



Pacific Crest Trail
Association



Embracing Change

2021 Annual Report



*A ray of sunlight illuminates the clouds over Glacier Peak Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Ryan Weidert.
On the cover: "Doc" at Rock Pass, Washington. Photo by Kevin Scott.*

We've all emerged from the past two years as changed people.

We're embracing that change, and are stronger because of it.

The Covid-19 pandemic continued to reshape how we live, work, and play while climate change and racial inequality emerged as the defining issues of our era.

In 2021, PCTA devoted significant effort to making our organization and the PCT more welcoming to persons from all the diverse communities that seek to experience the wonders of the trail. This effort will continue in 2022 and beyond. And a front-line view of the impacts of climate change made much of our work to preserve and protect the trail more relevant and urgent than ever.

Despite the complexity of confronting these and other issues simultaneously, it has been a year of hope and success. As we transition to new leadership, we are committed to meeting the challenges while continuing to fulfill our mission to protect, preserve, and promote the Pacific Crest Trail.

Thank you for continuing to support the PCTA. Through your donations, volunteer time, and enthusiasm you show us how important the PCT is to you. We're grateful for the chance to do this important work with you and on your behalf.



Liz Bergeron



Kevin Bacon



**Pacific Crest Trail
Association**

Liz Bergeron
Executive Director and CEO

Kevin Bacon
Chair, PCTA Board of Directors



*The PCT in the Mount Jefferson Wilderness, Oregon.
Photo by James Parsons.*

The PCT remains invaluable.

The Pacific Crest Trail is **2,650 miles of spectacular beauty**—a continuous path spanning the heights of the Mountain West across diverse landscapes from **desert to alpine stratovolcanoes to old-growth forest**. Whether for a day or several months, **the PCT is an experience we remember all our lives**.

The trail also spans a diversity of values and benefits: It **brings people together**. It is a source for **healing and rejuvenation**. It **strengthens our minds and bodies** through challenge. It **contributes to local economies**. And it is an important **protected corridor** for animal and plant species between larger “islands” of safe habitat.

We now recognize that **the PCT experience has not always been equal for everyone**, and we’re committed to making it **safer, more inclusive, and hopefully more diverse**. Finally the trail is connected to **climate change solutions**—through greater awareness of **more severe impacts** to the trail and continued efforts to **protect the wild and scenic lands around it**.

We all need the PCT—which is why **we’re grateful for your generous support**.

Your continued support made a big difference in 2021.

Despite ongoing challenges, your support made 2021 a successful year:

- In rapidly-evolving situations, we **helped keep the PCT community safe** with timely, accurate, and coordinated information about the **pandemic** and **wildfires** along the trail.
- A limited number of volunteers still contributed **60,000 hours** of work with **no Covid-19 incidents**.
- We safely relaunched **Trails Skills Colleges** to train volunteers.
- The **Great American Outdoors Act** resulted in over **\$4 million** for deferred PCT maintenance in California.
- **9 new staff positions** were added to the PCTA, increasing the capacity of all our programs.
- We implemented a **new database** and **volunteer management portal (PCTAConnect)**, further increasing our capacity.



PCTA volunteers at work. Photo by Michelle DiMeglio.

2021 Highlights



Lindsey Steinwachs, PCT Administrator. Photo courtesy of the USFS.

Welcome to New USFS PCT Administrator Lindsey Steinwachs

The USDA Forest Service announced in 2021 that Lindsey Steinwachs was selected as the **new Pacific Crest Trail Administrator**. Lindsey replaced **Beth Boyst**, who retired after a long and successful career in the Forest Service.

Previously, Lindsey worked on the Descanso Ranger District of **Southern California's Cleveland National Forest**, where she managed a robust program that included **overseeing the PCT from the Southern Terminus north to Scissors Crossing**.

"The Pacific Crest Trail is a national gem that provides us an opportunity to build a deeper connection with ourselves, nature, and community," Lindsey says.

"As environmental and social pressures build along on the PCT, I am dedicated to upholding the trail's core values and relationships so the trail can continue to bring awe and wonder for future generations."

