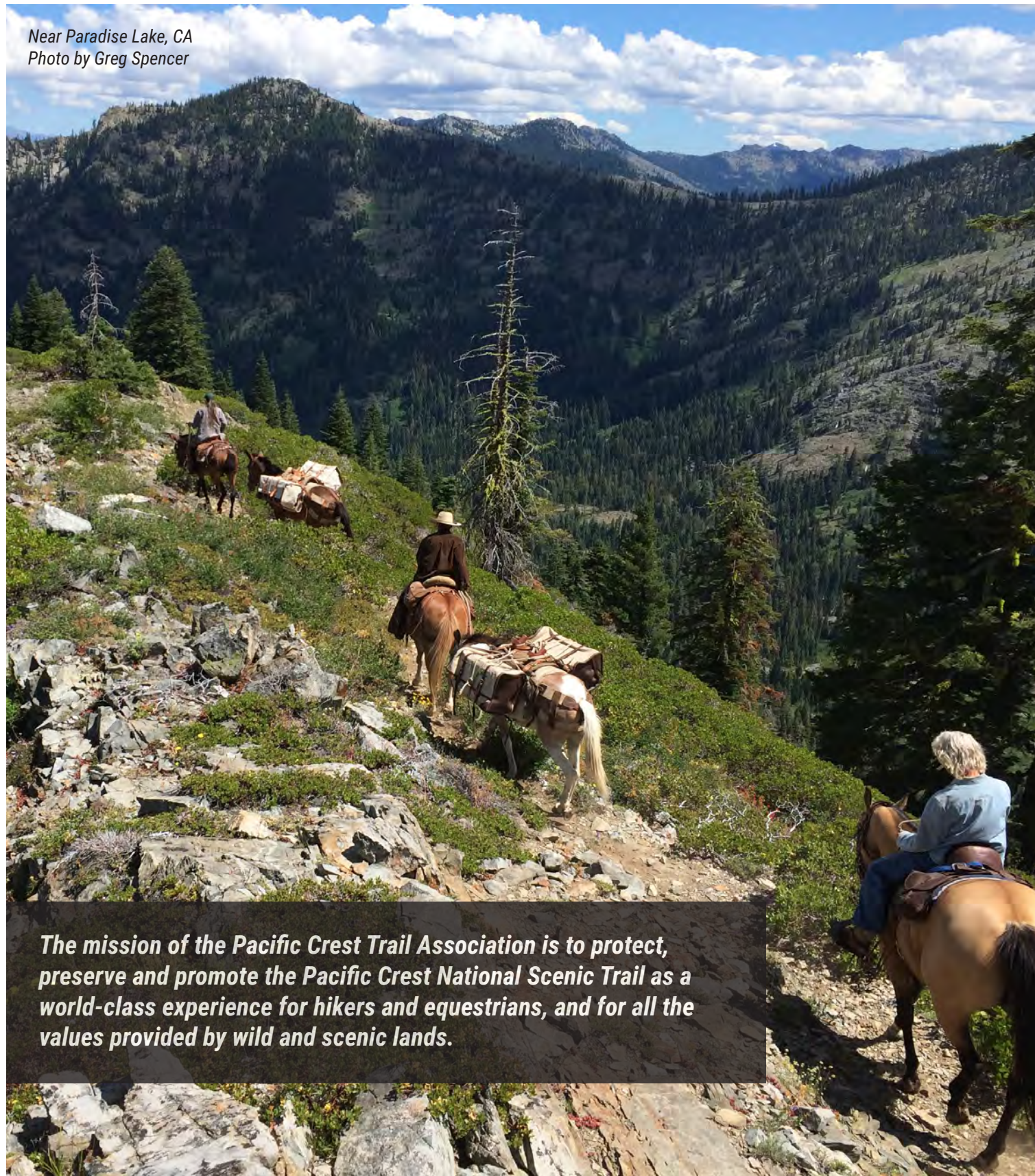


Near Paradise Lake, CA
Photo by Greg Spencer



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.




