

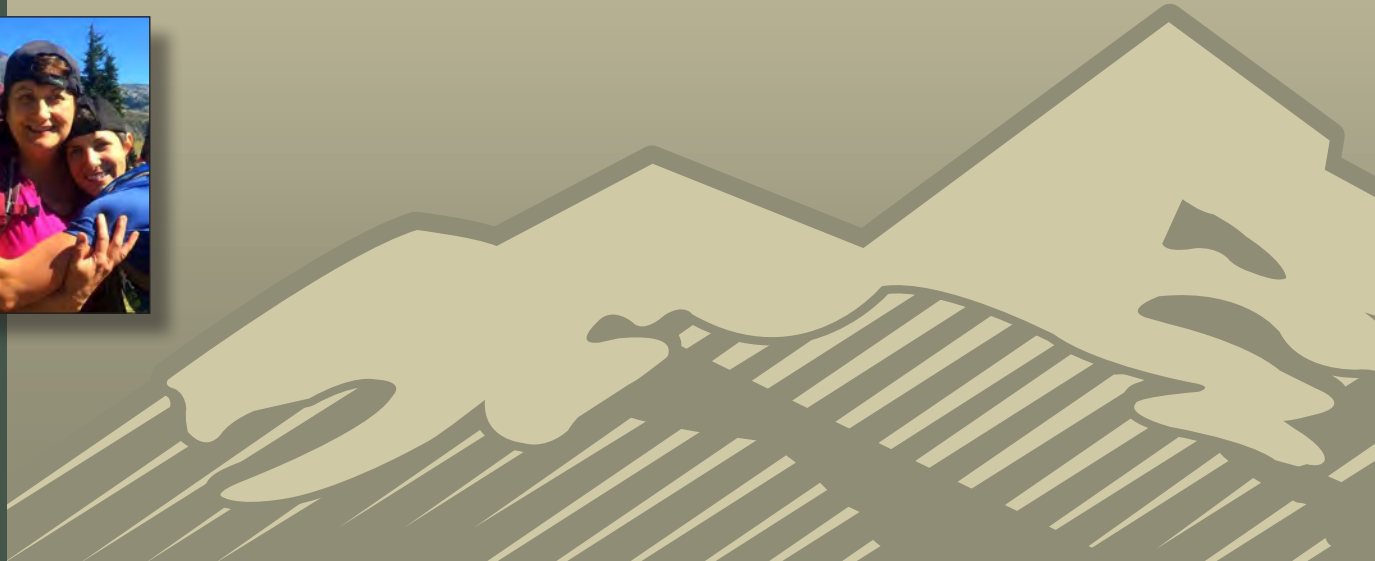
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PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

FY 2017 Appropriations Request

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





GRAPHIC DESIGN DONATED BY



COVER PHOTOS BY ALASDAIR FOWLER, SHONDA FEATHER AND CAROLYN TEPOLT



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2017 Appropriations Request

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) respectfully asks Congress to support the following FY2017 appropriations to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT):

I. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

\$7.8 million

PCT Corridor Acquisition Projects

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Budget Request

- \$7.0 million
 - California—Landers Meadow, trail and resource protection within the Sequoia National Forest; Trinity Divide, trail and resource protection within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Donomore Meadows, trail and resource protection within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest.
 - Washington—Columbia Gorge, trail and resource protection in and adjacent to the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area; Stevens Pass, purchase portion of the trail that currently has no easement.
- \$250,000—LWCF line item for program administration

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Budget Request

- \$515,000
 - California—California Desert Southwest, purchase parcels within the San Geronio Wilderness to create an uninterrupted wilderness experience.
 - Oregon—Cascade-Siskiyou Area, trail and resource protection in southern Oregon near the Klamath Basin.

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





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Trail Funding Justification—FY2017

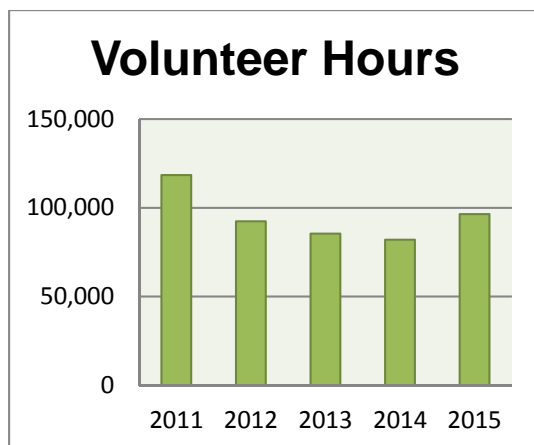


The U.S. Forest Service has overall responsibility for the PCT, but operational responsibility is shared by the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and several state and county parks through which the trail passes. The PCTA is the major private partner, as codified in a Memorandum of 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 (2006—2015):

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: 918,000

Value of Volunteer Hours: \$19,700,000

Private Dollars Raised: \$10,950,000

Total PCTA Contribution: \$ 30,650,000



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Table of Contents

This booklet outlines two key FY2017 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.

Tab 2: CMTL, Trail Maintenance & Youth

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 91,000 hours last year working to keep the trail passable. Many of these volunteer hours were contributed by our active and enthusiastic youth volunteers

Tab 3: Wildfires

Several bills with bi-partisan support in Congress aim to create an emergency funding source for use by federal land managers to manage wildfires. On the PCT, we constantly deal with damage from wildfires. We urge Congress to change the way it pays for fighting wildfires. Potentially destructive fires should be treated in the same way as other national disasters, leaving intact our core forest management budgets.

Tab 4: Congressional Maps

The PCT passes through three states and 18 Congressional districts.

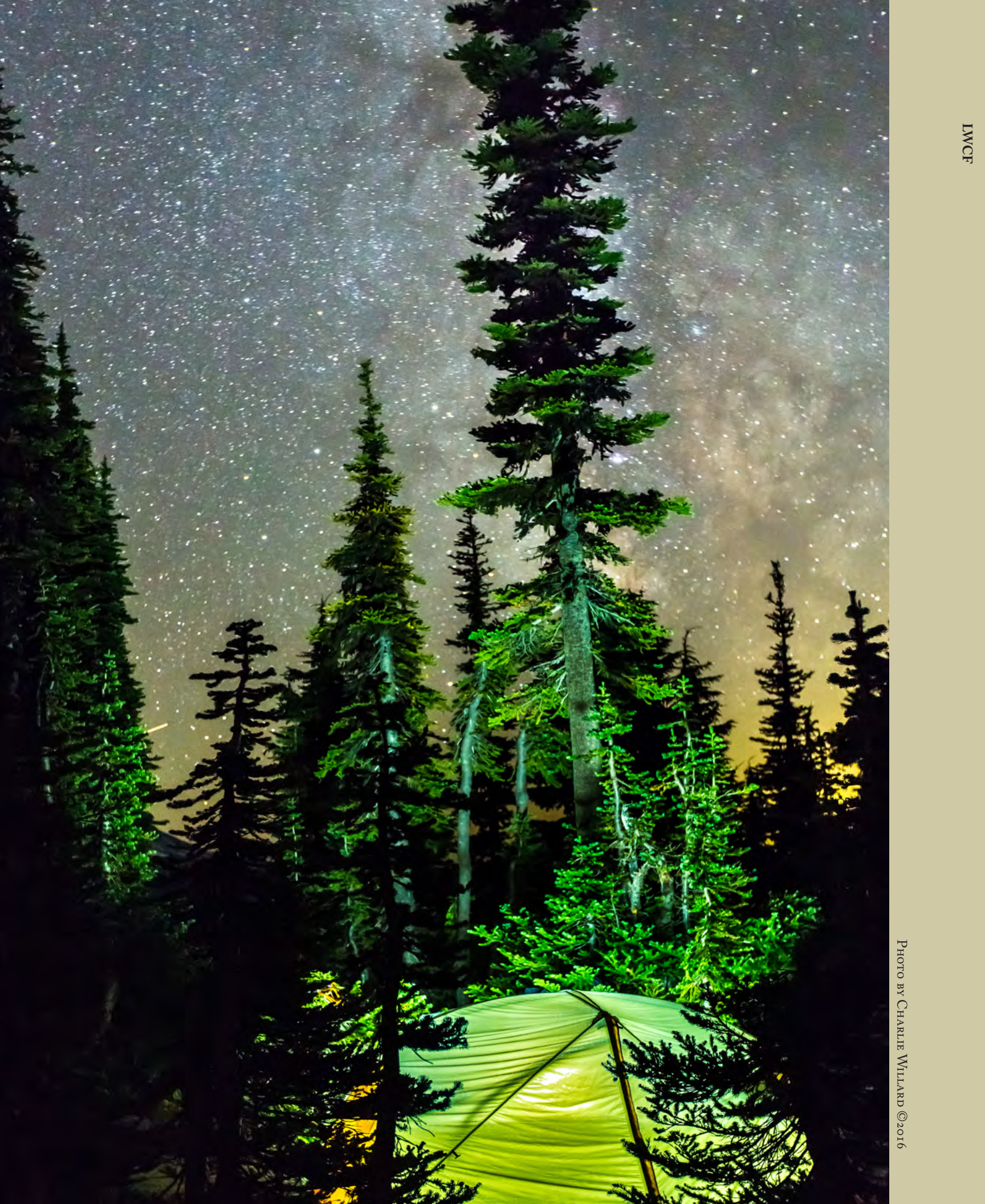
Tab 5: Letters

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 6: PCT/PCTA Information

The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. 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 federal and state agencies to ensure the protection, preservation and promotion of the PCT.







Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): \$7.8 million

LWCF Request:

1) USFS PCT Corridor Acquisitions:

Priority Projects	State	Congressional District	Request
1 Landers Meadow	CA	CA-23	\$ 455,000
2 Trinity Divide	CA	CA-01 and CA-02	\$ 4,552,000
3 Donomore Meadows	CA	CA-01	\$ 200,000
4 Columbia Gorge	WA	WA-03	\$ 1,040,000
5 Stevens Pass	WA	WA-08	\$ 800,000

2) USFS Program Administration: \$ 250,000

3) BLM PCT Corridor Acquisition:

Priority Projects	State	Congressional District	Request
5 California Desert Southwest	CA	CA-08	\$ 315,000
6 Cascade-Siskiyou Area	OR	OR-02	\$ 200,000

Total LWCF Request:

\$7,812,000

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 40 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 a need to protect the user's experience through what should be a gorgeous and wild landscape.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is crucial in the effort to complete the PCT. The U.S. Forest Service, with its partner public agencies and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, has identified priority 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 the desired PCT experience can take place. Thus, it is urgent for the USFS to continue its efforts to identify and secure those parcels essential to the trail.





