

ANNUAL REPORT 2015



PROTECTING
OUR LANDSCAPES

PRESERVING
YOUR
EXPERIENCE

PROMOTING
THE JOURNEY



photo by: Andrew Geweke

Pacific Crest Trail Association

www.pcta.org

the Pacific Crest Trail

"you can experience the west's most breathtaking terrain."

To our members and supporters,

Every spring, PCTA looks forward to reflecting on accomplishments made possible by your gifts of time and money. It's an amazing process to look back on the important work that was done to maintain and protect the Pacific Crest Trail. It's an opportunity for us to slow down, talk about the year and cheer after each accomplishment is added to the list.

Looking back on 2015 was no exception. The list of accomplishments is long. We all have so much to cheer about. You certainly made it a great year. PCTA donors gave more than \$2.3 million, a testament to your collective power. You volunteered your time, contributing a whopping 96,000 hours on the trail, in the office and by writing articles published in our magazine and blog.

Your gifts of time and money allowed PCTA trail crews to continue with a multi-year project to realign six miles of trail in the Sierra Buttes area of the Tahoe National Forest. When completed, the trail will be away from a road and close to a lake, providing for a more ideal and remote experience. You also helped the ongoing efforts to repair damage to the trail caused by flooding, mudslides and wildfires. These problems are severe but not insurmountable, and your continuing support will ensure that quality fixes will happen in a timely manner. Your support of PCTA's Trail Skills College program is a key component of that work because it means volunteers will have the training and leadership skills to safely tackle even the biggest problems Mother Nature throws our way.

Based on the December 2014 release of the movie *Wild*, we established a marketing plan and a *Wild* website to tell stories of how the trail experience can transform lives. The hope was to benefit the trail by capitalizing on the increased public attention brought by the film. The goal was multi-faceted: ensure quality information for newcomers who wanted to experience the trail; tell positive stories about your effort to protect this great public resource; and bring new and lasting support for the trail. We're happy to report that 4,000 new people joined as members in 2015 and overall membership is up by more than 18 percent to 11,600. And many more of you joined the PCT community online, on the trail and as volunteers.

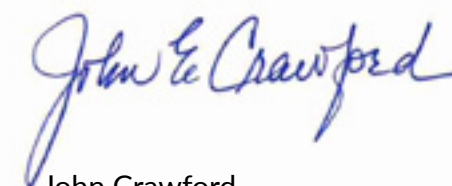
While your contributions continue to field volunteers who keep the PCT open for hundreds of thousands of hikers and horseback riders, in 2015 you helped ramp up efforts to preserve the trail and its surroundings. There still are some 1,500 private properties that either include the trail or are near enough to it that development would irreparably damage the experience of people using it.

In 2015, PCTA hired Megan Wargo as its first director of land protection to oversee what will be a multi-year effort working with agency and other nonprofit partners. We purchased and began using a GIS mapping software to better identify key properties and we hosted a university intern over the summer to help us get started. PCTA also hired a new fundraising professional, Mark Waters, to engage with donors and increase the organization's capacity to protect these vital places.

Your efforts to conserve the PCT are not just about the trail itself. They are about protecting and caring for the health and beauty of lands that provide clean air and water and a place for people and wildlife to thrive. After all, this is your public land. The PCT belongs to all of us. Your support matters. You are defending an authentic, wild experience. Thank you for all you do for the trail.



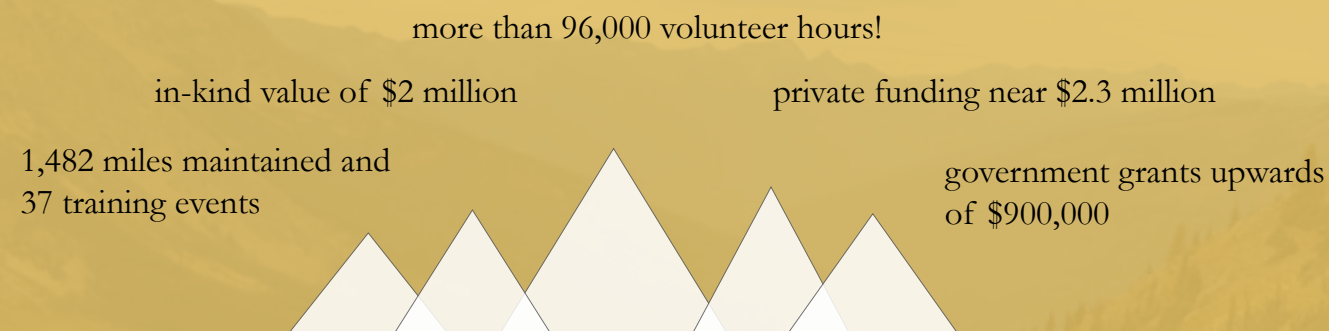
Liz Bergeron
Executive Director and CEO



John Crawford
Chair, PCTA Board of Directors



FACTS & FIGURES



Numbers tell the story of your progress and success along the Pacific Crest Trail in 2015. Sure, numbers are not what usually excite most of us, yet they are important because they reflect the financial health of the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