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Sacramento, CA 95833



ANNUAL REPORT 2016





Protecting and preserving America's greatest wilderness experience

Crater Lake, OR
Photo by Charlie Willard

To Our Members and Supporters

Every spring, when it comes time to reflect on the year's accomplishments, we often go back to what our association was able to do in prior years. We're fortunate that all of you care so much about the Pacific Crest Trail and are dedicated to our shared mission. Our ability to take care of the trail continues to improve because of all of you, and 2016 was certainly a watershed year in terms of the support you provided.

Before sitting down together, we looked back at our 2015 accomplishments, when PCTA members and donors gave \$1.8 million to the cause. We were so elated when we closed that year and never imagined then that we'd exceed that amount by such a large margin in 2016. But we did. PCTA raised \$2.5 million in 2016, a staggering number. And we thank you for that.

Your donations are repairing sections of trail in Southern California devastated by fires and mudslides. With your support, we're building new trail in the Sierra Buttes and planning trail repair and improvement projects in all three states. You are helping us to speak loudly for the trail in the halls of power and building partnerships with agency staffers and other nonprofits. As we write this, our Trails Skills College class schedule is filling up, ensuring another great year of specialized skills, safety and leadership training for our volunteers and those of other trail organizations through this nationally recognized program.

But the dollars don't tell the whole story. They never do. As volunteers, you gave 104,269 hours to the trail in 2016 an in-kind value of \$2.45 million. Wow! It's truly amazing. When we presented these numbers to members of Congress, their staffers and our agency partners during our February "Hike the Hill" visits in Washington, D.C., everyone was truly impressed. You dug trail, cleared rocks and logs, loaded your horses and mules with gear and food for backcountry trail crews, cooked pots of stew, wrote articles for our magazine and blog and set up tables at events. You helped in the office with outreach efforts, data entry and many other important tasks that keep the association moving forward. But there's more.

You saved two beautiful meadows along the trail, Landers Meadow in Central California, and Donomore Meadows in Northern California. Thank you for your generosity and your vision. Not only that, your efforts helped us establish a fund for future land protection opportunities. Once we sell these properties to the U.S. Forest Service, the proceeds will be used time and again to save future places from development. You should be proud of your willingness and ability to change the world.

In the fall, we secured a three-year grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to ramp up our Communications and Marketing program. The grant allowed us to hire Scott Wilkinson as the director of the program in January. We've also hired long-time contract editor Mark Larabee as the associate director of the program. Mark and former board member Barney Scout Mann are co-authors of our coffee table book released by Rizzoli New York in October. We're happy to report that the first print run of 8,500 books sold out in about two months. It's now in its third printing and PCTA benefits from the sales both financially and in terms of telling our story.

As you dig into this report, you'll not only see more detailed numbers, you'll read about how the trail inspires our community and catch glimpses of just how strong and determined it is.

Together, we are on the trail of success, walking—sometimes running—toward our grand vision for this magical place and experience we call the Pacific Crest Trail. Our ability to handle what's ahead grows with every step. Your contributions of time, sweat, spirit, money, brain power and sheer will are taking us there.

For that, we thank you.



Liz Bergeron
Executive Director and CEO



John Crawford
Chair, PCTA Board of Directors



Our impact on the PCT...

...made with your support.

104,269 hours

2,081 volunteers

2,037 trail miles
maintained/reconstructed

2,612 acres
permanently protected
along the PCT

\$2.5 million
in private funding

12,300
members from
50 states and
41 countries



PCTA Crew in Goat Rocks Wilderness
Photo by Bri (Twink) Leahy

Your generous support made 2016 a record year for protecting and preserving the PCT experience.

The numbers tell the story of your progress and success along the Pacific Crest Trail in 2016. As members, volunteers, donors and partners you have much to be proud of. We had an incredible year in terms of dollars raised and volunteering.

The money you donated supported our programs, the heroic efforts of our volunteers and our land protection successes. And the hours you dedicated as volunteers continue to make the PCT experience wonderful and truly unique for thousands of people.