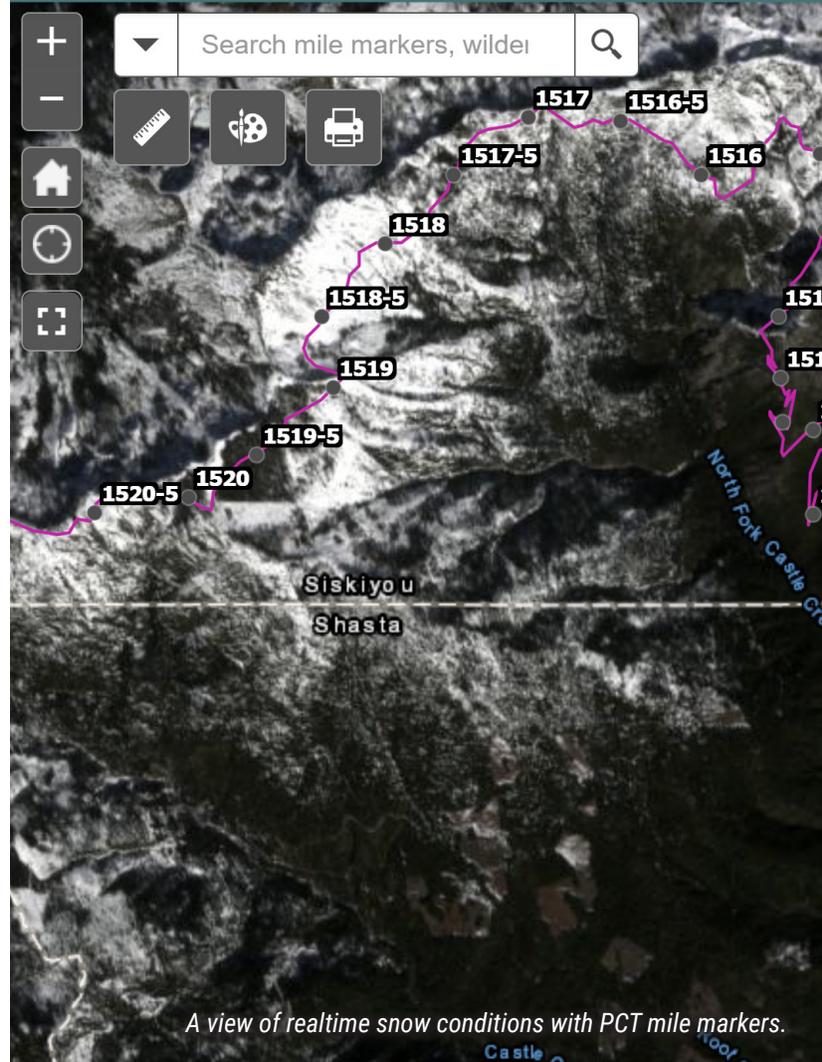
A New Digital View of the Pacific Crest Trail

Digital maps have become popular when looking for a trail to hike, driving to a trailhead, or navigating the backcountry with GPS-enabled mapping apps.

In 2021 we introduced the **PCTA Interactive Map** which features **more than 30 selectable layers** that display a wide range of information related to **climate, wildfire, land management, air quality, Indigenous territories** and more—in an easy-to-use map platform that can be loaded in any web browser on desktop or mobile.

The new map makes detailed trail information **available to more people everywhere**, and helps PCTA staff, volunteers, and the PCT community **communicate more effectively** about the trail and its relationship to land management, weather, climate, and more.

To view the new map, go to pcta.org/maps on your computer, tablet or smartphone.



A view of realtime snow conditions with PCT mile markers.

A Second Year of Safely Navigating the Pandemic



*PCTA volunteers maintain social distance at a campsite in Washington's North Cascades.
Photo by Michael DeCramer.*

2021 Highlights

As the **Covid-19 pandemic** continued, 2021 was a year of **cautious reengagement**. PCTA volunteers were eager to get back on the trail to address the **backlog of maintenance from 2020**, when volunteer work was suspended for much of the year.

Strict **Covid-19 safety protocols** were developed for volunteer crews—and were successful, as **no incidences of Covid-19 infection** were reported for the year among PCTA crews. Most PCTA staff continued to work remotely throughout the year.

As the virus evolved into the **more infectious Delta variant**, PCTA balanced the needs of staff, volunteers and the trail community with health and safety.

Covid-19 guidance for the PCT was posted on the PCTA website and frequently updated according to the latest federal and state guidelines.



