and substantially safer crossing. The change will substantially improve the quality of the PCT experience south of Snoqualmie Pass and combined with other purchases and shifts in location has the potential to better distribute the heavy use north of the pass into Alpine Lakes Wilderness. The project area is located in eastern King County and western Kittitas County, King County, with a population of 1.8 million people, is the twelfthmost-populous county in the United States. The area is heavily visited by the recreating public. It contains the headwaters of the Green River and a series of high mountain lakes, numerous streams and rivers, large stands of old growth, huckleberries and mountain meadows. The scenic views are among the most striking in the Cascade Range. The area also provides habitat for a variety of endangered species, including grizzly bear, wolf, spotted owl, marbled murrelet, steelhead, salmon and bull trout. An abundance of other wildlife inhabit the area, including elk, deer, cougar, coyote, bobcat, and an occasional moose.

Benefits of Protection: All acquisitions provide crucial scenic protection to the PCT experience, particularly in proximity to urban areas and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide crucial open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

Threats to the Landscape: Commercial development, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

Partner Contributions: The Trust for Public Land has invested significant staff time and tens of thousands of dollars in acquisition management costs in the adjacent Plum Creek Timberlands acquisition, acquiring 17 parcels.





References

All Data: Forest Service, BLM

Disclaimer

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.

Map Date: 01/15/15



WASHINGTON TRACTS - Snoqualmie Pass Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2016 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 5 of 5

This map depicts the approximate location of proposed acquisition for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.







US Forest Service Region 6

More detailed cadastral maps can be requested from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.



Photo by Linda Rostad ©2015





II. Capital Improvement & Maintenance—Trails (CMTL) —USFS: \$2.1 million

CMTL Request:

Allocate \$2.1 million for the PCT in the USFS CMTL-PC line item to fund the following ongoing programs in Regions 4, 5 and 6:

- Full-time USFS PCT Program Manager
- Half-time Program Assistant
- Forest and Project Planning and optimal trail location reviews
- Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the PCTA and other private partners to support volunteer trail maintenance and public education programs
- Trail maintenance, construction, reconstruction and user information
- Trail management and operations
- Youth and Corps Trail Crew Programs

Need: Every year the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) sees a rising threat to public access – insufficient funding to maintain and reconstruct trails for a variety of uses. This access to experiences is what drives the recreation

economy in the areas surrounding our national forests. This situation is not unique to the PCT, and the PCTA urges an overall increase in the entire USFS CMTL budget, especially as it funds work on all the National Scenic and Historic Trails. On the PCT, reduced funding for the past two fiscal vears has meant that crucial resources for the regular work needed to keep the trail safe and passable for the public, and those needed to respond to disasters such as



landslides, washouts, and wildfire are insufficient. The result is that every year less and less of the PCT is ready for the public at a time when public interest and demand for PCT experiences is at an all-time high.

Year after year, dedicated PCTA volunteers take to the woods with picks, shovels, saws and spirit to rebuild washed-out bridges, cut away fallen trees, and restore eroded portions of the trail. PCTA recruits young and old by the





hundreds to give their time and energy to fix what needs to be fixed all the way from Mexico to Canada on the PCT. In 2014 alone, PCTA volunteers and corps crews devoted 78,000 hours to keeping the trail open for the public to use. As a result, hikers and horseback riders alike will tell you that the PCT is one of the finest wilderness trail experiences in existence.

But we need help from the USFS. Our volunteers cannot be successful without government support. Volunteers need tools, training classes, food and transportation help to make it to where their efforts will do the most good. The USFS has to purchase materials to rebuild bridges, to plan the work effectively, and otherwise ensure that the PCT continues to be a world-class trail for the hundreds of thousands of users who expect to go out and enjoy it.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association urges congressional support of a small increase in the appropriation for the Forest Service for PCT maintenance. Programs administered within this budget are programs that "give back" to youth, to rural communities and to the public. The youth corps and volunteers learn skills in forestry and trail maintenance, and gain experience in cooperation and leadership. Jobs are created in rural areas, while visitors from all over the world spend their recreation and tourism dollars in communities along the trail. At the same time, the ongoing work of keeping the trail accessible is achieved. These programs represent what can be accomplished when people work across boundaries toward a common goal.

III. Trail Maintenance—NPS and BLM: \$500,000

PCT Maintenance Request:

- \$200,000 to the NPS
- \$300,000 to the BLM

Need: This appropriation is needed to meet the demand for federal agency direct work and coordination of volunteer crews to maintain and repair the PCT in six National Parks and several BLM National Monuments and districts on more than 600 miles of the PCT.