In 2016 you gave 104,269 hours to the trail, an in-kind value of \$2.45 million. You gave another \$2.5 million in private funds to supplement \$964,000 in government grants. You maintained over 2,000 miles of the trail.

Through your efforts and those of many private, government and nonprofit partners, 12 private parcels on or near the PCT—2,612 acres—were protected in 2016. 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 enjoy and cherish.

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 helping to conserve the breadth of the landscapes through which it passes. These places are important because they provide us with clean air and water. And they allow people and wildlife to thrive.

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, crossing **48 federal wilderness areas, six national parks, 25 national forests and five national monuments**, the PCT winds through some of our nation's most breathtaking scenery.

It provides countless souls from all over the world a place of refuge. As PCTA supporters, 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.

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Rick Thalhammer

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Financials

	ACTUAL	ACTUAL w/Volunteer Hours
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Revenue And Support		
Private Sources	* \$3,082,917	\$5,282,856
Government Grants	955,740	955,740
TOTAL Revenue And Support	4,038,657	6,238,596
Expenses		
Trail Operations	\$1,329,828	\$3,420,891
Land Protection	404,129	411,892
Public Info & Education	687,757	719,127
Fundraising	618,531	618,531
Management & General	311,963	381,706
TOTAL Expenses	3,352,208	5,552,147
CHANGE in Unrestricted Net Assets	686,449	686,449
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS:		
Individual Contributions	\$1,095,066	1,095,066
Investment Income (Loss)	89,360	89,360
Net Assets Released from Restriction	(1,097,198)	(1,097,198)
CHANGE in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	87,228	87,228
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED ASSETS:		
Individual Contributions	\$ 11,798	\$ 11,798
TOTAL Change in Net Assets	785,475	785,475
NET ASSETS, Beginning of Year	2,348,108	2,348,108
NET ASSETS, End of Year	3,133,583	3,133,583

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 2016 financial statements were audited by John Waddell & Co. of Sacramento, CA. In the opinion of John Waddell, the PCTA's 2016 financial statements present fairly the financial position of the PCTA in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For more information or copies of the 2016 audited financials, visit www.pcta.org/financials

* Includes memberships, donations, other revenue, and in-kind donations.

We all love and embody what the trail gives. We are dedicated. Emotional. We have a feeling for what it's like to be there, to breathe, relax and take it all in. It's not just about what we are seeing but what we are experiencing within. That's the power of the PCT.

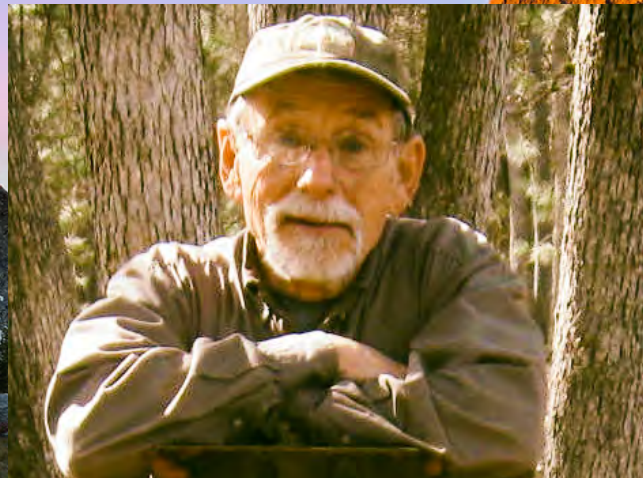
As stewards, caretakers, donors, members, hikers, horseback riders, agency partners—trail lovers—we are making sure that the PCT experience will be there for generations. That's inspiring. The PCT story goes on and on, many small tales that shape a larger narrative. And it's pure poetry.

As we looked back on 2016, we found a few great stories that we hope move you as they did us.

Together we continue this long trek to protect and care for the PCT so that those who come after us may feel what we feel every time we step foot on the ultimate path.