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Landers Meadow

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$455,000

Congressional District: CA-23,

Representative McCarthy

Acres: 245

Number of Tracts: 3

Acquiring Agency: USFS



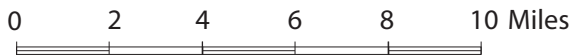
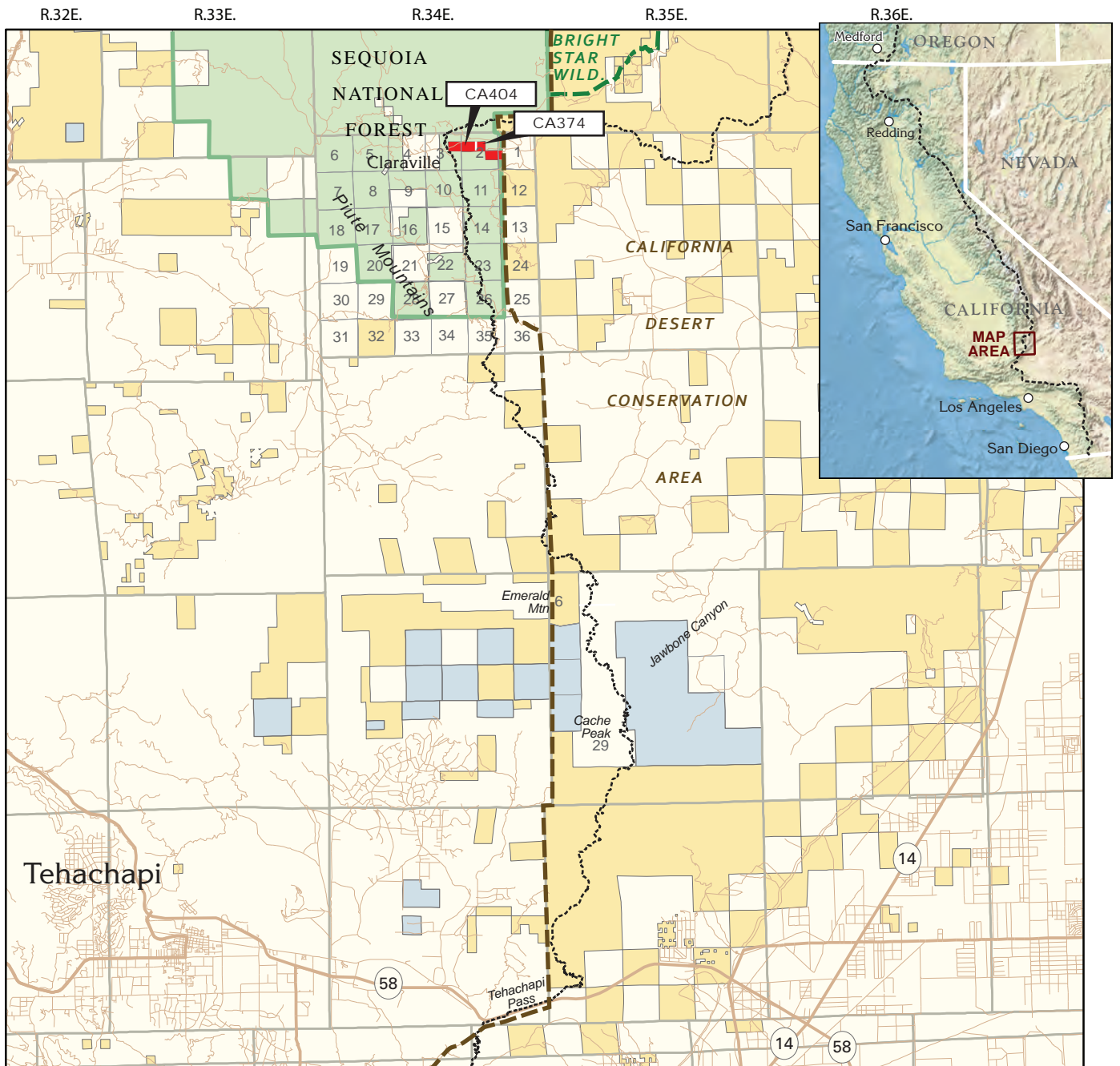
Project Description: The Landers

Meadow property is located in the southeast corner of Kern County, California – 607 miles from the southern terminus of the PCT. Nestled within the Piute Mountains, the property shares boundaries with Sequoia National Forest on three sides. It contains approximately 245 acres of open, wet meadow with abundant spring wildflowers ringed by sagebrush and dry, mixed conifer forest. There are multiple springs on the property that feed into Landers Creek, a treatable water source for day users and thru-hikers in the dry southern portion of the PCT, where water availability often is scarce.

Benefits of Protection: With the PCT running directly adjacent to this property, it is identified as a priority acquisition in the PCT Lands Inventory, which identifies and prioritizes land acquisitions along the entire 2,650 mile length of the PCT. Landers Meadow provides scenic views along the trail, important nesting and foraging habitat for 78 bird species and wildlife habitat for locally breeding black bears, mountain lions, and mule deer.

Threats to the Landscape: This property is owned by a land investment company. The company is now selling their ownership in this area. If not acquired and protected, the Landers Meadow property will likely be sold for recreational home sites or other incompatible commercial uses. This fragile wildlife habitat would inevitably be destroyed and the natural pristine environment would be degraded. Such development would drastically compromise the trail experience for PCT users and prevent access to a valuable water source.

Partner Contributions: The Landers Meadow property sits in the headwaters of Kelso Creek, where the National Audubon Society has made significant investments to protect habitat for a designated Important Bird Area.



Legend

- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- National Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- California Desert Conservation Area Boundary
- National Forest Land
- BLM Land
- Local Government Land
- Private Land

References

All Data: Forest Service, BLM

Disclaimer

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Map Date: 01/19/16

**CALIFORNIA TRACTS
- Landers Meadow -
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 2 of 6

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



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

US Forest Service Region 5 and Bureau of Land Management Ridgecrest Field Office



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Trinity Divide

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$4,552,000

Congressional District:

CA-01 and CA-02, Representatives

LaMalfa and Huffman

Acres: 2,669 of 10,500

Number of Tracts: 6 of 18

Acquiring Agency: USFS



Bull Lake: Photo courtesy of The Trust for Public Land

Project Description: The Trinity Divide Project is accessible by 2 popular trailheads for the PCT and is a 30-minute drive from Interstate 5 on the Trinity Heritage Scenic Byway. Located near the rural communities of Weed and Mt. Shasta City, much of this portion of the PCT is accessible for day hikes and weekend backpacking trips and rewards trail users with stunning views of the Trinity Alps and Mount Shasta. These parcels are the first phase of a larger project to acquire approximately 10,500 acres of privately owned checkerboard lands along a 30-mile stretch of the PCT. The Trinity Divide project contains 17 miles of the PCT located on private land owned and managed by a timber company with just a 10-foot-wide trail easement for the PCT. This entire project would consolidate more than 25,000 acres of land managed by the Forest Service along the Trinity Divide, which separates the Sacramento and Trinity River basins and includes one of the most botanically rich and unique landscapes in the world. In addition to the unique botany and geology, the region has a vast number of natural springs along the upper elevations that make this area important for water supply and watershed resilience during the hot, dry California summer months. These springs provide a year-round cold water source into the headwaters of the Trinity River for fisheries and other wildlife.

Benefits of Protection: The acquisition will provide crucial scenic protection to the PCT in a popular stretch of the trail and expand recreational opportunities and access to numerous lakes, springs, and trout streams, as well as enable the Forest Service to develop spur and connector trails into the PCT to create loop hikes.

Threats to the Landscape: There are several risks to the scenic viewshed of the PCT if this parcel remains in private ownership including: additional timber harvesting along the trail, road building and log landings, and possible sale to other buyers who could subdivide and develop the property along the PCT corridor.

Partner Contributions: The Shasta-Trinity National Forest recently worked with the Trust for Public Land to acquire nearly 3,000 acres adjacent to this property along the PCT.

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R.6W.

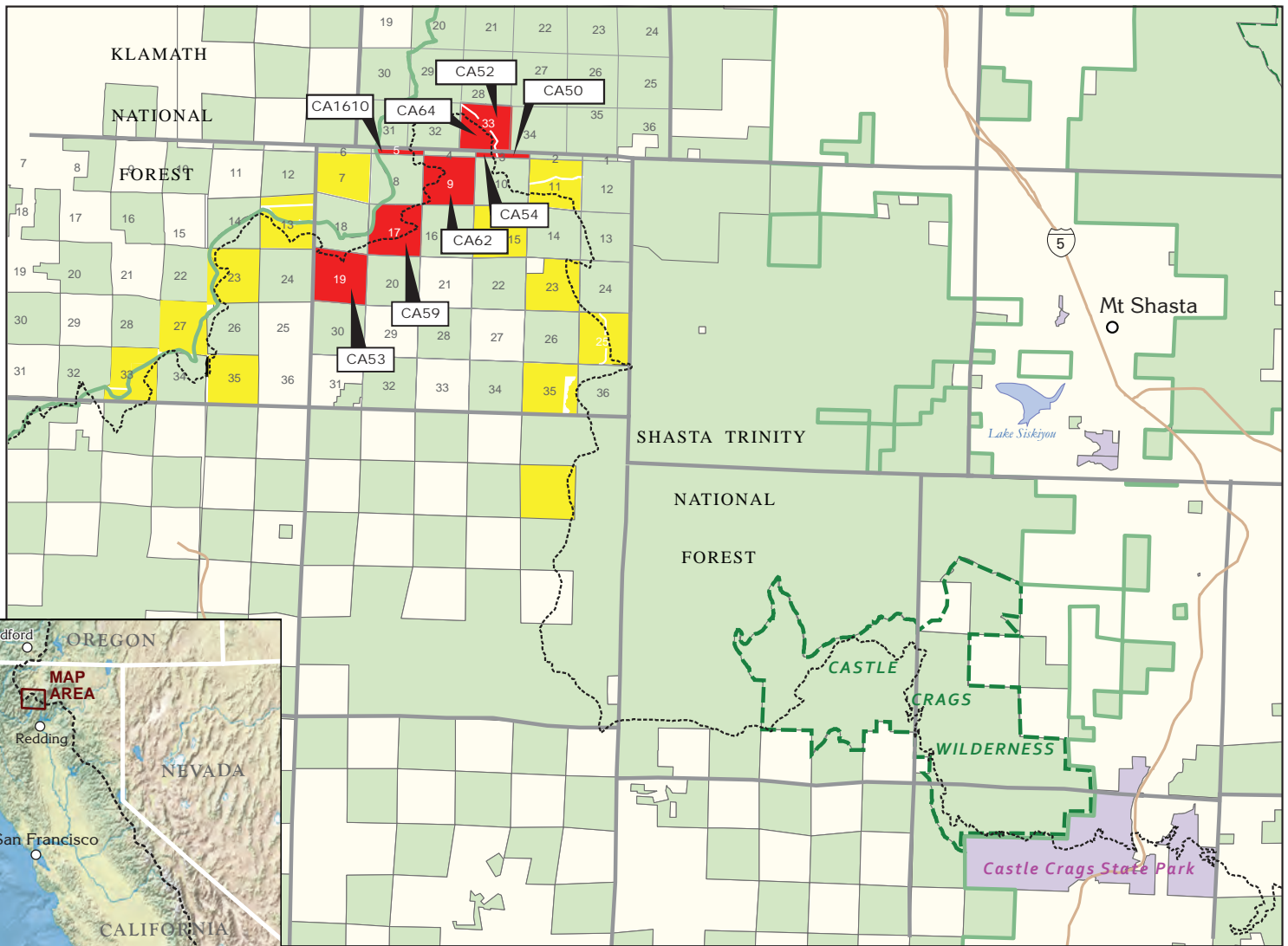
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R.4W.

T. 41 N.

T. 40 N.

T. 39 N.



References

All Data: Forest Service

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Map Date: 01/19/16

Legend

- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Future Phase Parcels
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- National Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- National Forest Land
- State Land
- Private Land

**NORTHERN CALIFORNIA TRACTS
- Trinity Divide -
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 3 of 6

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



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



US FOREST SERVICE

US Forest Service Region 5



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Donomore Meadows; Cascade-Siskiyou Area

Project Details

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

Congressional District: CA-01 and OR-02,
Representatives LaMalfa and Walden

Acres: 160 (USFS); 194 (BLM)

Number of Tracts: 2

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 runs along 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.