Progress: During 2014, the PCTA completed trail maintenance projects for a total of 78,000 volunteer and corps crew hours in cooperation with federal agency partners and private partners. Since 2008, PCTA has done work under a long-term Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the BLM, which provides funding for the support of volunteer work projects on BLM lands. PCTA volunteers and staff worked with BLM and local volunteers to perform needed maintenance and repairs in California and Oregon.





Youth Trail Crew Programs

Environmental Charter Schools:

The Environmental Charter High School and Middle School are award-winning, free public schools in southern Los Angeles that educate and prepare students for four-year colleges using the environment as a lens for real-life learning. The majority of the student body is of Latino and Middle Eastern descent, and 80 percent are considered financially disadvantaged. As a direct result of their PCT experience, several students have been accepted into the Nature Conservancy's summer internship program to explore environmental careers. Students learn how to repair and restore the trail at different locations on Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and State Park lands. They learn environmental stewardship while camping and experiencing nature, often for the first time.



Environmental Charter High School

In 2014, students from the Environmental Charter High School and Middle School contributed more than 870 hours on three projects in the Angeles National Forest and on Bureau of Land Management lands near Palm Springs.

In addition to trail work, in 2015 students from Environmental Charter High School will join Pacific Crest Trail Association volunteers to advocate for the trail in Washington, DC.





Youth Trail Crew Programs

Alternative Spring Break: In Southern California, the PCTA works actively with universities to offer alternative spring break programs. In 2014, 12 University of Florida students devoted 500 hours to trail restoration and improvement in the Cleveland National Forest.



Alternative Spring Break



American Conservation Experience

American Conservation Experience (ACE): ACE's conservation corps program is for 18- to 25-year-olds who are considering land management as a career path or potential course of study. Corps members serve in professionally supervised teams as they explore future outdoor careers, learn practical field skills, and develop confidence as emerging leaders in the field of conservation. In 2014, ACE crews spent 6,400 hours working on the trail in eight different National Forests and BLM districts.

"The experience has been one of the best of my life, and it has given me a new perspective on the way I see trails and the people that thru-hike them ... I will be talking about this experience for the rest of my life. I am going to strongly encourage the people I know to join a trail crew, or volunteer in one way or another because of the impact it can have on one's life." - ACE Crew Member





Youth Trail Crew Programs



AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps

AmeriCorps National
Civilian Community Corps
(NCCC) – New to the PCT in
2014, NCCC strengthens
communities and develops
leaders in youth ages 18 to 24
through team-based service.
Drawn from the successful
models of the Civilian
Conservation Corps of the
1930s and the U.S. military,
AmeriCorps NCCC is built on
the belief that civic
responsibility is an inherent

duty of all citizens. In 2014, NCCC spent eight weeks on the PCT contributing 3,400 service hours work on BLM lands, the San Bernardino National Forest, and California's Anza-Borrego Desert State Park.

Boy Scouts: In 2014, Scouts from three different Boy Scout troops worked on the trail in California and Oregon, contributing a combined total of 390 volunteer hours.

Urban Youth: In 2014, the longterm Urban Youth program continued with a new partner, New Currents, Outdoors in Portland, Oregon. This partnership works to get urban youth ages 12 to 17 involved in environmental education, hiking, camping and recreating on public lands. In 2014, 12 kids from the Urban Youth Program worked on a two-day project in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