Near Iceberg Lake, CA
Photo by Thomas Piekunka

Giving Back to the Trail



Since 2004, Mike Taylor has worked the Big Bend section of trail with PCTA's Lyons' Pride. Mike grew up in Paradise, California, and he hunted and fished the foothills of the Sierra Nevada with family and friends. In 1965, he strapped on a pack at Whitney Portal and climbed onto the John Muir Trail. That first backpacking trip lit a fire inside him and he began to hike more and more. After graduating college, Mike joined the army and served in Vietnam. In 1970, he moved to the Etna area of Northern California and began teaching science at a junior high in Yreka, California. On weekends and in the summer, Mike would take his family on hiking trips on the PCT.

At 71, Mike has passed his love of hiking and the PCT on to his grandson, who has logged 50 miles with his Boy Scout troop in the Lake Tahoe area. "I like the idea of the trail, what the trail stands for and what it does for so many different people," he said. "I see thru hikers, section hikers, people I know. The PCT ties all the other trail systems together in our area. It gives me a great deal of satisfaction seeing it open and clear and passable."

The Visionaries



In 2015, PCTA Regional Representative Dana Hendricks received a note from a 93-year-old man in Vancouver, Washington, interested in meeting leaders of the PCTA. "My name is Dan Ogden. In 1966...I was assigned the task of heading the Trails for America study." This groundbreaking study called for a system of trails, which became the basis of the National Trails System Act.

Dana visited Dan, who shared stories about working in the administrations of two presidents, Kennedy and Johnson, and a humble upbringing where, because his family never owned an automobile, he was no stranger to the value of walking. "I am very proud of my role in getting the National Trails System bill enacted," he said. "It was part of a grand effort to save the out of doors for the American people."

Dana's conversations with Dan led her to Jean Matthews, who was an information officer and speechwriter for the Department of the Interior from 1962 to 1968. She wrote many of Interior Secretary Stewart Udall's speeches and her words, like Ogden's, helped push the conservation movement forward.

In her 2016 *PCT Communicator* story, Dana wrote: "There's something about us that needs the wild outdoors, something that isn't quite right without it. Having visited with these visionaries fills me with gratitude and reminds me how important it is to keep up the work of protecting and preserving the rare and valuable experiences they fought to make possible."

Trail Stories

Bill Meyer has been battling Parkinson's Disease, which has no known cure, since 2009. He realized something was wrong when he was hiking with a friend and couldn't keep up. While the diagnosis was a severe blow, he resolved not to let the disease deprive him from getting out into the wild and doing what he loved most. He continued to hike, albeit more slowly, bolstered by the knowledge that for people living with Parkinson's, exercise may be one of the most powerful tools to fight some symptoms and to slow the disease's degenerative nature.

Yet, no amount of willpower could overcome the tremors and balance issues he was experiencing, so hiking became increasingly difficult. Bill opted for a surgical procedure known as Deep Brain Stimulation in which a battery-operated medical device approximately the size of a stopwatch is implanted to deliver electrical stimulation to targeted areas in the brain, blocking the abnormal nerve signals that cause tremors. The procedure was a success and Bill could get out into the backcountry for longer hikes.

Fast-forward six years. Bill planned a mule-supported PCT hike to raise money for Parkinson's Disease research, increase awareness of Parkinson's Disease and increase awareness of the PCT.

On Aug. 20, 2016, 10 Pass to Pass expedition members set off to make the 72-mile journey. The plan was to average 9.25 miles per day with approximately 2,000 feet elevation gain. Although the journey was not without injury and illness that forced several team members to retire early, the expedition was a success.

Unfortunately, Bill suffered a ruptured disc after a training hike two weeks before the departure date, so he couldn't participate. But that did not get him down. When asked Bill about the future, he was upbeat.

"I've been poring over PCT maps and thinking about next year."

Angeles National Forest, CA
Photo by John Reglinski

A PCT Hike for Parkinson's Disease



Facing Fear and Living Large

Thru-hiker Lindsey Falkenburg had already hiked the Appalachian Trail and decided that the PCT was the next logical step. "The AT had been filled with magic and angels, incredible challenges, clouds of mosquitoes, dense humidity, great joy, and deep happiness, and when I finished I wanted nothing more than to keep hiking," Lindsey wrote in the *PCT Communicator*.