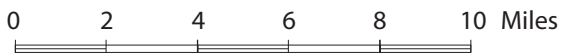
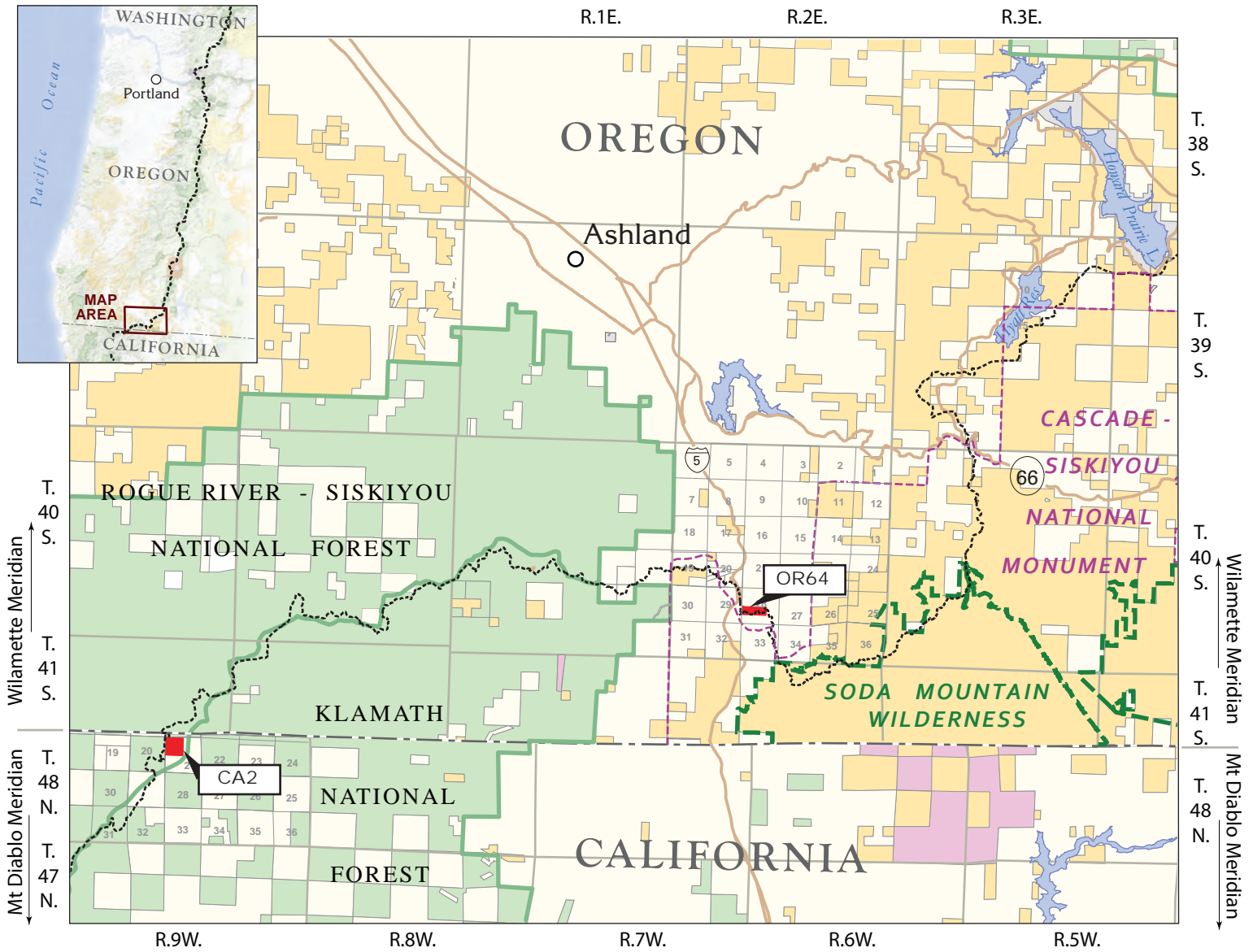
Donomore Meadows

Cascade-Siskiyou Area (BLM) – This parcel is located east of Interstate 5 and just south of Ashland, Oregon. Within an area popular with recreationists throughout the year, this acquisition would protect a mile of the PCT that traverses the length of this private parcel. The property provides an essential connection for wildlife between the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument and the Rogue River National Forest. At the heart of one of the most biodiverse spots on the planet, it straddles the crossroads of the Klamath, Siskiyou and Cascade mountain ranges providing diverse habitat for a number of special status and endemic species.

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 and help provide connectivity for 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 two other tracts.



Legend

- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- National Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- National Monument Boundary
- State Boundary
- National Forest Land
- BLM Land
- State Land
- Private Land

References

All Data: Forest Service, BLM

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Map Date: 01/19/16

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA & OREGON TRACTS
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 4 OF 6

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



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



US FOREST SERVICE

US Forest Service Region 6
 Bureau of Land Management
 (Ashland Resource Area/
 Medford District Office)



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

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

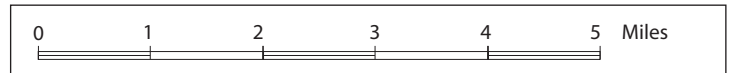
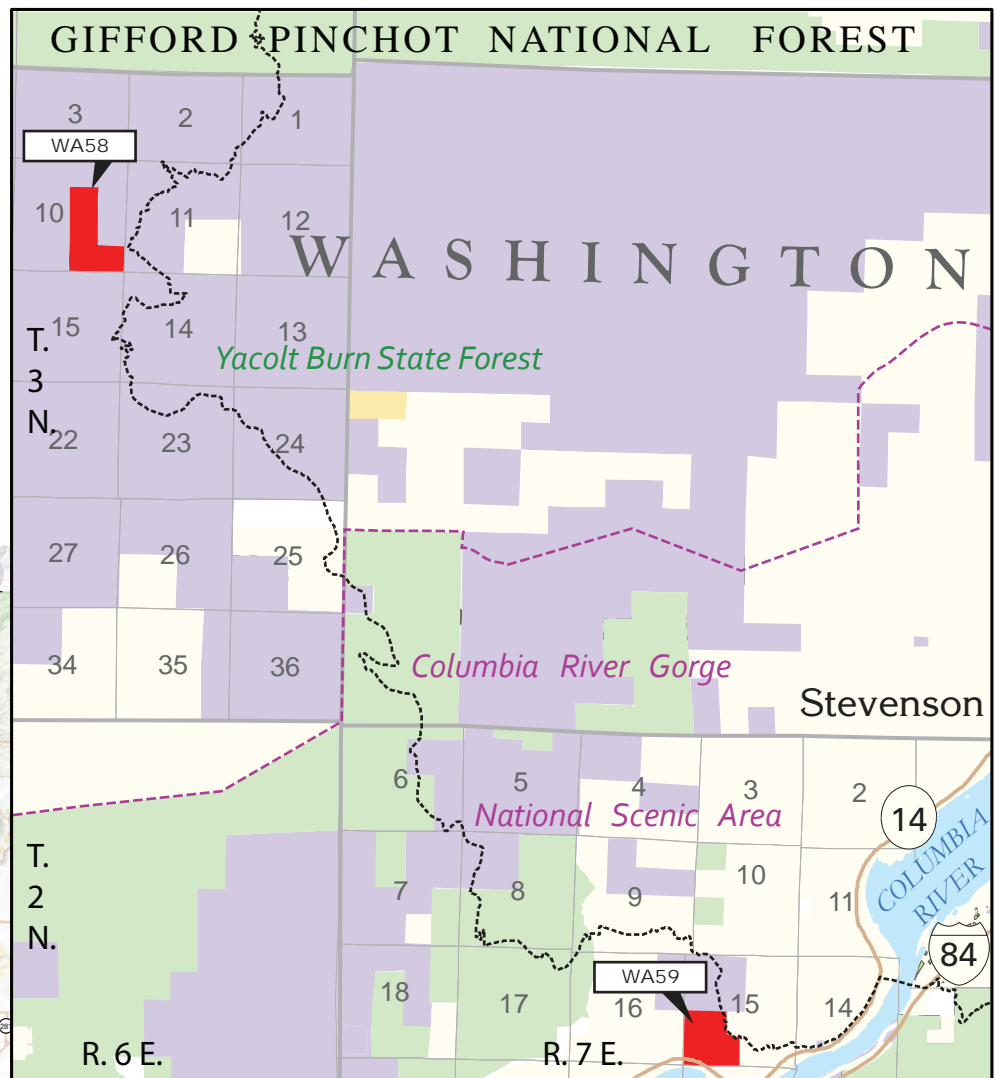


Project Description: Just north of the Bridge of the Gods, which spans the Columbia River between Oregon and Washington, a highly accessible and visible stretch of the PCT follows a narrow right of way across private lands with active logging and mining. Two willing-seller parcels have the potential 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 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 a National Scenic Trail. One of the two parcels would allow the PCT to be relocated from a clear-cut area to one along sparkling little ponds under a mature canopy. 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 the acquisition of these parcels.



References
All Data: Forest Service, BLM

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Map Date: 01/19/16



Legend


- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- National Monument Boundary
- National Forest Land
- BLM Land
- State Land
- Private Land

WASHINGTON TRACTS
- Columbia River Gorge -
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail


FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 5 of 6

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



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



US FOREST SERVICE

US Forest Service Region 6



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Stevens Pass

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$800,000

Congressional District: WA-08,

Representative Reichert

Acres: 402

Number of Tracts: 16

Acquiring Agency: USFS



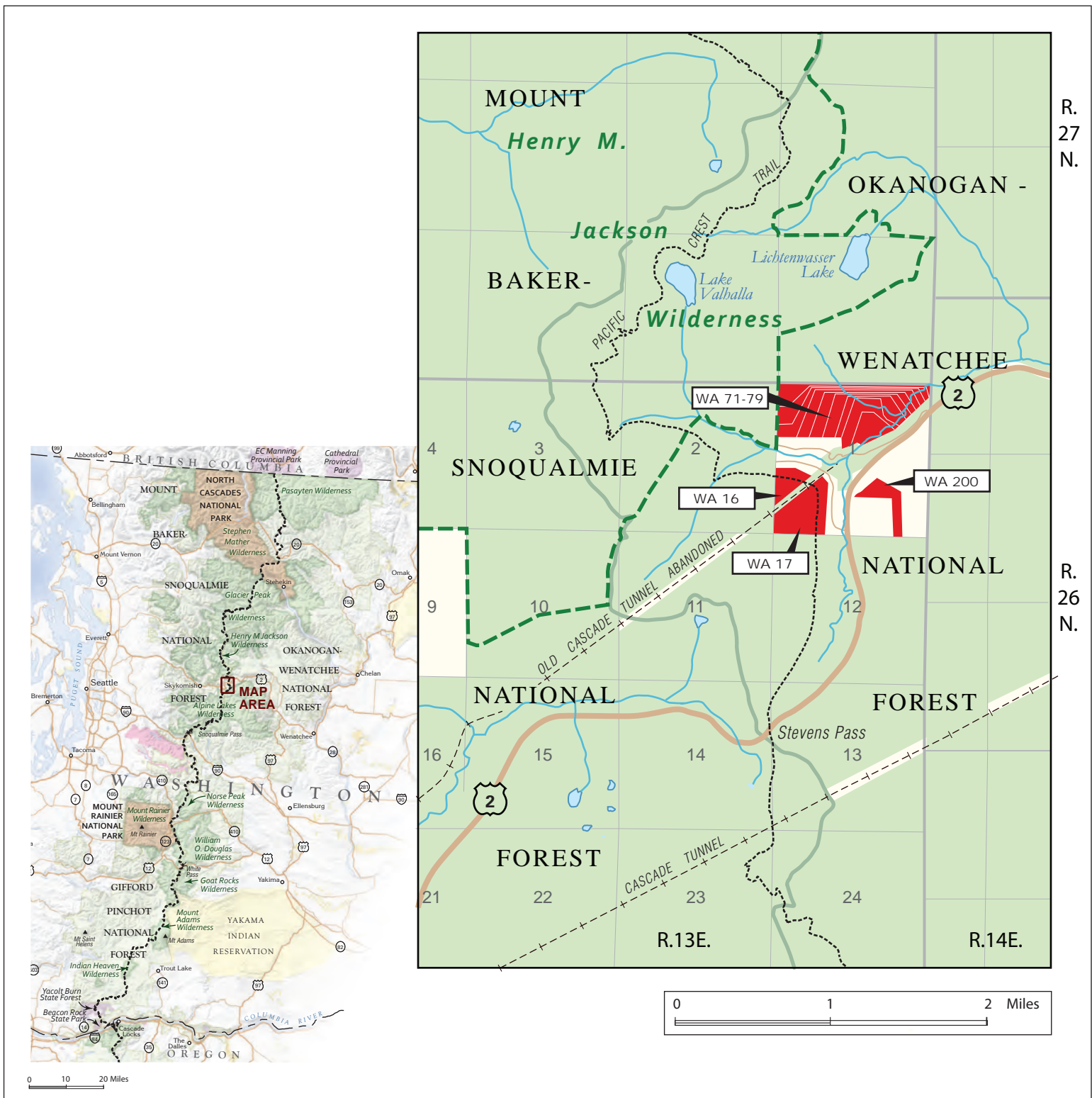
Project Description: Located just 78 miles from Seattle on scenic U.S. Highway 2 (Stevens Pass Greenway Scenic Byway), the Stevens Pass area provides day-users and overnight travelers a good access point to the PCT. This section of trail leads people through steep mountain passes with high elevation meadows that boast diverse alpine plant life including: heather, huckleberry, mountain hemlock, and Alaska yellow cedar.