Urban Youth





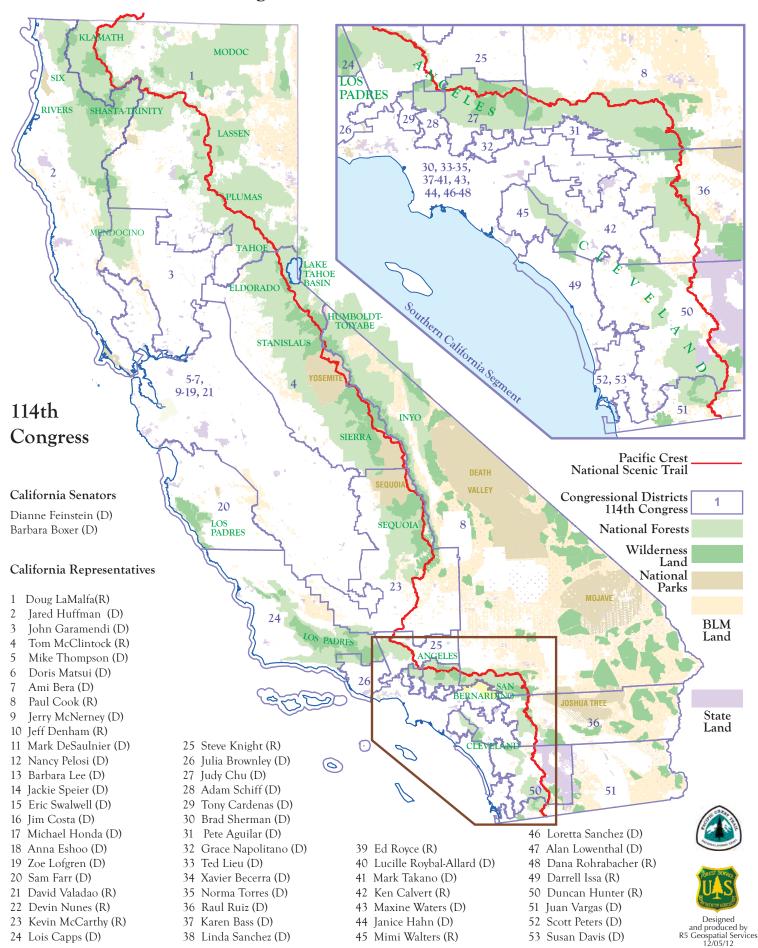


PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL and California Congressional Districts,

114th United States Congress

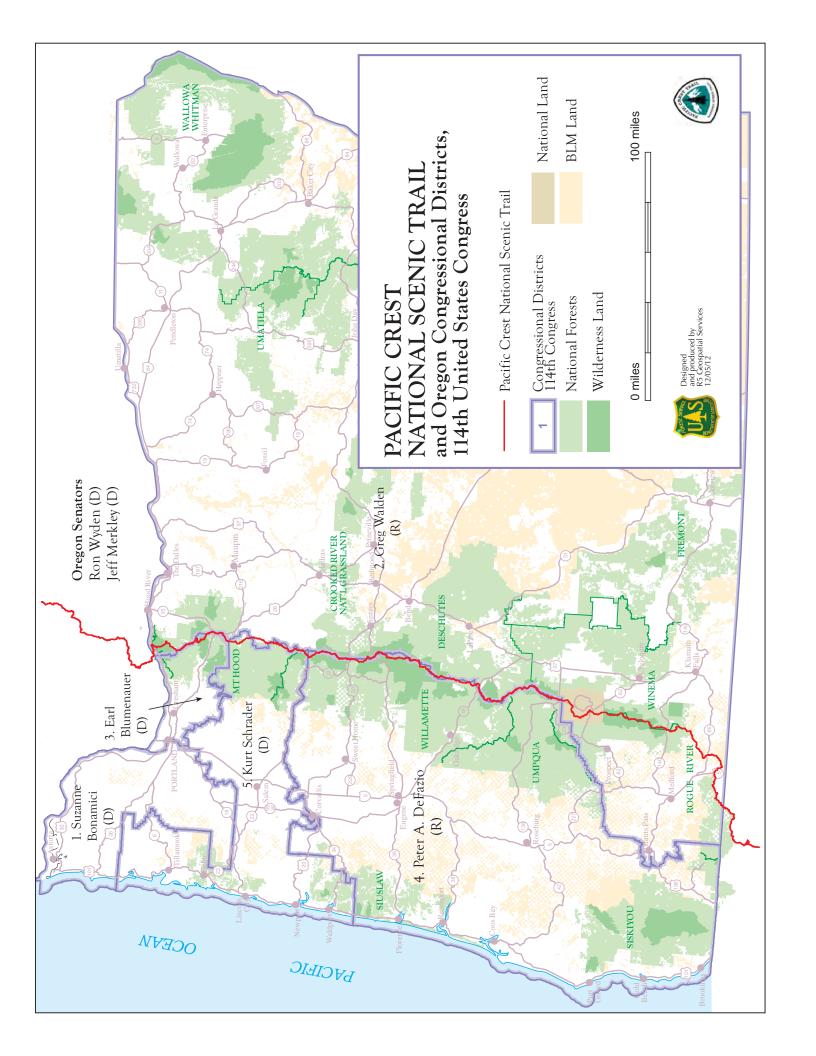
24 Lois Capps (D)