*A masked thru-hiker on the PCT in 2021.
Photo by Nok Yan Joshua Leung.*

2021 Highlights



*Smoke from the Dixie Fire in Lassen Volcanic National Park, California.
Photo by the National Park Service.*

During the last two years, **wildfires** have reshaped Western landscapes with **increased frequency and intensity**. They are **curtailing and preventing people's enjoyment of the PCT** and public lands, dampening the already seasonal economies of trail towns and **increasing the maintenance backlog** on the trail

In California and Oregon, **532 miles of the PCT were closed because of fires in 2020 and 2021**—and **194 trail miles were within burned areas** and may require years to repair. Fire is normally a natural and healthy force. But the **warming climate** has caused an **extended drought**, damaging once-healthy forests until they are more prone to burn, increasingly leading to **catastrophic megafires**.

In 2021 (as in 2020) the PCTA worked in close collaboration with land management agencies throughout the ever-lengthening fire season to **keep the trail community updated on complex and rapidly-changing closure orders along the PCT**.

Another Year of Devastating Wildfires



The BLM-Nevada's Ruby Mountain Hotshot Crew battles the Dixie Fire in Northern California. Photo by the Bureau of Land Management.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



The PCTA's mission is focused on ensuring the PCT remains **welcoming and accessible to all people now and in the future**. Centering our work in the values of **diversity, equity, and inclusion** improves our ability to meet this mission and strengthens the PCTA's work. **We wholeheartedly invite everyone** to enjoy the PCT and engage in the work of the PCTA. **We are stronger when we work together.**

In 2021 we continued the journey to **transform our internal culture and external programs** to better support the PCT, all of its users, and our mission. We **value diversity** and spent 2021 learning and strategizing how to **transform the PCT into a place of belonging**.

At left: the Unity Blaze is a symbol created by Black Folks Camp Too—a nonprofit whose mission is to increase diversity in the outdoor industry. The Unity Blaze is a symbol with a powerful message: **Treat Everyone, Everywhere, Equally.**

Crystal Gail Welcome's "Footprints For Change"

In 2021, the PCTA sponsored Crystal Gail Welcome's **"Footprints for Change Hike for Justice"** on the PCT portion of the Great Western Loop.

Crystal shared her experience to encourage members of the PCT community to become **more aware and more mindful of ourselves**. She also writes eloquently about the space that nature allows for meaningful connections between people.

Crystal's writing was featured in the *PCT Communicator* magazine and a series of PCTA blog posts throughout her hike.

In 2022, Crystal is **continuing her hike on the PCT** after completing the Arizona Trail—and we look forward to publishing more of her stories about connection.



Crystal Gail Welcome



Salesforce Database and New Volunteer Portal

Over the past few years the PCTA worked on a major **technology upgrade** to help meet the growing needs of both the trail and PCTA community. In spring 2021 we launched a **custom Salesforce-based database** for PCTA staff and an **online volunteer portal** called **PCTAConnect**.

PCTAConnect brings together **management for trail maintenance projects, volunteer project registrations, volunteer profiles, and agency partner information** in one central, cloud-based system.

The updated technology supports the **continued growth of volunteer programs** and keeps agency partners more closely connected to the plans and efforts of PCTA volunteers.

PCTAConnect

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*A volunteer works on the PCT's tread in Washington.
Photo by Bri Leahy.*

Improving the PCT Experience

Preserving Habitat for Endangered Species

One of the PCTA's priorities is to **protect the landscapes that make the PCT experience possible**. In 2020, the **Tahoe National Forest** informed PCTA that the PCT traveled through federally-designated critical habitat of a population of the **endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog**.

To protect the frogs and their habitat, the PCTA collaborated with the **California Department of Fish and Wildlife** and the Forest to **move the trail away from the sensitive area**.

The work spanned a two-year period and included a **footbridge** that was built off-site to protect the habitat. PCTA and the Forest developed an **interpretive kiosk**, and in 2021 the bridge and reroute were completed with support from the **American Conservation Experience (ACE)**, an AmeriCorps program and major PCTA trail maintenance partner.



The endangered Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog, whose habitat was protected by rerouting a section of the PCT in California.