Despite the Golden Spike ceremony in 1993 celebrating the “completion on the PCT,” there remain a few sections of the trail that do not have trail easements in place. One of these is Stevens Pass, Washington. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the PCT currently crosses a private property without an easement, meaning that hikers and horseback riders technically are trespassing. In early 2015, this landowner expressed his interest in selling the property and stated his intentions to close the trail through this private land if the property could not be purchased and transferred to public ownership.

Benefits of Protection: The acquisition of this parcel would protect the scenic, forested viewshed along the trail in Stevens Pass and would keep the trail open, thereby preserving the continuous trail line of the PCT from Mexico to Canada.

Threats to the Landscape: If left in private ownership this property will likely be sold for development of luxury residential cabins and houses for the nearby ski area. Additionally, the section of the PCT that crosses this property would be closed to public use and would require an expensive and time-consuming process to reroute the PCT around Stevens Pass.

Partner Contributions: A number of land trusts have invested their time to work with the USFS to try to protect this property including: Pacific Crest Trail Association, Trust for Public Land, and Forterra.



References

All Data: Forest Service

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Legend

- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- Railway Tunnel
- National Forest Boundary
- National Forest Wilderness
- National Forest Land
- Private Land

WASHINGTON TRACTS
- Stevens Pass -
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding
MAP 6 of 6

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

US Forest Service Region 6



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

California Desert Southwest

Project Details

LWCF Request: \$315,000

Congressional District: CA-08, Representative Cook

Acres: 153

Number of Tracts: 3

Acquiring Agency: BLM

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

Benefits of Protection: Purchasing these inholdings would create a continuous Wilderness. All acquisitions contribute important scenic protection to the PCT experience. In addition, these acquisitions would create linkages between existing public lands that provide critical habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species.

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 Geronio Wilderness. In 2015, the BLM acquired more than 4,100 acres in the Wilderness including 244 acres adjacent to the PCT. Acquiring these additional properties would almost eliminate private lands on or adjacent to the PCT in the San Geronio Wilderness.

R.2E.

R.3E.

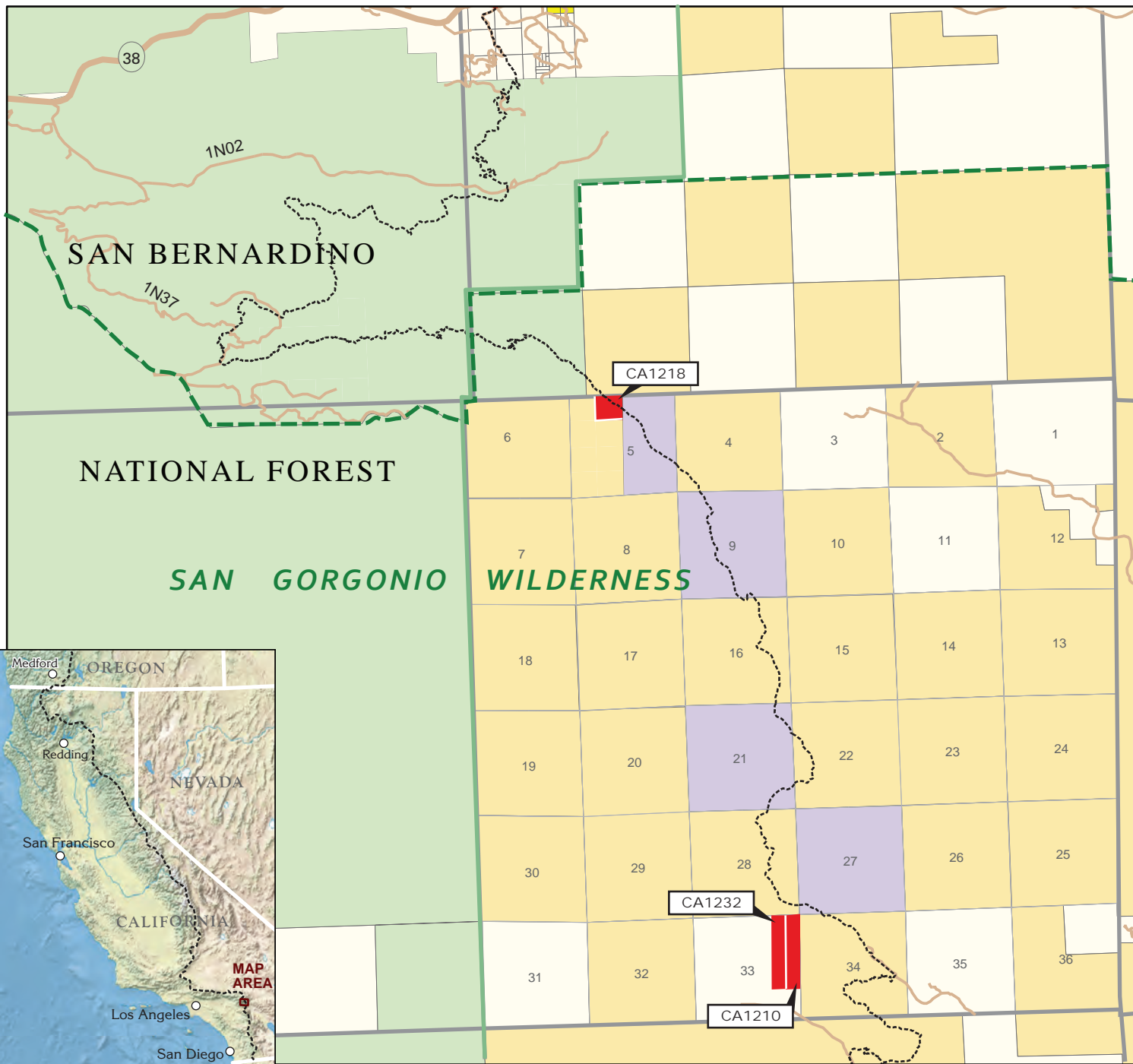
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T. 2 S.



Legend

- FY2017 LWCF Request
- Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- National Forest Boundary
- Wilderness Boundary
- National Forest Land
- BLM Land
- State (Dept. of Fish and Wildlife)
- Private Land

References

All Data: Forest Service, BLM

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Map Date: 01/19/16

CALIFORNIA TRACTS
- San Gorgonio Wilderness -
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

FY2017 LWCF Proposed Funding

MAP 1 of 6

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



PACIFIC CREST TRAIL ASSOCIATION



US FOREST SERVICE

US Forest Service Region 5
 Bureau of Land Management
 (Palm Springs/
 South Coast Field Office)