Lindsey was terrified of the PCT at first, writing that she secretly cried on a training climb in the North Cascades. Eventually, though, her "comfort bubble" grew. Yet as her PCT hike approached, fear often crept in. "What if I break an ankle, what if I can't find water, what if I don't finish, what if I don't want to finish? When I start to have these thoughts, safe at home in my bed, I feel deep inside me the PCT version of myself shake her head. She knows that this comfortable life is not where I am the best version of myself."

"In these moments, I remind myself that out on the trail there was something more, and there will again be something more, something deep and unnameable, something that I am never going to find at home in bed. The same fear that can paralyze me in my comfort zone becomes transformed on the trail into a blazing reminder that I still have so many things left to conquer, or at least to try. Out on trail I will not be comfortable, but I will be strong, sure, growing, jubilant, proud, elated, confident, and happy."

Trail Stories

A Special Thank You

Thank you to all the extraordinary trail enthusiasts who contributed \$1,000 or more in 2016. These dedicated individuals, foundations and companies not only set the pace for others who wish to support our work, but they play a crucial role in helping to protect, preserve, and promote the Pacific Crest Trail.

Trail Blazers: \$10,000+

Anonymous (1)
Kenneth “Lightfoot” Baker
David Corry
John and Julie Crawford
Daniel and Marina Eisenbud
Janet “Rock-Kicker” Grossman
Ben Hammett
David and Robin Hanna
Robert Johnson
Bill and Nadean Meyer
Allen Minton
Namaste Foundation
Paul and Antje Newhagen
James W. Newman
Donald A. Oltmans
Kim and Pamela Owen
Don and JoAnn Ralphs
John and Elaine Reveley
Tom and Teita Reveley
Todd A. Richards, M.D., M.B.A.
Dr. Ken and Kathy Schwarz
Kimberly Wells and Bob Scheulen
Kirt and Bev Zeigler

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

Anonymous (1)
Dalbert Brandon
Denise Gilbert
Jim and Jan Hawkins
Bill Jensen (‘77)
Dan McKean (Marmot)
Mom’s Pie House
Brian Morris
Eric and Sharon Ryback
Allan Slocum
Elizabeth Southorn
Frederick and Belle Tanis
Andrew Taylor
Barry Teschlog
Joseph and Michael Wirth

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

Backcountry Horsemen of California
Tim Bailey
Liz Bergeron and Lori Harmon
Dave Claugus
Paul D. Dally and Lisa Dally
Laraine Downer
Pete and Joyce Fish
“Fuller, 2013”
Richard Gibson and Carol Peterkort
Benedict G. Go
Edwin and Donna Gookin
Dan Hane

David Money Harris
Chip and Linda Herzig
Jim and Peggy Hilton
James and Patricia Holly
Scott Jacobsmeyer and Tiina Hameenanttila
Paul and Patty Janke
Richard W. Jones
Barney and Sandy Mann
Eric and Mady Miraglia
Kenneth and Marian Palmer
Judson Parsons and Diana V. Gardener
Fred and Melouise Pfeffer
Sandals and Sheepdog
Angie Williamson and Paul Kawasaki

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

Anonymous (22)
Robin Acock
Ralph and Susan Alcorn
David Anders
Randy Arnold
Tom and Ann Bache
Backcountry Horsemen of Washington –
Tahoma Chapter
Jim Backhus
Backpackers Unlimited
Kevin M. Bacon
Thomas A. Banks
Luann and Dana Basque
Dick Baumgartner and Liz Salzer
Dave “Lightened Up” Bewley
Michael P. Biggs
John Blevins
Eryn Boone
Breeders of World Champion Halter Horses
AQHA, APHc, APHA
Dale R. Call
Roger Carpenter and Cindy Kleinegger
Helen Choi
Nancy and Larry Church
Roberta M. Cobb
Christopher and Wendy Cole
Ed Cole
JoAnn and Phillip Coleman
Robin and Jim Conerly
Lon “Halfmile” Cooper
David G. Covell, M.D. and Anne E. Covell
Jeremy Cowperthwaite
Brendan Dahl
William Dahnke and Ann Tiffany-Dahnke
Tom DeMund
Diana Dressler
Michael and Terry Duncan
Kazumi and Lee Duran