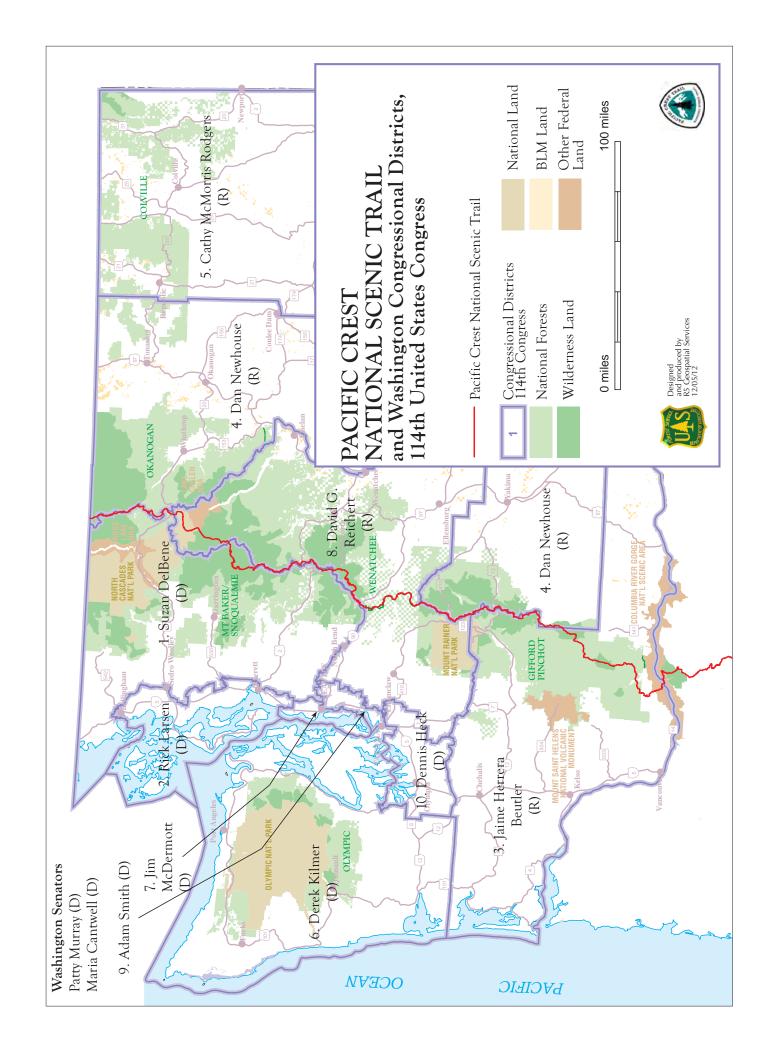
38 Linda Sanchez (D)



45 Mimi Walters (R)

53 Susan Davis (D)









Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ken Calvert
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim Moran
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on the Interior, Environment and
Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2014

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Moran:

We write to express our support for the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal in the FY2015 Interior and Energy Agencies Appropriations bill. This proposal is based on extensive interagency collaboration and is targeted to focus on high priority, community-based conservation and recreation projects. Inadequate funding for these important investments jeopardizes access to our National Trails System and has an adverse impact on America's outdoor economy, which contributes \$1.06 trillion to the nation's economy each year. We respectfully urge you to provide sufficient funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) in the FY 2015 Interior and Energy Agencies Appropriations bill to fully fund the CLP proposal.

Last year, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, assembled a comprehensive land protection package focused on national historic and scenic trails projects under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The package includes parcels throughout the United States determined to be priorities based on their ability to leverage federal funds, their impact in completing trails or conservation priorities, and the level of community engagement and support. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application are impressive, and should serve as an example for future federal efforts.

These collaborative, high-priority projects will close gaps and protect critical sites along 15 of the 30 national scenic and historic trails, enhance connectivity for recreation and fitness, and support economic development for rural communities along the trails. They will help the Department of Interior and its local partners meet conservation goals, including protecting critical wildlife habitat and migration corridors along the Big Sheep Creek in Washington, the Mississippi River in Tennessee, and within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. They will encourage public recreation by creating trail access points in urban areas like King County, WA and St. Croix, WI, and will keep hikers off of long stretches of busy roads along the North Country and New England National Scenic Trails. This initiative will protect critical sites necessary to tell the historic and cultural stories of the trails, including a Lewis & Clark campsite, a section of the original Trail of Tears preserved in its original form, a location where Captain John Smith was held captive, and the lava tube caves where native Hawaiians buried their dead. These projects will help link together 80 national parks and monuments, 70 national wildlife refuges and more than 90 wilderness areas.

The national scenic and historic trails are some of the most important in our nation's history and for our future. They vividly tell the stories of the major ethnic and cultural communities that make up our Nation. They are examples of how large-scale collaborative stewardship can help leverage federal dollars and enhance public-private partnerships. Each of the 30 trails is developed and sustained through scores of long-term partnerships between Federal agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners. The handful of Federal staff who administer and manage these trails rely on the contributions of thousands of citizen volunteers to make them available for public enjoyment and reinvigoration. In 2012, volunteers along the National Trails System contributed at least 1,185,375 hours valued at \$26,244,202 to sustain the trails. The partner organizations also contributed \$7,565,777 to benefit the trails. It is clear that the small amount of federal funds needed to help protect and maintain these trails are highly leveraged.

The inclusion of the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal as part of the Land and Water Conservation Fund for FY2015 will protect critical places and resources for public benefit and will help foster and enhance community-based citizen stewardship of conservation and heritage landscapes. This strategic investment of Federal money will leverage additional monetary and in-kind contributions many times over while simultaneously enriching the lives of millions of people and strengthening our communities.