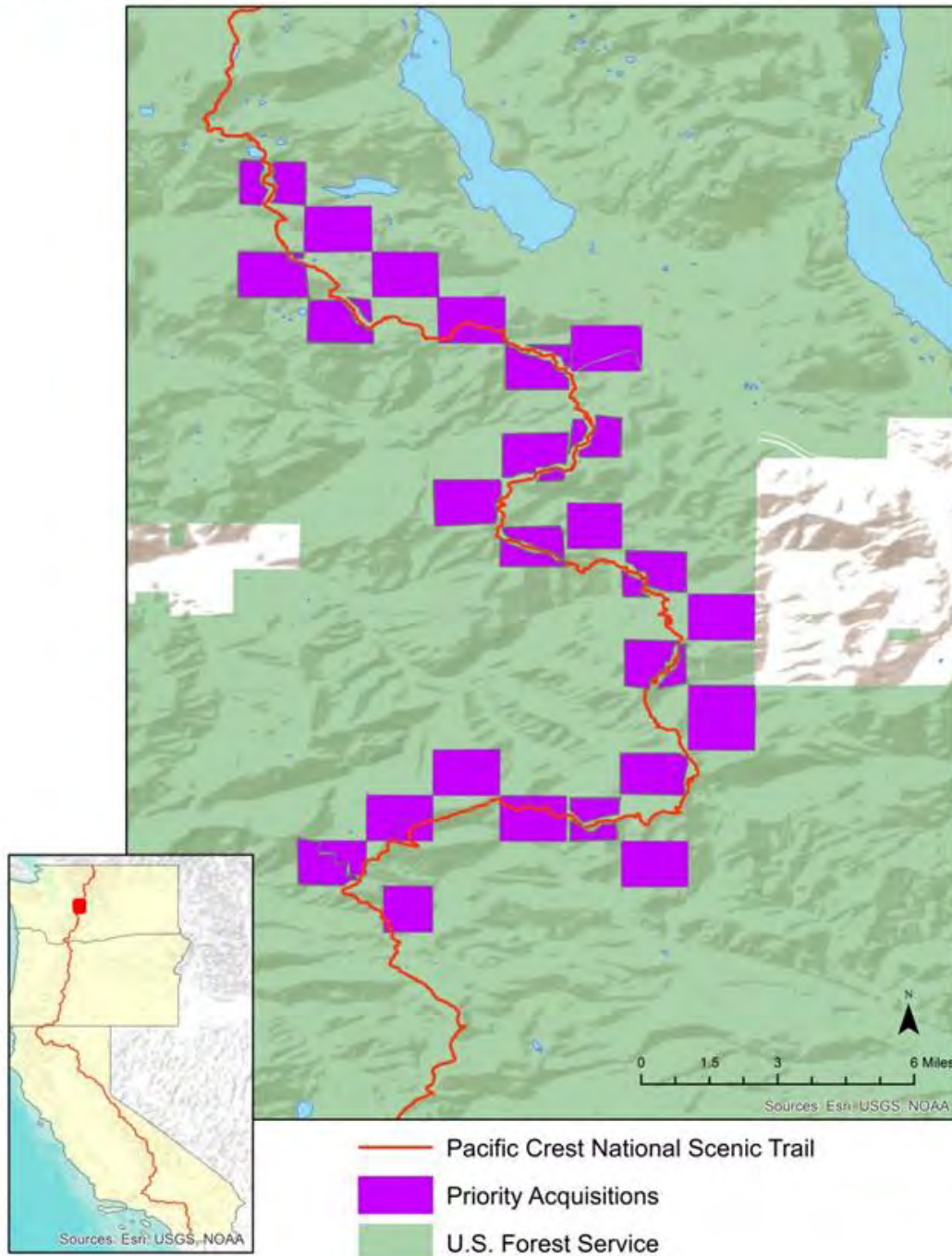


Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

LWCF Progress



PCT- Plum Creek Checkerboard 2001





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

LWCF Progress



PCT- Plum Creek Checkerboard 2015

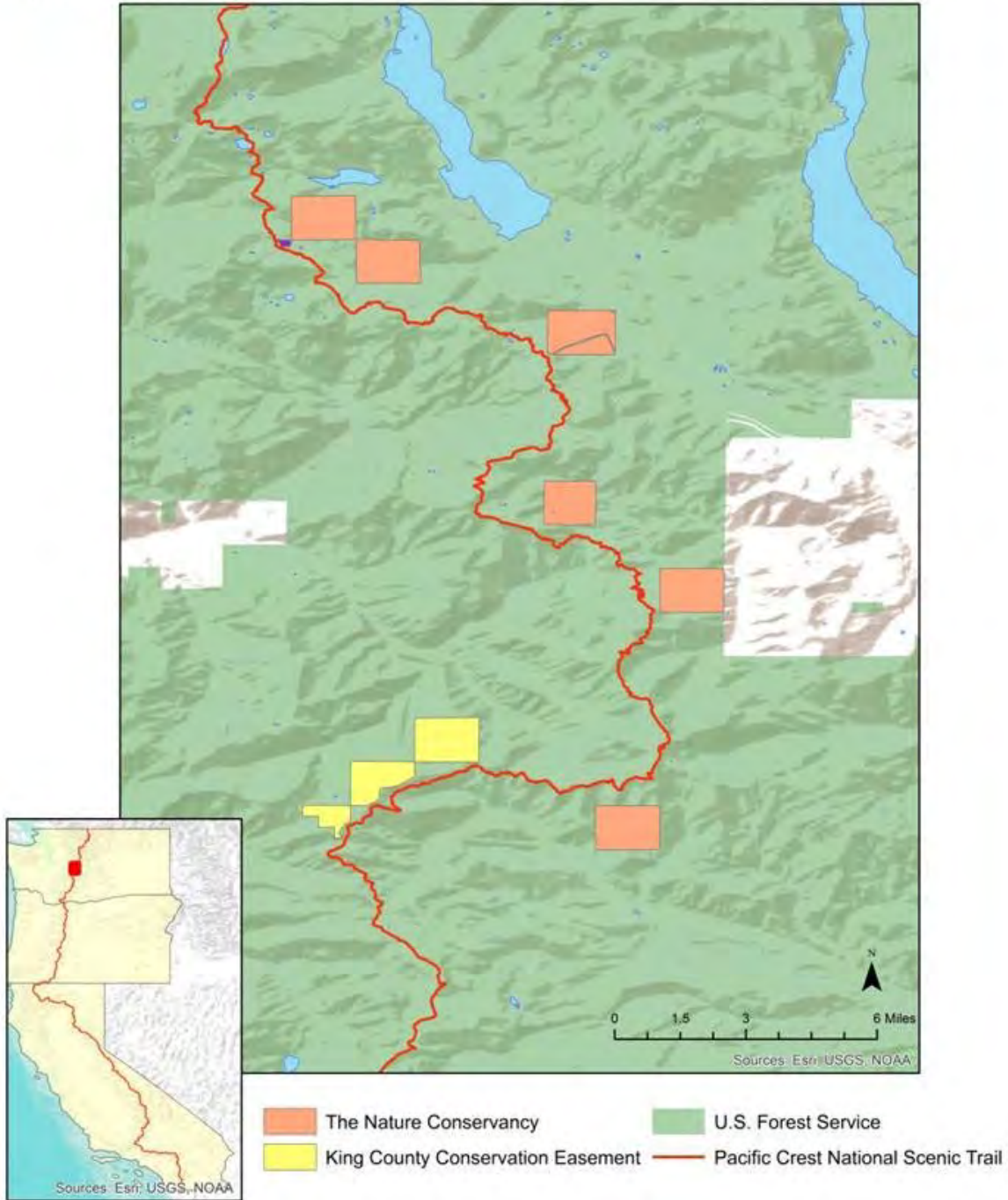




PHOTO BY SAMMY LYON © 2016





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

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 years 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 are 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



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

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 2015 alone, PCTA volunteers and corps crews devoted 91,000 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, 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 2015, the PCTA completed trail maintenance projects for a total of 91,000 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.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

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 college using the environment as a lens for real-life learning. Each year, students strengthen their understanding and application of environmental practices through sustainability-minded coursework, service learning, internships, and capstone projects related to social or environmental issues.



Environmental Charter High School students

Since 2007, Environmental Charter School students have volunteered on the Pacific Crest Trail during weekend service projects on U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and California State Park lands. In 2015,



Environmental Charter High School students in Washington, D.C.

students contributed more than 650 volunteer hours on the PCT on the Angeles National Forest and BLM lands near Palm Springs. Students performed annual maintenance on these portions of trail by cutting back brush and widening trail tread that had naturally narrowed.

Some students have expanded their service beyond just working on the physical trail tread by branching out into advocacy. In 2015, four students and their principal joined PCTA staff and volunteers in Washington, D.C. to meet with elected officials and land managers to advocate on behalf of the trail. During these meetings, students expressed how volunteering on the PCT instilled a personal appreciation for the environment and wilderness.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Youth Trail Crew Programs

American Conservation Experience (ACE): ACE's conservation corps program is for 18-25 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. Members are afforded opportunities to learn and train under the guidance of professional mentors within ACE, while gaining invaluable career perspectives working alongside the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and many other public land stewards. In 2015, two ACE crews spent more than 10,000 hours working on the PCT on four BLM districts and eight National Forests.



American Conservation Experience Crew

AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC): AmeriCorps NCCC strengthens communities and develops leaders through direct, team-based national and community 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 and that national service programs work effectively with local communities to address pressing needs. In partnership with non-profits, federal and local governments, national and state parks, Indian tribes, and schools, members complete service projects throughout their specified region. In 2015, corps members in the Pacific region contributed more than 2,200 service hours on the PCT in San Bernardino National Forest and California's Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area.

Bellevue College: Washington's Bellevue College's Wilderness Skills Certificate program is designed to prepare students for a wide range of personal and professional opportunities in recreation, outdoor leadership and education. Each quarter, the program offers outdoor classes and outings to students, staff, and faculty. This is the second year that students from Bellevue College's Backpacking & Orienteering course performed volunteer service on the PCT, contributing 195 hours.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Youth Trail Crew Programs

Boy Scouts: In 2015, Boy Scout Troop 555 contributed more than 350 hours of service work on the PCT in the Angeles National Forest. The Huntington Beach-based troop aims to offer an outdoors program that provides responsible fun and adventure, imparts skills that will last a lifetime, and instills values and knowledge needed for scouts to become great leaders.

“It’s difficult but rewarding. If you ever get to meet a hiker, they really talk to you sometimes about how effective you are and how much they appreciate what you do for the trail.” – Aaron Turk, Boy Scout Troop 555



Boy Scout Troop 555



Artwork by a Forest Youth Success volunteer

Forest Youth Success: Forest Youth Success teaches the fundamentals of land management, ecology, and responsibility to the youth of rural Skamania County, Washington in order to develop positive life skills that increase future employability. Crews spend the summer working alongside resource management professionals assisting them in achieving their infrastructure and ecosystem management objectives. In 2015, a volunteer crew leader from PCTA’s Mount Hood Chapter led 12 youth in four days of volunteer work on the PCT. The crew performed brushing, tread repair, and drainage maintenance on the trail, including widening a 600 foot section of severely narrowed trail. During the four days, Forest Youth Success volunteers contributed more than 350 service hours.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Youth Trail Crew Programs

Outward Bound: Outward Bound is a non-profit educational organization that provides challenging learning expeditions that inspire strength of character, leadership and service to others, both in and out of the classroom. In 2015, two Outward Bound crews backpacking in Oregon's Willamette National Forest partnered with PCTA's Mid-Oregon Chapter for day-long volunteer projects. Together the crews spent more than 150 hours performing much needed work cutting back heavy brush and repairing tread.

Urban Youth: Since 2010, PCTA has worked with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Urban Youth program of Vancouver, Washington to build land management and leadership skills in youth. In 2014, this long-term program continued with a new partner, New Currents, Outdoors in Portland, Oregon. This partnership works to get urban youth ages 12-17 involved in environmental education, hiking, camping, and recreating on public lands. In 2015, 18 youth from the city of Vancouver contributed more than 300 hours removing invasive weeds and improving drainage features on the PCT in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



American Conservation Experience



WILDFIRES

PHOTO BY DEEMS BURTON © 2016





Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Emergency Funding for Fighting Wildfires

Several bills with bi-partisan support in Congress aim to create an emergency funding source for use by federal land managers to manage wildfires. Such a system, through the Federal Emergency Management Agency or other administrative process, would end the practice of agencies having to divert money set aside for core programs and responsibilities to fight fires. It would treat destructive fires as the natural disasters that they are, while allowing the agencies to more efficiently plan and manage essential recreation, preservation, protection and maintenance programs. PCTA supports this approach to addressing wildfires because it would assure more predictable and dedicated funding for trail management and maintenance to keep the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail open for public use. But we also support a shift in the way fire is perceived and managed among land management agencies, which in the long run, will ease pressure on agency budgets and make them more sustainable.



Early stages of the 2012 Chips Fire in Plumas County, California. This fire went on to burn more than 75,000 acres.

There's little dispute among experts that wildfire is an integral part of a healthy ecosystem. Natural fires rejuvenate and are part of the evolution of healthy forests. Hiking the PCT, it's clear that fire has affected these ecosystems in positive ways.

Unfortunately, this natural balance has been skewed by decades of human activity. Chief among these are even-aged forest management practices and a historic penchant for extinguishing every wildfire. Our past tendency to extinguish all fires resulted in a buildup of combustible fuels that, once ignited (by lightning, a tossed cigarette or an untended campfire) in a particularly bad



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

fire year caused hotter fires that often burned out of control, killing people and damaging buildings.

We've learned a lot since the 1980s about how fires positively contribute to forest health, and there has been a move in some areas to allow such beneficial fires to burn naturally. Yet even today, we tend to revert to our old instincts, fighting most fires rather than letting them burn. But if we are to allow natural fire to do its work in creating and sustaining healthy forests, we need a cultural shift in the way we think about and manage wildfires in our nation.

Today, many forests across the nation are ticking time bombs. Combined with years of drought in the West, the increasing effects of climate change and our inclination to extinguish even those beneficial fires, many of our forests are more prone to fires that have the potential for great damage not only to personal property, but to wildlife, clean water sources and recreational experiences on our public lands. In fact, we're seeing many more fires as the years go by, and they're hotter, more destructive, last longer and cost more money to fight.

The U.S. Forest Service estimates that catastrophic blazes will burn twice as many acres by 2050 as they do today. Today's fire season lasts 78 days longer than in the 1970s. Since 2000, 10 states have had their largest fires on record. More than 46 million homes near U.S. forests are at risk from wildfire, according to the agency.



Burned trees on the PCT in Oregon.

A disturbing part of this trend is the financial impact it has on federal land management agencies, particularly our primary partner, the Forest Service.

In 2015, the agency passed a devastating milestone: for the first time in its 100-year history, it spent more on firefighting than on all its other



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

responsibilities combined, including recreation, facilities maintenance, watershed and landscape management and, most ironically, forest restoration.

These trends are bound to continue unless we change the way we fight (or manage) fires. We need to use fire's benefits to help our forests. In other words, some fires need to be left to burn. Over time, the forests that burn will rejuvenate and come back stronger. Fewer dollars will be spent fighting fires and agency budgets will not be shredded year after year.

Unless we approach fire holistically, allowing it to burn naturally while protecting human life and property, this expensive cycle is bound to continue. We must shift our focus from fighting every fire to managing fires for the good they provide. We should focus our firefighting budgets on protection – a risk management approach.

“By suppressing fires in all the conditions we can, we’re saving the landscape for the worst conditions. We won’t say that’s our policy, but by our actions, we are selecting for only the most extreme fires. We need to choose good fire over bad fire.”