Look closer. These numbers are spectacular in terms of quantifying your dedication to the trail. Dollar to dollar and hour to hour, they show your collective effort as members, volunteers, donors and partners. They speak to the power of your voices and your determination to make a difference by preserving the often-delicate landscapes along the trail and the special experiences of those who pass through them.

In 2015 you gave more than 96,000 hours to the trail, an in-kind value of more than \$2 million. You gave another \$2.3 million in private funds to supplement \$900,000 in government grants. You attended 37 volunteer training events and maintained 1,482 miles of the trail. You all should be proud of what you've accomplished. Your success as stewards of the trail ensures that it will be there for future generations to blaze, enjoy and cherish.

FIGURES

The beauty of the Pacific Crest Trail certainly has the potential to heal and inspire. This wild trail is a testament to the enduring conservation values embodied in the 1964 Wilderness Act. You are defenders of this sacred concept of American wilderness. The PCT is about many things. Caring for it means that you are part of a conservation solution.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is the primary nonprofit steward of the Pacific Crest Trail, a 2,650-mile path from Mexico to Canada. Traversing through California, Oregon and Washington, and crossing 48 federal wilderness areas and six national parks, the PCT winds through some of our nation's most breathtaking sceneries. It provides countless souls from all over the world a place of refuge. As PCTA members, volunteers and partners, you protect, preserve and promote this national treasure for the experience of all who use it. The PCT belongs to all of us. This is your public land. You are its protectors.



national parks



mile path

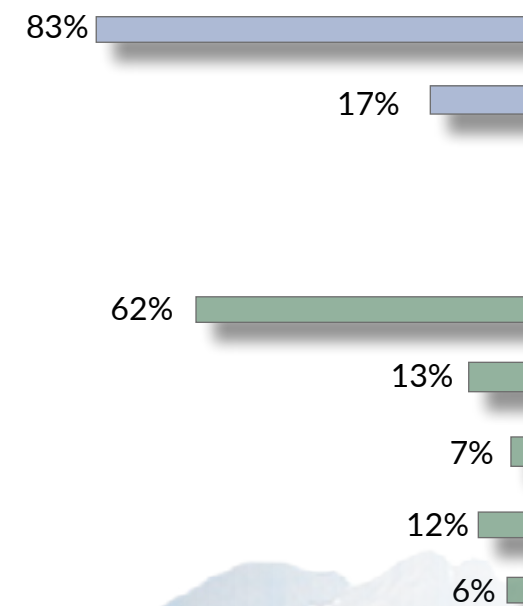


federal wilderness areas

FINANCIALS

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	Actual	Actual (w/volunteer hours)
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Revenue and Support		
Private Sources	\$2,261,066	\$4,313,119
Government Grants	889,681	889,681
Total	3,150,747	5,202,800
Expenses		
Trail Operations	\$1,114,250	\$3,066,872
Public Info and Education	610,200	637,214
Land Protection	346,878	359,705
Fundraising	579,781	579,781
Management and General	268,873	328,463
Total	2,919,982	4,972,035
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$230,765	\$230,765
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Individual Contributions	\$314,073	\$314,073
Investment Income (Loss)	(7,169)	(7,169)
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(339,292)	(339,292)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$(32,388)	\$(32,388)
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS		
Individual Contributions	\$9,929	\$9,929
Total Change in Net Assets	\$208,306	\$208,306
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$2,139,802	\$2,139,802
Net Assets, End of Year	\$2,348,108	\$2,348,108



PCTA goes through a financial audit every year. We are subject to a more in-depth audit because of the level of federal funding we receive.

The 2015 financial statements were audited by John Waddell & Co, of Sacramento, CA. In the opinion of John Waddell, the PCTA's 2015 financial statements present fairly the financial position of the PCTA in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

For more information or copies of the 2015 audited financials, visit www.pcta.org/financials

photo by: Ann Holston

TRAIL STORIES

Inspiration: the action or power of moving the intellect or emotions.