We appreciate your consideration and strongly urge the Committee to recognize the many benefits of the National Trails System and to provide adequate funding for the acquisition of land and easements along these trails through the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal within the Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Earl Blumenauer

Suzanne Bonamici

bolin Co

John Conyers Jr.

Peter DeFazio

Dave Reichert

Gerald E. Connolly

Elijah Cummings

Poss I Del suro

Suzah DelBene	Anna G. Eshoo
Sam Farr	John Garamendi
Denny Heck	Varied Huffman
Sheila Jackson Lee	Derek Kilmer
Ron Kind	Ann McLane Kuster
Rick Larsen	Barbara Lee
John Lewis John Lewis	Zoe Lofgren
Bul. Luján Ben Ray Luján	Doris Matsui
Jim McDermott	Gloria Negrete McLeod
Mark Meadows	Donna M. Christensen

Mark Pocan	Lucille Raybal-allany
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger	Loretta Sanchez
Adam Smith	Juan Yargas Ong as
Matha A Carte Coff	Nick J. Rahall
Judy Chu	Clan Lowerthal Alan Lowenthal
Jackie Speier Speur	Swer Moore Gwen Moore
Alm al Davis	







Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Fact Sheet



From desert to glacier-flanked mountain, meadow to forest, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail symbolizes everything there is to love—and protect—in the Western United States.

Background: The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. Hundreds of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts enjoy this national treasure each year. In the 1968 National Trails System Act, Congress authorized the PCT as one of the first national scenic trails. Congress charged the USFS with the responsibility to administer the PCT in cooperation with the many land managers along its route.

- Designated by Congress as one of the first National Scenic Trails in 1968
- Contiguous route completed (but not entirely protected) in 1993
- Location: Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington
- Length: 2,650 miles
- Land Managers:
 - 25 National Forests
 - 6 National Parks
 - 5 California State Parks
 - 3 National Monuments
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - Scenic and State Recreation Areas
 - · County Parks and Indian Lands
- Lowest point: 100 feet at the Columbia River, Oregon/Washington border
- Highest point: 13,180 feet at Forester Pass, California
- Congressional Districts on the PCT:
 - 10 in California, 4 in Oregon, 4 in Washington





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



Pacific Crest Trail Association Fact Sheet

PCTA Mission

The mission of the Pacific Crest Trail Association is to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) as a world-class experience for hikers and equestrians, and for all the values provided by wild and scenic lands.

The PCTA strives to achieve this mission by promoting the PCT as a unique educational and recreational treasure and one of the finest hiking and horseback trails anywhere in the world. The PCTA is a private nonprofit and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service. The PCTA provides a broad range of services to its members and the international public, and serves as a communications link among users and land management agencies.

Staff and Board of Directors

In 1993, the PCTA hired its first paid staff. Today, the PCTA has a regular staff of 17, including an executive director and trail and administrative staff.

A 13-member volunteer board of directors provides leadership and governance for the PCTA. Board members are elected for a three-year term.

Membership & Budget

In 2015, we celebrate an ever-expanding membership base. The PCTA now represents more than 9,500 PCTA members worldwide, and has an annual budget of \$2.2 million.

Partnerships

The PCTA works in partnership with the USFS, the NPS, the BLM, and California State Parks to protect, preserve, and promote the PCT. Through a long-term Memorandum of Understanding among these agencies, the PCTA is recognized as the major private partner. Along with the government agencies, the PCTA leads the coordination, management, and operation of the PCT and feeder trails. Activities include signing, condition surveys, trailhead and trail use surveys, water development, and adopt-a-trail programs, as well as new construction and ongoing maintenance activities. Educational opportunities also are plentiful as our volunteers lead interpretive trips and speak to local schools, agencies, businesses, and other civic organizations.





