Letter of Partnership Intent

The Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC), Bureau of Land Management California State Office (BLM), Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) enter into this partnership for the purpose of protecting, preserving, and maintaining the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail for a safe, enjoyable wilderness experience for hikers and equestrians within the State of California.

The partnership will maintain a standing committee. Members of this committee will include:

- PCTA’s Trail Operations Director and Trail Operations Manager,
- USFS PCT Program Manager and agency packer(s),
- Three BCHC members from the north, center and south sections of California related to the Pacific Crest Trail, and the BCHC President or designee, and
- BLM PCT Program Coordinator or National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Program Manager.

A PCTA staff person or designee will be appointed to coordinate and facilitate partnership committee meetings and activities, and to distribute pertinent information to the partnership committee.

The partnership committee shall meet face-to-face at least once annually and may conduct telephone conferences as needed.

The partnership committee will strive for consensus decision making within legal agency parameters when possible.

The roles and responsibilities of the partnership committee are to:

1. Ensure good communication between partners and resolve communication gaps between all involved parties,
2. Ensure coordinated maintenance efforts on the Pacific Crest Trail,
3. Ensure safety, leadership, and skills training and certification are provided to volunteers,
4. Ensure all partners are invited to and included in annual project planning meetings,
5. Attend annual partnership committee meetings,
6. Recognize outstanding volunteer service,
7. Maintain and publish an annual regional partnership directory,
8. Annually review, publish, and distribute partnership documents as needed, including but not limited to:
   a. PCT Trail-wide Volunteer Packer Reimbursement Program,
   b. Stock Job Hazard Analysis,
   c. Partnership Policies,
   d. Summary of Roles and Responsibilities for PCT Projects.
9. Ensure a process for conflict resolution exists and is utilized to resolve conflict.

By signature below, each party certifies that the roles and responsibilities listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this letter. In witness whereof, the parties hereto have executed this letter as of the last date written below.

BCHC/BLM/PCTA/USFS Partnership
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February 4, 2013