It's not hard to feel inspired by the Pacific Crest Trail. The experience of being out there certainly moves our emotions, makes us think and feel something special. We treasure the time away from our busy lives, wrapped in the refuge of wild places – mountain meadows, blooming deserts, dripping rain forests or rocky plateaus – each connected by this incredible wilderness footpath.

As stewards of the trail you are ensuring that it remains a vital recreational opportunity for generations. Remember the winter thru-hikers, Shawn "Pepper" Forry and Justin "Trauma" Lichter? What a time they had out there. There are many reasons to be inspired by the trail and many people who inspire us to climb even higher. As we look back on 2015, we're reminded of some of you who were inspired by the PCT or inspired others to remain steadfast in our collective effort to protect it.



The volunteer spirit

In terms of volunteering, Don Twohey set a high bar. We lost Don in 2015, but his inspiration lives on with the other members of PCTA Lyons' Pride, the volunteer crew he joined in 2005. Don quickly fell into a dedicated rhythm with the group, participating in up to 10 trips a year. Most importantly, he made fast friends.

He was as tough and gruff as he was funny and dedicated. Mostly he was hopeful that PCTA would continue to prosper. He loved the mountains and giving back to them through his advocacy and trail work, family and friends said.

Don received the Alice Krueper Award in 2006, the PCTA's top honor for outstanding trail maintenance volunteers. He worked trail crews all along the PCT and traveled to Washington D.C. as part of the association's Hike the Hill advocacy team from 2008 to 2011. He was also a generous donor and a regular presence at annual meetings in Sacramento, always ready with a tough question or two about the organization's direction or finances.

"He absolutely lived and bled PCTA," John Lyons said after Don passed away.



Going south

Christine Martens wrote last fall about the 2014 southbound thru-hike she took with John Haffner. They braved snow up north, even in July. They marveled at the beauty of the Sierra Nevada and relished the final days crossing desert as they neared the Mexico border.

"On our last night on the trail it rained," she wrote. "It was the first rain in weeks. The rain-packed sand was hard, and the footprints we had been following for hundreds of miles disappeared overnight. That made me realize that all those people had finished their hike. Mother Nature was reminding us that our journey was almost over, and soon the land would forget us as well."

"But I will never forget the trail. I have been forever changed by my thru-hike. I realized that this journey had made me a better person. I could see the impact people were having on the land, and I felt responsible. I appreciate water more than ever. The kindness of strangers restored my faith in humanity."



From the saddle

Phil King has spent many years as a PCTA packer, using his mules to bring in everything from food, tools, bridge parts, water, explosives, kitchen supplies and whatever else the U.S. Forest Service or PCTA crews need. His love for Oregon's backcountry and commitment to ensuring its wilderness legacy is evident in the hundreds of hours he has spent moving all this stuff up and down mountains so crews can focus on the work of building and repairing trails.

Phil kept at it in 2015, packing for the PCTA's Skyline crew. Among all the food and gear he and his team hauled to backcountry work sites, he carried 20 lb. rock bars up to the base of South Sister, 85 pounds of water to an otherwise dry camp on Maiden Peak and, just for fun, he hauled out a 42-inch-wide steel culvert left in a camp site near Olallie Lake that weighed more than 50 pounds. When engineers at the Willamette National Forest said there was no safe way to carry out the cumbersome culvert, Phil smiled so wide his fu manchu moustache almost touched his ears. "Well good, I like a challenge," he said. The culvert, which was illegally dumped at the campsite, is now a fire ring in his backyard.

Phil enjoys sharing his passion for pack animals and the Pacific Crest Trail by bringing friends and his wife Judy along during rides. He is also an avid hunter and says the wilderness is a resource that he feels obligated to give back to so others can enjoy it. He said he knows other PCTA volunteers feel the same. And he has no intention of giving it up anytime soon. He's still inspired.

A tale of courage on the PCT

For some it means loving the trail for what it gives them. Hiking the PCT was Patti McCarthy's dream. She and her husband, Lynn Shapiro, started section hiking in spring 2012 and completed more than 122 miles as "amateur, weekend-warrior-type backpackers."

But by October of that year, Patti learned she had breast cancer. She refused to let it stop her, and in fact, she looked to the trail for the courage to fight it. "I became stubborn about hiking, even when it probably wasn't the best of ideas," she wrote in the PCT Communicator last year.