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Carl and Jan Siechert
Y Smith
Paul Sowden
Robert Stein
Cheryl Strayed and Brian Lindstrom
The Thalhammer Family
Tony Tibban
Glen Van Peski
Jocelyn Vick
Jeff Walden
Don Wellmann and Lynn Yamaoka
Welter Rail Hobby Supply
Eric Weinmann
Linda K. Williams
Jack and Nancy Wires
Jack and Shirlie Yates

FOUNDATIONS

American Leadership Forum
Butte Creek Foundation
California Alpine Club Foundation
The Conservation Alliance
Discover Your Northwest
Gwladys and John Zurlo Charitable Foundation
Harry and Yvonne Lenart Charitable Foundation
The Hyde Family Foundation
The International Humanitarian Fund
William A. Kerr Foundation
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Social Ventures Partners - Portland

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Forester Pass: \$50,000+

Eagles Nest Outfitters Inc.

High Sierra: \$15,000-\$49,999

Hydro Flask
REI - Corporate Headquarters
Sierra Trading Post

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

Harney & Sons Tea Corp.
LEKI USA Inc.
Mom’s Pie House
Osprey Packs Inc.
Six Moon Designs
Skout Organics
Vasque
Zeroqram

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

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Tarptent, Inc.
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Ursack
WaterChef

Mojave Desert: In-Kind Goods or Services \$1,000 or Greater

Backcountry Horsemen of California –
Antelope Valley Unit
Backpacker Magazine
Boreas Gear, Inc.
The Cedar House Sport Hotel
Emerald Expositions, Inc.
Google
Gray Feather Photography
Marmot
Montbell
New Seasons Market
Only The Essential
Patagonia
University of Idaho Foundation, Inc.

LEGACY SOCIETY

Many thanks to our Legacy Society members who have notified PCTA that they have included our organization in their estate plans. You are ensuring the future of the trail!

Anonymous (8)
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
Eunice Hornsby
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 Levett
Gordie and Lynn Mac Dermott
Michael Mallory
Barney Scout Mann
and Sandy “Frodo” Mann
Chris McMullan
Dave and Debbie McNeil
Don and June Mulford
James A. Nee
Donald A. Oltmans
Deborah and Wes Pelham
A. Quinn
John Reilly
Richard Sammut
Lexi Shear
Amanda L. Silvestri
Lolly Skillman
Jed L. Staley
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\$250-999

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Fabricated Glass Specialties
Fujitsu Ten Corp of America
Go Guided
H&R Block
Knight Consulting
The Merit Group LLC
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ULA Equipment
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ITH Big Bear Mountain Adventure Lodge – Big Bear Lake, CA
Olallie Lake Rustic Resort – Detroit, OR
Old Station Fill-Up – Old Station, Calif.
Pacific Crest Trail Laundromat – Cascade Locks, Ore.
Silver Maple Inn – Bridgeport, CA
Sky Island Natural Foods – Idyllwild, CA
Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant Center – Truckee, Calif.
Thunder Island Brewing Company – Cascade Locks, OR
Timberline Lodge – Timberline, OR

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Alta Land People, Calif.
American Conservation Experience, National
American Hiking Society, National
Anza-Borrego Foundation, Calif.
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.
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Mojave Desert Land Trust, Calif.
National Civilian Community Corps
AmeriCorps, National
National Forest Foundation, National
National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance, National
Nature Conservancy, National.
Oregon Equestrian Trails, Ore.
Outward Bound, National
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San Diego Ultra Running Friends, Calif.
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Siskiyou Mountain Club, Ore.
Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Calif.
Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Calif.
Trailkeepers of Oregon, Ore.
Truckee Donner Land Trust, Calif.
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Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources, Wash.
Washington Trails Association, Wash.
White Pass Ski Area, Wash.

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Leslie Sabin

Executive Assistant

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Tammy Marsh

Accounting Specialist

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