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Pacific Crest Trail History

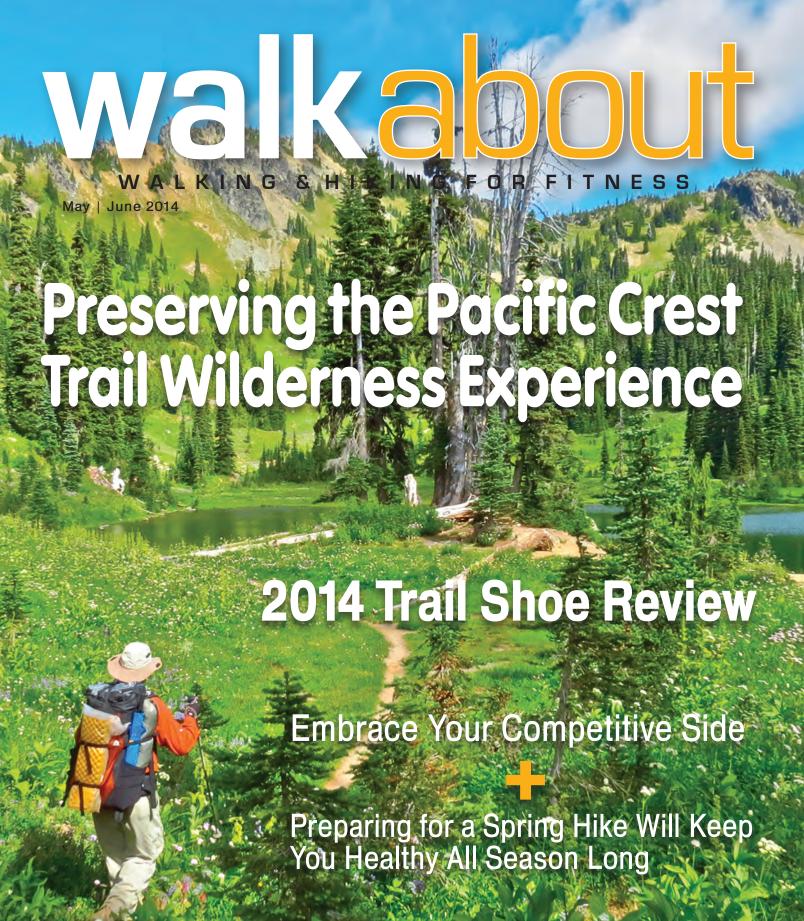
- 1926 first known record of a proposal for a trail through California,
 Oregon and Washington
- 1932 Clinton Clarke, the "father of the PCT," begins promoting the trail
- 1930s exploration begins
- 1935 1938 YMCA organizes relays to scout the trail's route
- 1939 the PCT appears on a federal government map for the first time
- 1940s work halted due to WWII
- 1950s advocacy work continues
- 1968 designated as National Scenic Trail
- 1988 monuments placed at the southern and northern terminuses
- 1993 Golden Spike "completion" ceremony
- 2000 U.S. Forest Service hires full-time PCT Program Manager
- 2001 U.S. Forest Service signs agreement with National Park Service for PCT land acquisition work



Pacific Crest Trail Association History

- 1935 first meeting of the Pacific Crest Trail System Conference
- 1971 Warren Rogers, Clinton Clarke's protégé, founds the Pacific Crest Trail Club
- 1977 Pacific Crest Trail Conference incorporated
- 1987 Pacific Crest Trail Club merges with Pacific Crest Trail Conference
- 1992 Pacific Crest Trail Conference changes its name to Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)
- 1993 PCTA hires first paid staff
- 1990s PCTA grows its membership and volunteer base
- 1997 PCTA begins annual advocacy trips to Washington, D.C.
- 2006 PCTA adopts Strategic Plan
- 2010 PCTA exceeds 100,000 annual volunteer hours with the help of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act



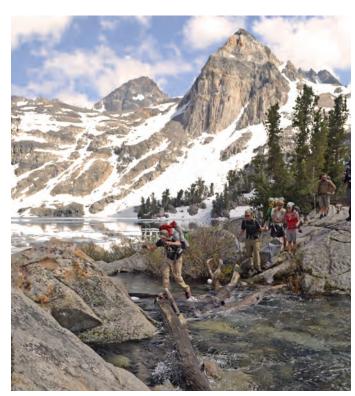


www.walkaboutmag.com



Banner Peak

Preserving the PCT Wilderness Experience



Rae Lakes

By Mark Larabee

I'm in the backcountry, steeped in solitude day after day, alone with the immensity of the place, watching nature move in small, uninterrupted worlds.

Deer and dragonflies move freely. Mosquitoes and marmot thrive. Douglas fir and cedar tower above. Snowfields on high peaks invisibly recede, feeding streams, lakes, and rivers.

My legs are covered in fine dust; the grease in my hair used to bother me, but it doesn't anymore. My pack once felt like I was carrying another person on my shoulders, but now I toss it about with one hand. With every clean breath, every step, I'm stronger and more alive.

That's how I felt in the final days of a month-long hike across Oregon on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), the 2,650-mile National Scenic Trail that runs from Mexico to Canada along the spine of the mountains of the American West.

I was reporting on the trail in 2005 for *The Oregonian*, at the end of an era when newspapers thrived and sent reporters to the field to live the story rather than tweet from the confines of their cubicles.

My view of the world is no longer through the lens of a newspaper reporter. I left that career behind in 2009. Today I work on behalf of the Pacific Crest Trail through the nonprofit Pacific Crest Trail Association (www.pcta.org), which has roughly 8,500 members. Our job at PCTA is to protect, preserve, and promote the trail as a world-class experience for hikers and horseback riders and for the values provided by wild and scenic lands.