She wore a heart monitor on a day hike. She hiked through chemo and radiation treatments and found inspiration in the thru-hikers she met on the trail. Joking about the radiation tests she got a trail name: Glow in the Dark. On Nov. 7, 2013, she had her last chemo treatment and celebrated with a five-day hike. She walked 245 miles of the PCT after her diagnosis between 55 doctor appointments and 127 medical procedures, including six "kick-my-behind" chemo treatments, 37 radiation treatments, 18 Herceptin infusions and various surgeries.

"The PCT was a healing force for me," Patti wrote. "If we hadn't started hiking before I was diagnosed with cancer, we would not have started afterward. It let me live life, not cancer. It gave me solace and helped me focus on what was important. It gave me strength. For that I am forever grateful. I am still hiking. I am not a bitter person. I am a better one."



INSPIRATION

TRAIL GUARDIANS

Trail Blazers - \$10,000+

Anonymous (1)
David Brunjes and Mary Wholey
John and Julie Crawford
Daniel and Marina Eisenbud
Janet "Rock-Kicker" Grossman
David and Robin Hanna
Namaste Foundation
Bill and Nadean Meyer
Allen Minton
Paul and Antje Newhagen
James W. Newman
Donald A. Oltmans
Don and JoAnn Ralphs
Tom and Teita Reveley
Todd A. Richards, M.D., M.B.A.
Robert Stein

Trail Champions - \$5,000-\$9,999

Denise Gilbert
Ben Hammett
Bill Jensen ('77)
Robert Johnson
Barney and Sandy Mann
Mom's Pie House
Brian Morris
Kim and Pamela Owen
Eric and Sharon Ryback
Frederick and Belle Tanis
Barry Teschlog
Joseph and Michael Wirth

Trail Defenders - \$2,650 - \$4,999

Dave Claugus
Laraine Downer
Pete and Joyce Fish
Dan Hane
Jim and Jan Hawkins
Chip and Linda Herzig
Scott Jacobsmeyer
and Tiina Hameenanttila
Allan Joachim
Carol Peterkort and Richard Gibson
Fred and Melouise Pfeffer
Sandals and Sheepdog
T. Donovan Wood

Trail Guardians - \$1,000-\$2,649

Anonymous (9)
Ralph and Susan Alcorn

David and Joan Allen
David Anders
Tom and Ann Bache
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Tim Bailey
Thomas A. Banks
Luann and Dana Basque
Dick Baumgartner and Liz Salzer
Albert Beedie and Joyce Bennis
Liz Bergeron and Lori Harmon
Dave "Lightened Up" Bewley
John Blevins
Carol Brown
Dale R. Call
Roger Carpenter and Cindy Kleinegger
Helen Choi
Nancy and Larry Church
Lee and LeeAnn Clark
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Lon "Halfmile" Cooper
David G. Covell, M.D.
and Anne E. Covell
Jeremy Cowperthwaite
J. Zach Downing
Anne Ewalt
Chris and Bob Feibusch
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"Fuller, 2013"
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Karsten and Josephine Hazelett
Amanda Hicks
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John Hoffnagle
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and Jeanne Toulouse-Korns
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Hank Magnuski
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Read C. Miller
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Ronald and Anne Murphy
Jeannine and Bob Nida
Mark Nienstaedt
Lance and Suzette Olson
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Traci Parker
Powers Candy & Nut Co.
John A. Ptak and Margaret Black
Steve Queen
Arthur and Toni Rembe Rock
Bob (Noodles) Romanoff
Peter Rosmarin
Steve Rupp
John Schuyler and Priscila Franco
Dr. Ken and Kathy Schwarz
Carl and Jan Siechert
Y Smith
Porter and Gail Storey
John Sund
The Thalhammer Family
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Ginny "Steiner" Too
Bruce K. Tramm
Jerry and Matthew "JerrMatt" Welter
Angie Williamson and Paul Kawasaki
Eric Weinmann
Jack and Nancy Wires
Jack and Shirly Yates
Kirt and Bev Zeigler

CORPORATE PARTNERS

High Sierra - \$15,000 - \$50,000

REI - Corporate Headquarters

Tuolumne Meadows -\$5,000 - \$14,999

Barefoot Wine & Bubbly
Eagle Creek
Eagles Nest Outfitters Inc.
Harney & Sons Tea Corp.
HIKE For Mental Health
LEKI USA Inc
Mom's Pie House
Osprey Packs Inc.
Six Moon Designs
Woolrich, Inc.
ZeroGram