*--Mark Finney
U.S. Forest Service Fire Research Forester*

When conflagrations threaten human life and property, the Forest Service and other firefighting experts have a responsibility to step up. Under current law, the agency is in an untenable position where it must rob from its regular budget to finance firefighting efforts. Often, the coffers the agency dips into were earmarked for trail maintenance or, ironically, the very forest management and fire science programs that are meant to lessen the potential for large, out-of-control fires.

According to an August 2015 report by the Forest Service, within a decade, the agency will spend more than two-thirds of its budget to battle wildfires. We must change the way our land managers think about and address fire. To read the full report, go to:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/about-agency/budget-performance/cost-fire-operations>

As the agency spends more money fighting fires, it has had to reduce or eliminate key programs and jobs. From 1998 to 2015, the Forest Service has reduced its non-fire personnel by 39 percent, from 18,000 people to fewer than 11,000. Firefighting staff in that same period more than doubled. Many of those eliminated positions dealt specifically with supervising, maintaining and protecting the nation's recreational assets on public lands, including trails such as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

On the PCT, we constantly deal with damage from wildfires. Nowhere is this more true than in drought-plagued Southern California. For example:

- **Station Fire, Angeles National Forest, August 2009:** The fire burned for 52 days and charred 160,557 acres, closing 32 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail. The trail was closed in this area for five years while volunteer crews rehabilitated the trail.
- **Sheep Fire, San Bernardino National Forest, October 2009:** The fire burned for seven days and burned 7,128 acres. Ten miles of the PCT burned and 12.2 miles were closed for a year during the rehabilitation. A 15.4-mile detour sent hikers to other trails, and paved and dirt roads.

The Sheep and Station fires happened at a similar time of year and are only a few dozen miles apart as the crow flies, but the impact, both short- and long-term, obviously are vastly different. Fire officials have told us that fuels reduction work was done on land burned by the Sheep fire in order to protect the enclave of Lytle Creek. They believe this work, (the kind typically cut from agency budgets when firefighting money is needed) helped control the fire and prevent it from getting out of control.

- **Powerhouse Fire, Angeles National Forest, May 2013:** The fire burned 30,274 acres and closed 15.2 miles of the PCT. They are still closed and hikers are sent to other trails and roads as PCTA staff and volunteers work to repair the trail and ensure it's safe for users.



Powerhouse Fire, Angeles National Forest, California



Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

- **Mountain Fire, San Bernardino National Forest, July 2013:** The fire burned 27,531 acres and closed 14.6 miles of the PCT. The trail will be opened in phases over several years beginning in spring, 2016. The repair work, especially in remote wilderness, is complicated and expensive, and estimated at \$3.1 million. A detour of 20.4 miles includes trails, paved road, and dirt roads.
- **Lake Fire, San Bernardino National Forest, June 2015:** The fire burned 31,359 acres. Only two miles of the PCT burned but 33.6 miles were closed and there is no viable detour, so thru-hikers simply have to skip this large section.

The Forest Service is essential to the proper and timely restoration of the PCT in these areas. Consistent budgeting will allow the agency to better plan and execute trail maintenance programs as well as timely rehabilitation efforts on fire-damaged landscapes. It also will enhance forest management and fire prevention efforts that, over time, will help minimize fire damage to national recreational assets such as the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail.

We urge Congress to change the way it pays for fighting wildfires. Potentially destructive fires should be treated in the same way as other national disasters, leaving intact our core forest management budgets. This will allow land managers the flexibility to properly use fire to help maintain and protect healthy forests.



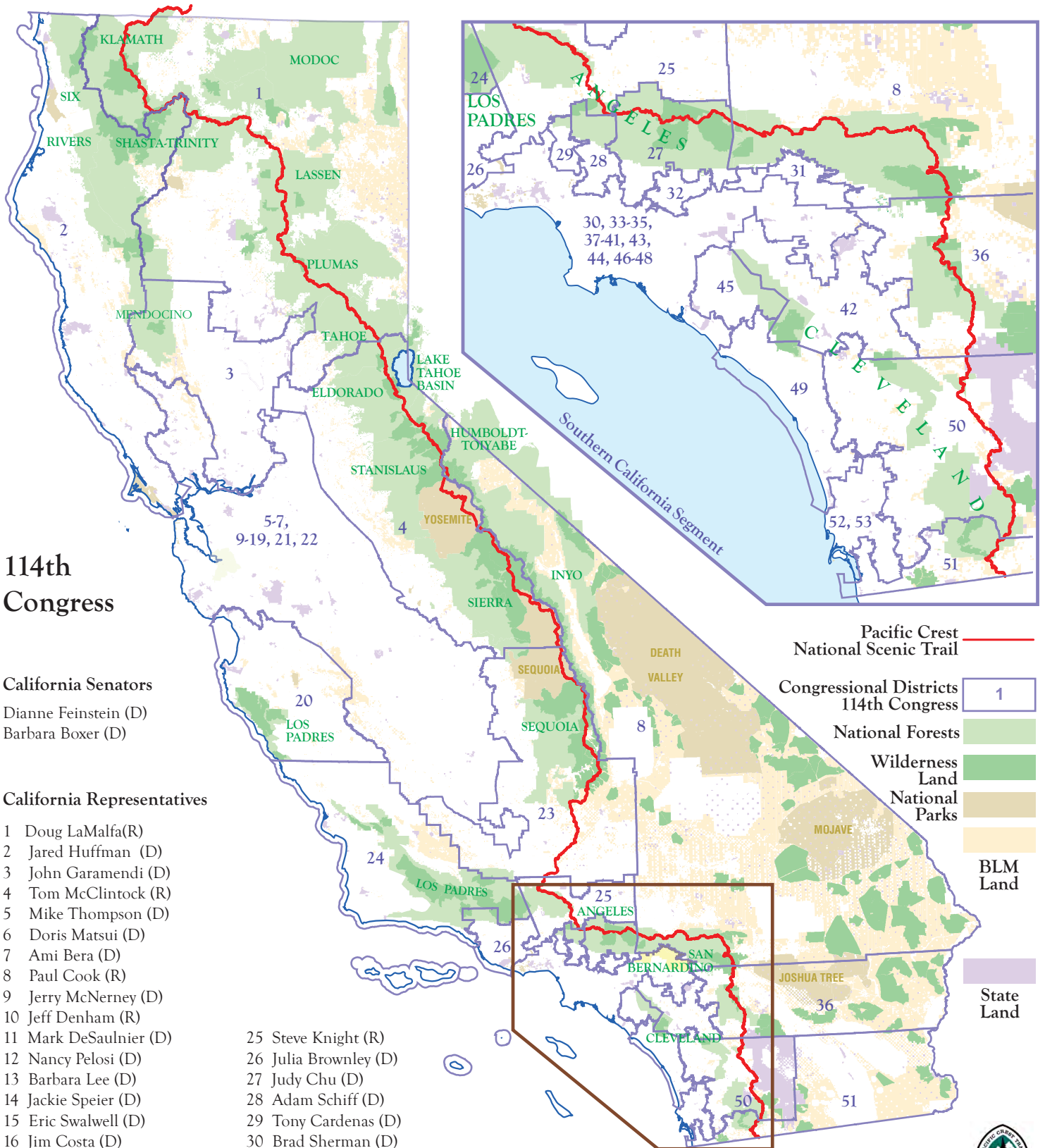
The Banner Fire of 2012 burned the PCT in San Diego





PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

and California Congressional Districts, 114th United States Congress



114th Congress

California Senators

Dianne Feinstein (D)
Barbara Boxer (D)

California Representatives

- 1 Doug LaMalfa(R)
- 2 Jared Huffman (D)
- 3 John Garamendi (D)
- 4 Tom McClintock (R)
- 5 Mike Thompson (D)
- 6 Doris Matsui (D)
- 7 Ami Bera (D)
- 8 Paul Cook (R)
- 9 Jerry McNerney (D)
- 10 Jeff Denham (R)
- 11 Mark DeSaulnier (D)
- 12 Nancy Pelosi (D)
- 13 Barbara Lee (D)
- 14 Jackie Speier (D)
- 15 Eric Swalwell (D)
- 16 Jim Costa (D)
- 17 Michael Honda (D)
- 18 Anna Eshoo (D)
- 19 Zoe Lofgren (D)
- 20 Sam Farr (D)
- 21 David Valadao (R)
- 22 Devin Nunes (R)
- 23 Kevin McCarthy (R)
- 24 Lois Capps (D)

- 25 Steve Knight (R)
- 26 Julia Brownley (D)
- 27 Judy Chu (D)
- 28 Adam Schiff (D)
- 29 Tony Cardenas (D)
- 30 Brad Sherman (D)
- 31 Pete Aguilar (D)
- 32 Grace Napolitano (D)
- 33 Ted Lieu (D)
- 34 Xavier Becerra (D)
- 35 Norma Torres (D)
- 36 Raul Ruiz (D)
- 37 Karen Bass (D)
- 38 Linda Sanchez (D)

- 39 Ed Royce (R)
- 40 Lucille Roybal-Allard (D)
- 41 Mark Takano (D)
- 42 Ken Calvert (R)
- 43 Maxine Waters (D)
- 44 Janice Hahn (D)
- 45 Mimi Walters (R)

- 46 Loretta Sanchez (D)
- 47 Alan Lowenthal (D)
- 48 Dana Rohrabacher (R)
- 49 Darrell Issa (R)
- 50 Duncan Hunter (R)
- 51 Juan Vargas (D)
- 52 Scott Peters (D)
- 53 Susan Davis (D)

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail ————

Congressional Districts 114th Congress [1]

National Forests [Green]

Wilderness Land [Dark Green]

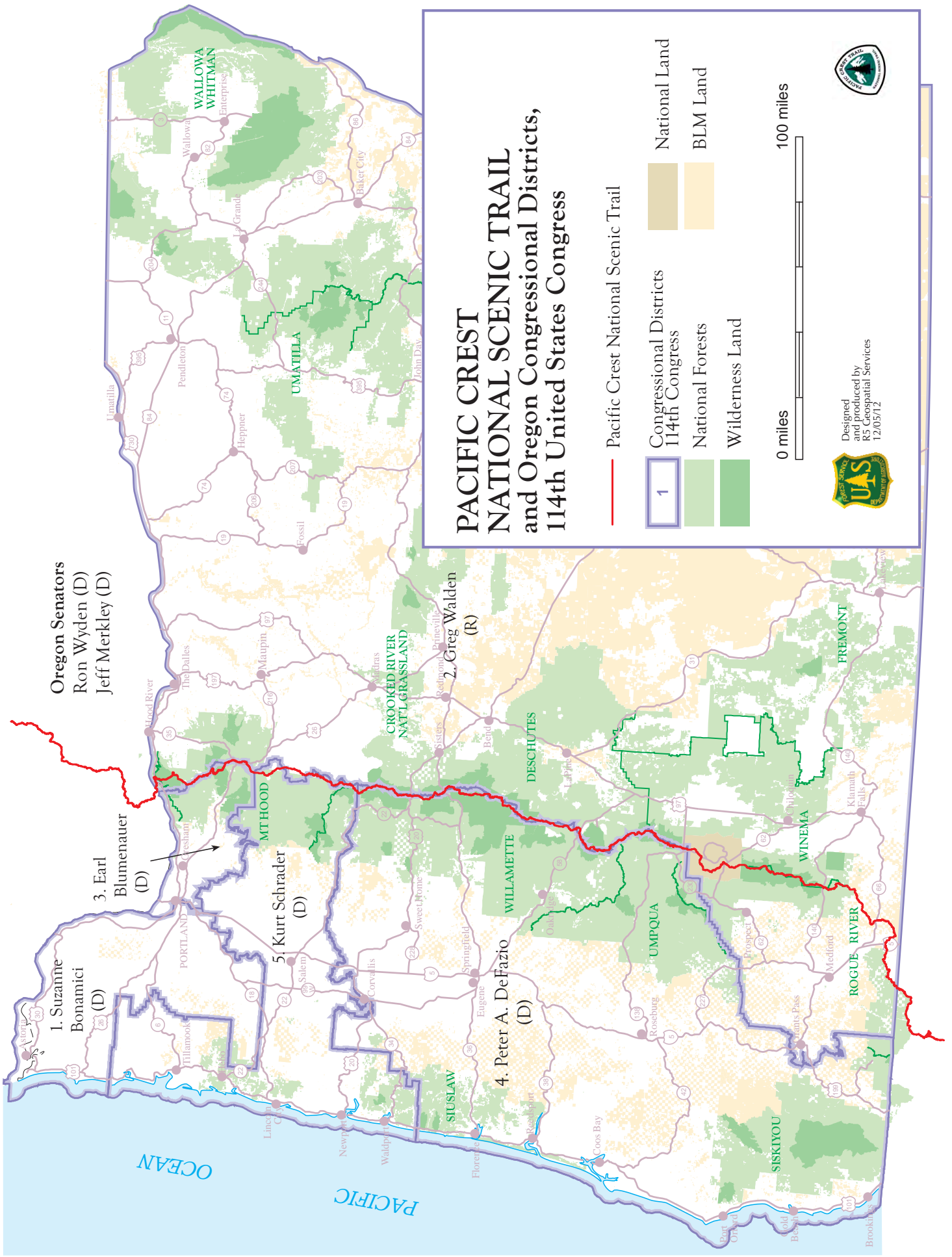
National Parks [Brown]