And the trail is wild and scenic. The PCT winds its way from the mountains of southern California through the Mojave Desert before it climbs into the Sierra Nevada. From there this ribbon connects the Trinity

Alps and the Marble Mountains in northern California before traversing east into the Siskiyou Mountains of southern Oregon. Then it heads north into the Cascade Range, passing volcanoes one after another in Oregon and Washington, before topping out in the granite peaks of the North Cascades.

The PCT is truly a wilderness trail. Almost half the trail crosses federally protected wilderness — 48 separate wilderness areas in all – where mechanized tools and modes of travel are prohibited and the preservation of the natural landscape is the primary management goal.

After hiking about 500 miles of the PCT from northern California to Cascade Locks, OR, carrying a 35-pound backpack, I understood more than ever the importance of having and protecting such wilderness. The tangible benefits of preserving vast tracts of land for wildlife, clean air, and drinking water are surely to everyone's benefit. But for me, these natural places provide all of us with something more ethereal – an opportunity to find balance in our daily lives. Being outside embraces us in a way that's immeasurable in terms of dollars, yet priceless in terms of afterglow.

There's much talk today about shrinking government. Taxpayer-funded recreation and conservation programs are targeted. Does that mean that protected places such as the Pacific Crest Trail – one of only 11 National Scenic Trails – are not worthy of our financial support?

These wilderness areas and the other public lands that the trail crosses are managed by government agencies, primarily the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and California State Parks. Through written agreement, the nonprofit Pacific Crest Trail Association is the primary force for keeping the trail open and accessible. We use government grants and raise even more money privately to marshal volunteers who spend their own time clearing brush, cutting fallen logs, and rebuilding trail tread. Our volunteers put in a whopping 85,000 hours last year.

This work is like paining the Golden Gate Bridge. It's never complete. Mother Nature is always trying to take back the trail. We are always working to stem the affects of weather, erosion, fire, and plant growth.

It's even more difficult in wilderness. PCTA partners with Back Country Horsemen groups and other packers who volunteer their horses and mules to carry tools, tents, and food for crews, who might spend two weeks far from any trailhead clearing logs or rebuilding a washed out bridge.

And that's just part of it. Our Trail Operations experts not only organize and shepherd these volunteer crews, they work directly with land managers to ensure that the trail is considered in the larger context of managing the vast individual forests. Without strong partnerships and good working relationships, this important work would not happen and the trail experience would wither.

PCTA also runs the nation's premier training program for trail workers. We held 26 Trails Skill College training sessions is 2013 so our crews could learn to work safely and gain new skills in everything from crew leadership to using a crosscut saw.

Every February, PCTA staff members and volunteers visit Washington D.C. as part of Hike the Hill, a gathering sponsored by the Partnership for the National Trails System. Along with representative from other trail groups, we meet with people in Congress and in the top echelons of the land management agencies to ensure that the PCT and other national trails are properly considered and cared for.

The relationship between humankind and nature is symbiotic. Places like the PCT and the wilderness around it need our stewardship, care, and protection. That is what PCTA is all about. On my hike across Oregon, I saw how important these places are to all of us, as well as what happens when we let our responsibility to them slip away. In this 50th year of the Wilderness Act, it is our responsibility to double down on our investment. **WA**

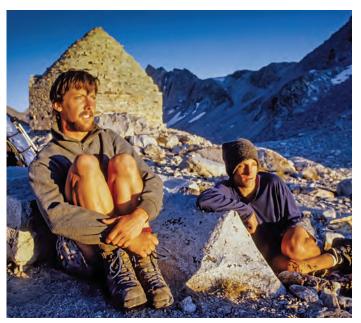
Mark Larabee is the Managing Editor of the Pacific Crest Trail Communicator, the quarterly magazine of the Pacific Crest Trail Association. Before joining PCTA, he spent 25 years as a newspaper reporter and editor and was part of team of reporters who won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking news in 2007 for The Oregonian newspaper of Portland, OR.