Columbia River - \$1,000 - \$4,999

Adventure 16
Airplus of California, Inc.
Buff USA, Inc.
Danner, Inc
Elsie Green, Inc.
Esbit
Go Beyond Racing, LLC
Granite Gear
Keyes, Fox & Wiedman LLP
LED Lenser
Outdoor Viewfinder
Platypus
Point6
Royal Robbins
Salazon Chocolate
Sierra Sage Herbs

Siskiyou Outback Trail Run
Tarptent, Inc.
Uphill Designs
Ursack

Mojave Desert – in-kind goods or services \$1,000 or greater

Backpacker
Emerald Expositions, Inc.
Google
ICF International
Montbell
Mountain Khakis
Mountain Laurel Designs
Only The Essential

BUSINESS MEMBERS

\$250-999

Barton White Associates, Inc.
Biobotanica LLC
Cascade Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run
Coyote Camp Fireline Chow
Fujitsu Ten Corp of America
JAL Contracting, Inc.
Pathfinder Writing and Career Services LLC

FOUNDATIONS

Butte Creek Foundation
California Alpine Club Foundation
Coachella Valley Hiking Club
Gwladys and John Zurlo Charitable Foundation
Harry and Yvonne Lenart Charitable Foundation
National Forest Foundation
University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.
Wells Fargo Foundation
William A. Kerr Foundation

TRAILSIDE BUSINESS MEMBERS

\$250-999

The Cain House – Bridgeport, CA
ITH Big Bear Mountain Adventure Lodge – Big Bear Lake, CA
Kennedy Meadows General Store – Inyokern, CA
Olallie Lake Rustic Resort – Detroit, OR
Silver Maple Inn – Bridgeport, CA
Sky Island Natural Foods – Idyllwild, CA
Thunder Island Brewing Company – Cascade Locks, OR
Timberline Lodge – Timberline, OR

photo by: Samantha Queffelec

SUPPORTERS

LEGACY SOCIETY

Anonymous (7)
 David and Joan Allen
 Patty A. Andersen
 William Ballenger
 Jane and Jay Baxter
 Stace E. Beaulieu
 Chris and Jason Benz
 Liz Bergeron and Lori Harmon
 Brian C. Booth
 John and Julie Crawford
 Mike and Tina Dawson
 Cecil L. Dobbins
 Jim and Polly Dodds
 Laraine Downer
 Robert Francisco (go-BIG, 2006)
 Susan Gilliland
 Del P. "Steelaway" Granlund
 Janet "Rock-Kicker" Grossman
 Mr. Arthur Hellman
 John B. Hervey
 Nancy Huber
 Scott Jacobsmeyer and Tiina Hameenanttila
 Bill Jensen ('77)
 Dan A. Kayser
 Leann Knipple
 Steven Kral
 Janice and John Le Pouvoir
 Boyd and Karen Levet
 Gordie and Lynn Mac Dermott
 Michael Mallory
 Barney Scout Mann and Sandy "Frodo" Mann
 Chris McMullan

Don and June Mulford
 James A. Nee
 Donald A. Oltmans
 A. Quinn
 John Reilly
 Richard Sammut
 Lexi Shear
 Amanda L. Silvestri
 Lolly Skillman
 Jed L. Staley
 Jay and Terri Thesken
 Ronald Vaughn
 Dick Vogel
 Alan Young

ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

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. Bellevue College, Wash. Boy Scouts of America, National Environmental Charter Schools, Calif.	Equestrian Trails, Inc, Calif. EarthCorps, Wash. Friends of the Columbia Gorge, Ore. High Cascade Forest Volunteers, Ore. High Sierra Volunteer Trail Crew, Calif. Kern Recreational Landowners Association, Calif. Leave No Trace, National 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. Pacific Forest Trust, Calif./Ore. Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Wash. Partnership for the National Trails System, 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. Trailkeepers of Oregon, Ore. Trust for Public Land, National Washington Trails Association, Wash. White Pass Ski Area, Wash.
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 Katie Hawkins – Marmot
 Michael Hodgson – New Normal Consulting
 Dennis Lewon – Backpacker
 John Mead – Adventure 16, Inc.

PCTA STAFF



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Teresa Fieth
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 Administrative Officer

Megan Wargo
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Angie Williamson
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Jack Haskel
 Trail Information
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AGENCY PARTNERS



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

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

photo by: Andy Porter



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