BLM Land [Yellow]

State Land [Purple]



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Oregon Senators
 Ron Wyden (D)
 Jeff Merkley (D)

3. Earl Blumenauer (D)

1. Suzanne Bonamici (D)

5. Kurt Schrader (D)

4. Peter A. DeFazio (D)

2. Greg Walden (R)

PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL and Oregon Congressional Districts, 114th United States Congress

— Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

- 1 Congressional Districts 114th Congress
- National Forests
- Wilderness Land
- National Land
- BLM Land

0 miles 100 miles



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Washington Senators
 Patty Murray (D)
 Maria Cantwell (D)

9. Adam Smith (D)

7. Jim
 McDermott
 (D)

2. Rick Larsen
 (D)

1. Suzan DelBene
 (D)

6. Derek Kilmer
 (D)

10. Dennis Heck
 (D)

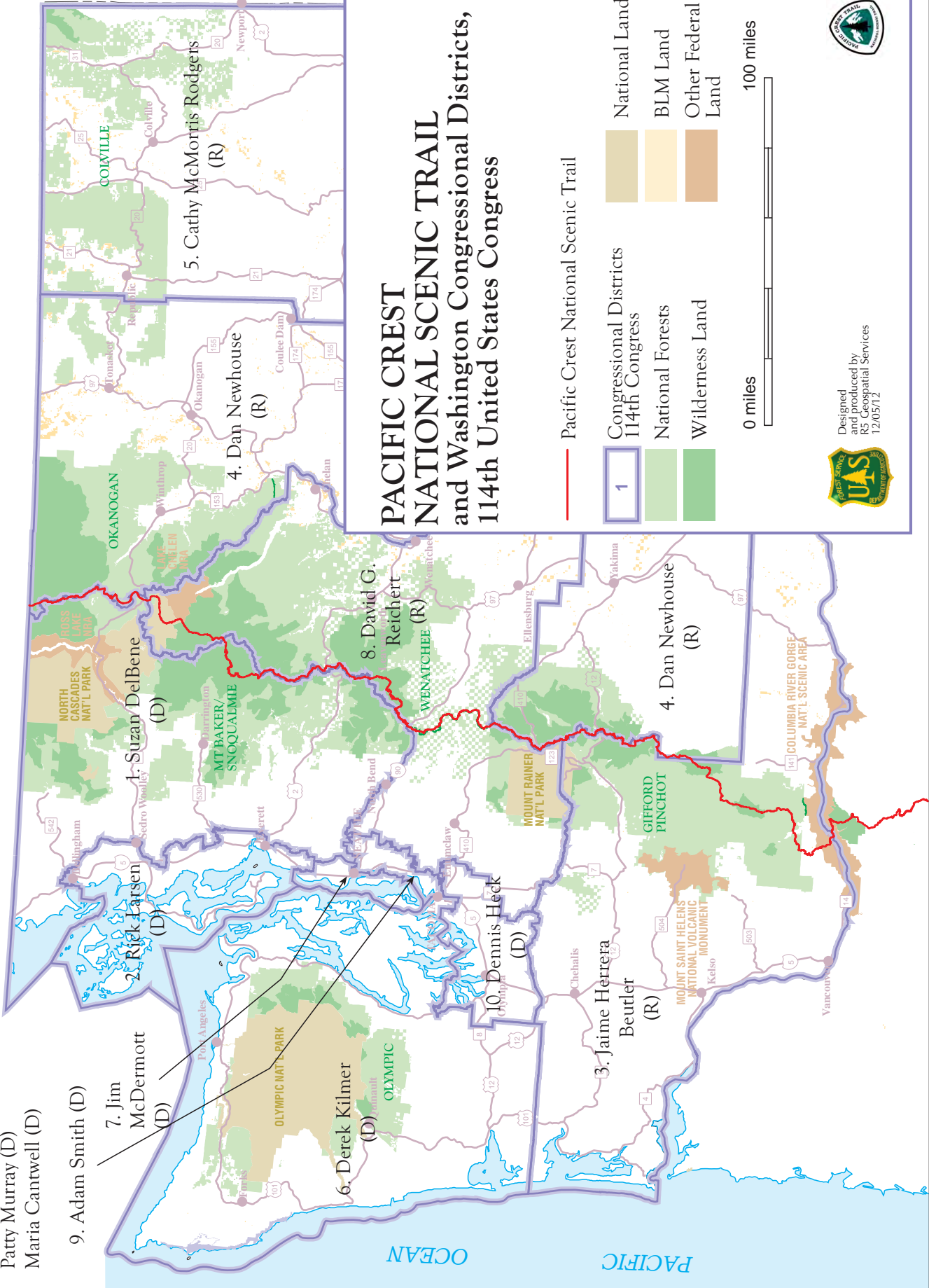
3. Jaime Herrera
 Beutler
 (R)

8. David G.
 Reichert
 (R)

4. Dan Newhouse
 (R)

4. Dan Newhouse
 (R)

5. Cathy McMorris
 Rodgers
 (R)



PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL and Washington Congressional Districts, 114th United States Congress

— Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

1

Congressional Districts
 114th Congress

National Forests

Wilderness Land

National Land

BLM Land

Other Federal
 Land

0 miles

100 miles



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SOUTHERN
TERMINUS

PACIFIC
CREST
NATIONAL
SCENIC
TRAIL

ESTABLISHED
BY ACT OF
CONGRESS ON
OCT. 2, 1968

MEXICO
TO
CANADA
2627
MILES
1988 A.D.

ELEVATION
2915 FT.



Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2015

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

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

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member McCollum:

We write to express our support for the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal in the FY 2016 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 2016 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 14 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 Gray's Lake in Idaho, sections of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail in southern California, Oregon and Washington, the Kittatinny Ridge in Pennsylvania, and within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in Montana. They will encourage public recreation by creating trail access points in urban areas like San Bernadino, California, New York City, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and St. Croix, Wisconsin, 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 rock shelter

where the Overmountain men kept their powder dry while on their march to King's Mountain to win a key victory in the War for Independence, 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 120 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 2013, volunteers along the National Trails System contributed at least 1,144,407 hours valued at \$25,337,171 to sustain the trails. The partner organizations also contributed \$11,151,247 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 FY 2016 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,



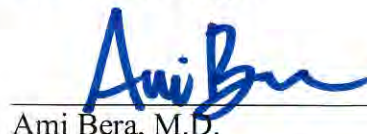
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress



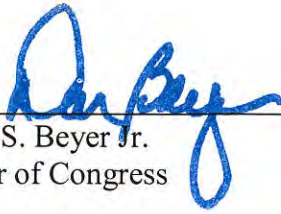
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress



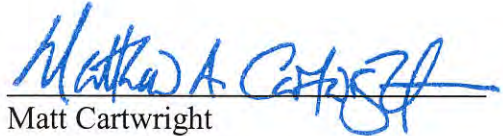
Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



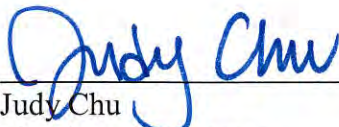
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Lois Capps
Member of Congress



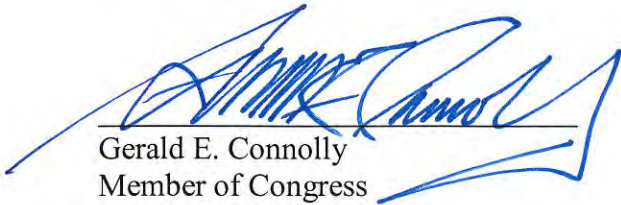
Matt Cartwright
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



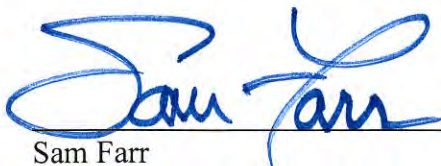
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress



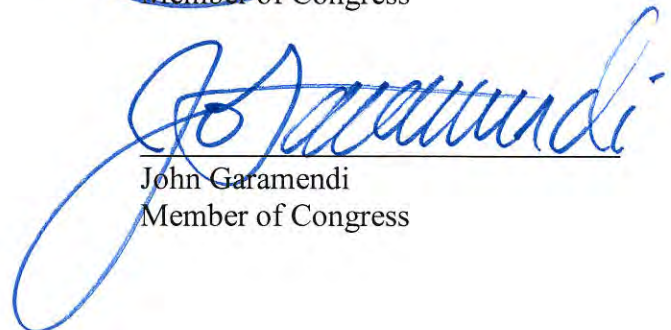
Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

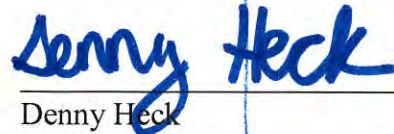


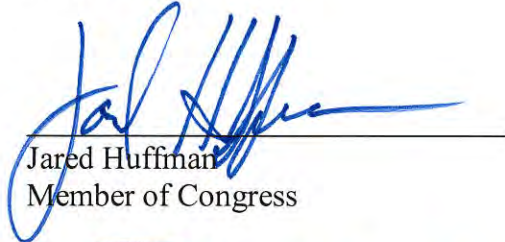
Sam Farr
Member of Congress

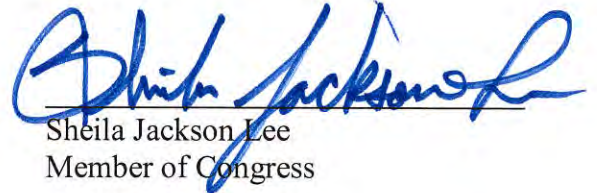


John Garamendi
Member of Congress


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress


Denny Heck
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress


Ron Kind
Member of Congress


Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress


Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

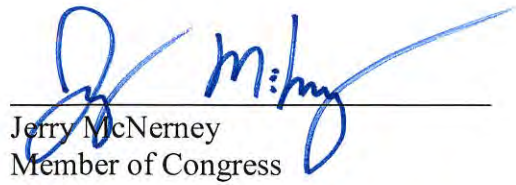

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress


Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress


Michelle Lujan Grisham
Member of Congress


Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress


Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



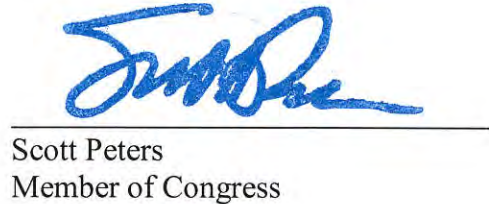
Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