High Traverse

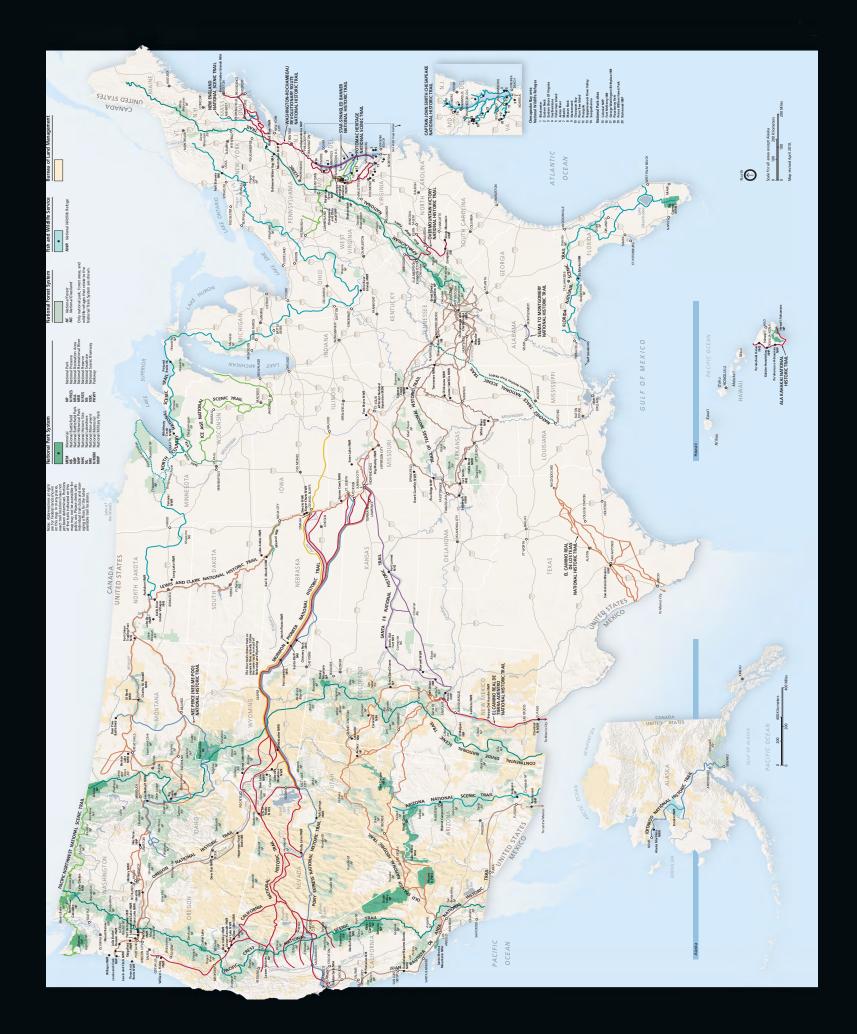


Forester Pass



Muir Hut





Thanks to Our Partners









Adventure 16 ♦ Calif. ALDHA-West ♦ National Alta Land People ♦ Calif.

American Conservation Experience

National

American Hiking Society National

Appalachian Mountain Club National

Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association • Ore.

Backcountry Horsemen of America

National

Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon • Ore.

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington

Wash.

Backpacker Magazine

National

Bellevue College

Wash.

Boreas • National

Boy Scouts of America ♦ National

California Conservation Corps

Calif.

Cedar House Sport Hotel

California

Coyote Camp Fireline Chow

National

Eagle Creek

National

Eagle's Nest Outfitters

National

Equestrian Trails, Inc Calif.

Esbit • National

EarthCorps ♦ Wash.

Granite Gear

National

Gregory

National

High Cascade Forest Volunteers • Ore.

ICF International ♦ International

Inviting Light Photography

Calif.

Juniper Ridge

National

Kern Recreational Landowners Association

Calif.

Keyes, Fox, & Weidman LLP ◆ Calif.

Leave No Trace

National

LED Lenser ♦ National Leki • National

Mom's Pie House ♦ Calif.

Mountain Khakis

National

Mt. Adams Institute • Wash.

National Civilian Community Corps AmeriCorps

National

National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance

National

New Currents, Outdoors ♦ Ore.

New Seasons Market ♦ Ore.

Oregon Equestrian Trails

Ore.

Osprey Packs, Inc.

National

Outdoor Viewfinder

National

Pacific Forest Trust ♦ Calif./Ore.

Pacific Northwest Trail Association

Wash.

Partnership for the National Trails System

National

REI • National

Platypus • National

Royal Robbins

National

Salazon Chocolate

National

San Diego Ultra Running Friends

Calif.

Sierra Health Foundation

Calif.

Siskiyou Mountain Club • Ore.

Tahoe Rim Trail Association ♦ Calif.

Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation

Calif.

The North Face ♦ National

Trailkeepers of Oregon • Ore.

Trust for Public Land

National

Ultralight Adventure Equipment

National

University of Florida

Fla.

Ursack ♦ National

Washington State Department of Natural Resources • Wash.

Washington Trails Association • Wash.

White Pass Ski Area • Wash.

Washington Trails Association

Wash.

Well.org ♦ National

Woolrich National



1331 GARDEN HIGHWAY SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

916-285-1846

LIZ BERGERON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CEO LBergeron@pcta.org

0