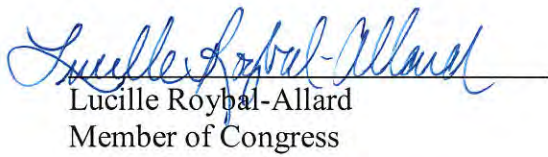
Scott Peters
Member of Congress



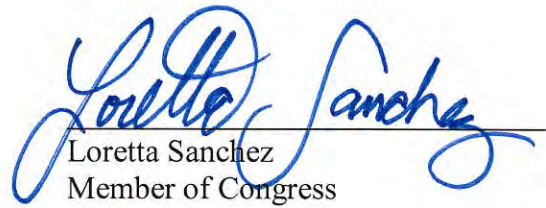
Stacey Plaskett
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



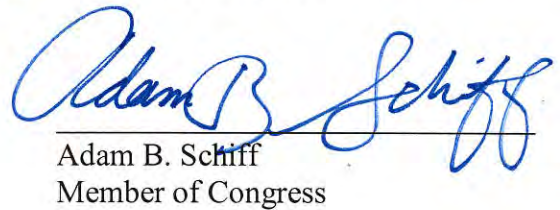
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress



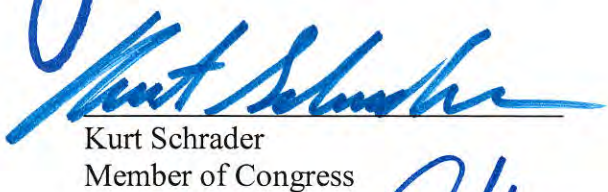
Loretta Sanchez
Member of Congress



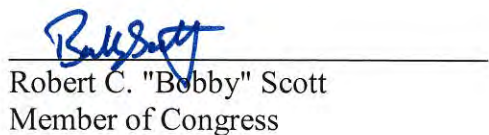
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



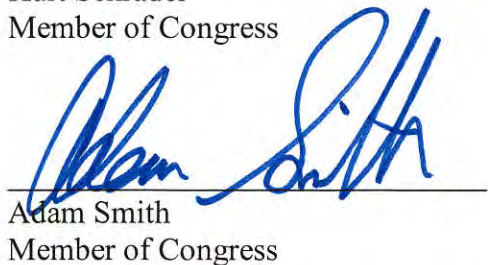
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



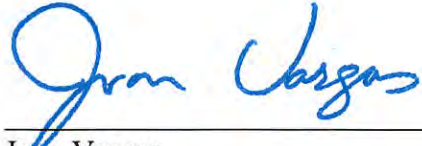
Adam Smith
Member of Congress



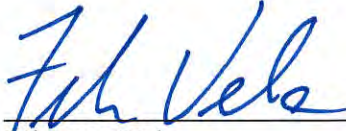
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress



Chris Van Hollen
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



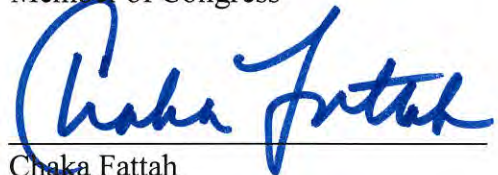
Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Tim Walz
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah
Member of Congress



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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
 - 4 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 19, 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 2016, we celebrate an ever-expanding membership base. The PCTA now represents more than 11,500 PCTA members worldwide, and has an annual budget of \$2.8 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

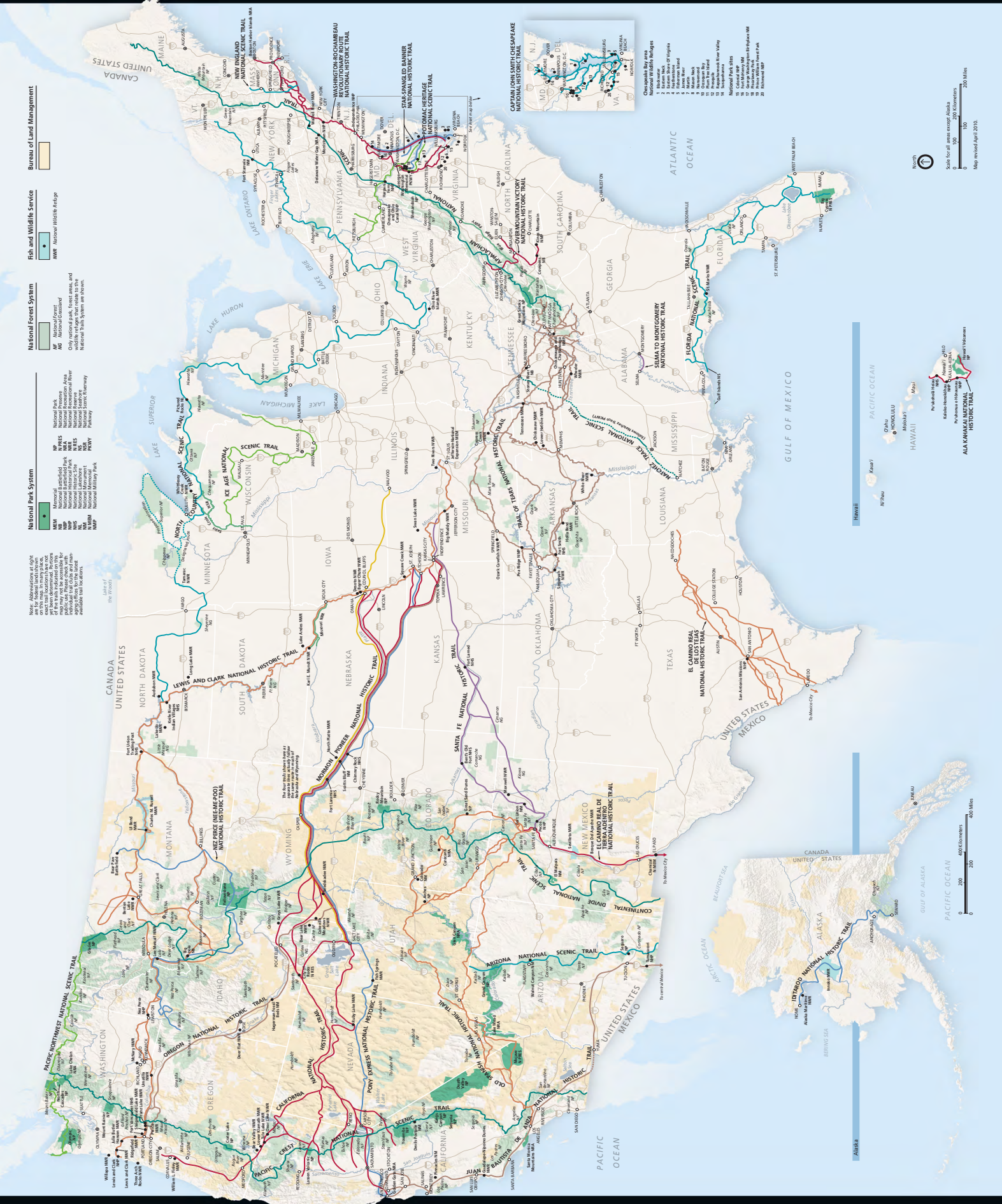


Pacific Crest Trail Association History

- 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



- National Park System**
- NP**: National Park
 - NHP**: National Historical Park
 - NM**: National Monument
 - NARS**: National Antiquities Reserve
 - NES**: National Escalante System
 - NIS**: National Invasive Species
 - NIP**: National Invasive Plant
 - NIM**: National Invasive Marine
 - NISW**: National Invasive Wildlife
 - NIPW**: National Invasive Wildlife
 - NIPW**: National Invasive Wildlife
- National Forest System**
- NF**: National Forest
 - NRI**: National Recreation Area
 - NAGP**: National Antiquities Act
 - NAS**: National Antiquities Act
 - NIS**: National Invasive Species
 - NIP**: National Invasive Plant
 - NIM**: National Invasive Marine
 - NISW**: National Invasive Wildlife
 - NIPW**: National Invasive Wildlife
- Rch and Wildlife Service**
- MWR**: National Wildlife Refuge
- Bureau of Land Management**
- BLM**: Bureau of Land Management



Note: Abbreviations at right are for items listed below. Exact trail locations are shown in black on this map. Some trails are shown in red on this map because they are designated as National Historic Trails. Other trails are shown in various colors because they are designated as National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, or National Invasive Species. Trails are shown in various colors because they are designated as National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, or National Invasive Species.

- Color Key**
- 1: National Wildlife Refuge
 - 2: National Historic Trail
 - 3: National Scenic Trail
 - 4: National Historic Trail
 - 5: National Scenic Trail
 - 6: National Historic Trail
 - 7: National Scenic Trail
 - 8: National Historic Trail
 - 9: National Scenic Trail
 - 10: National Historic Trail
 - 11: National Scenic Trail
 - 12: National Historic Trail
 - 13: National Scenic Trail
 - 14: National Historic Trail
 - 15: National Scenic Trail
 - 16: National Historic Trail
 - 17: National Scenic Trail
 - 18: National Historic Trail
 - 19: National Scenic Trail
 - 20: National Historic Trail
 - 21: National Scenic Trail
 - 22: National Historic Trail
 - 23: National Scenic Trail
 - 24: National Historic Trail
 - 25: National Scenic Trail
 - 26: National Historic Trail

Scale
0 100 200 Miles
0 100 200 Kilometers

Map issued April 2010.



Alaska
Hawaii

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 California ♦ Calif.
Backcountry Horsemen of Oregon ♦ Ore.
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington ♦ Wash.
Backpacker Magazine ♦ National
Barefoot Wine & Bubbly ♦ National
Bellevue College ♦ Wash.
Boy Scouts of America ♦ National
Buff ♦ National
California Alpine Club ♦ Calif.
Danner ♦ National
Eagle Creek ♦ National
Eagle's Nest Outfitters ♦ National
Environmental Charter Schools ♦ Calif.
Equestrian Trails, Inc ♦ Calif.
Esbit ♦ National
EarthCorps ♦ Wash.
Friends of the Columbia Gorge ♦ Ore.
Granite Gear ♦ National
Gregory ♦ National
Harney & Sons ♦ National
High Cascade Forest Volunteers ♦ Ore.
High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew ♦ Calif.
Hike for Mental Health ♦ National
ICF International ♦ International
Kern Recreational Landowners Association ♦ Calif.
Keyes, Fox, & Weidman LLP ♦ Calif.
Leave No Trace ♦ National
LED Lenser ♦ National
Leki ♦ National
Mom's Pie House ♦ Calif.
Mojave Desert Land Trust ♦ Calif.
Mt. Adams Institute ♦ Wash.
National Civilian Community Corps AmeriCorps ♦ National
National Forest Foundation ♦ National
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance ♦ National
Nature Conservancy ♦ 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
Platypus ♦ National
Point6 ♦ National
REI ♦ National
Royal Robbins ♦ National
Salazon Chocolate ♦ National
San Diego Ultra Running Friends ♦ Calif.
Sierra Health Foundation ♦ Calif.
Siskiyou Mountain Club ♦ Ore.
Six Moon Designs ♦ National
Tahoe Rim Trail Association ♦ Calif.
The North Face ♦ National
Trailkeepers of Oregon ♦ Ore.
Trust for Public Land ♦ National
Ultralight Adventure Equipment ♦ National
Ursack ♦ National
Washington Trails Association ♦ Wash.
White Pass Ski Area ♦ Wash.
Washington Trails Association ♦ Wash.
Woolrich ♦ National
Zerogram ♦ National



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