Improving the PCT Experience



2021 Volunteer Accomplishments

55,167

hours of
volunteer trail
maintenance or
reconstruction

1,170

miles of the
PCT maintained

\$1.6 million

in-kind value
of volunteer hours

391 volunteers attended

35 training events

Blasting Pieces of a Mountain from the Trail

In an **extraordinary collaborative effort**, the PCTA worked in Southern California with the **San Bernardino National Forest**, the **Redshank Riders Backcountry Horsemen of California Unit**, a certified blaster from the **Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit**, and the **American Conservation Experience (ACE)** to blast away enormous boulders blocking an iconic section of the trail in the **San Jacinto Wilderness**.

The remote wilderness location required **horse and mule packers** to **haul gear and explosives** five miles, where it was then carried by hand another four miles to the work site.



ABOVE: Huge boulders blocking the PCT in California's San Jacinto Wilderness, and LEFT: the ACE crew on the cleared and reconstructed trail.

Alexa Shapiro

“During my time on the Pacific Crest Trail, I learned so much about myself and the world around me. I was filled with gratitude for the immense kindness and generosity of the trail community—a rare breed of people who look out for one another because of a shared love of the outdoors. I learned how to be unconditionally supporting and encouraging of those around me, a lesson I’ve carried with me ever since.”

Alexa founded the Winona Outdoor Collaborative in Minnesota, a nonprofit that reduces barriers to accessing the outdoors through inclusive, educational, collaborative programming and services.





Crystal Gail Welcome

“What we all desire is meaningful connection. Nature allows space for that, so while I’ll never stop being Black, disabled, or a lesbian, it’s vital that I recognize that above all, I’m human. We want to be seen and accepted for our authentic selves—all of us. I’m going into ‘22 with connection as the heart of my mission. I want to connect with others, connect others with Nature, and allow Nature to do what she does: connect us all.

Crystal is an experiential educator specializing in healing adventures and restorative narratives as forms of healing. She is also an author, storyteller, activist, backpacker, and Black outdoor leader.

Jeffrey Derus

“The PCT has always been a point of inspiration and joy for me. While composing a concert work it felt like I was rediscovering the physical and emotional landscape of the trail all over again. From Campo, California to Manning Park, British Columbia, the trail takes you on a path of self-discovery and self-healing while being completely immersed in the beauty of nature. FROM WILDERNESS is my attempt to capture that journey.”

Jeff is a composer, educator and singer, and a founder of the Choral Arts Initiative. His “From Wilderness” is a concert-length work and meditation on the transformative experience of traveling the PCT.





Dianne Daley Laursen

“We give to ensure enduring quality experiences for all who will trek the PCT in the future. We cherish that our children share our deep and abiding love for our national recreation resources. My cultural heritage believes the decisions made today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future, thus we are planning a legacy gift to the PCTA.”

Dianne is Secretary of the PCTA’s Board of Directors. A member of the Chickasaw Nation, she had a 22-year career in natural resources, including time with the USDA Forest Service.

Visit pcta.planmygift.org to learn more about how you can leave a legacy gift to the PCT.



2,650 miles
84 tribes and tribal organizations
48 wilderness areas
25 national forests
16 wild and scenic rivers
9 ecoregions
7 BLM units
6 national parks
5 state parks
5 national monuments
2 Native American sovereignties

Looking north along the PCT from Rock Pass, Washington. Photo by Andy Porter.



One trail.

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**Pacific Crest Trail
Association**



*The PCT in Southern California's Laguna Mountains.
Photo by Stephanie Seitz.*

Financials

Without Donor Restrictions	2021	2020
Revenue and Support		
Private Sources*	\$ 3,873,000	\$ 3,011,600
Government Grants	\$ 1,700,097	\$ 818,215
Total Revenue and Support**	\$ 5,573,097	\$ 3,829,815
Expenses		
Trail Operations	\$ 2,223,883	\$ 1,197,818
Land Protection	\$ 223,614	\$ 305,371
Public Information and Education	\$ 913,252	\$ 858,087
Fundraising	\$ 919,561	\$ 706,644
Management and General	\$ 410,959	\$ 479,222
Total Expenses	\$ 4,691,269	\$ 3,547,142
Surplus (Deficit) Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 881,828	\$ 282,673
With Donor Restrictions		
Individual Contributions	\$ 477,347	\$ 728,024
Investment Income (Loss)	\$ 196,221	\$ 202,200
Net Assets Released from Restriction	\$ (960,804)	\$ (738,420)
Surplus (Deficit) With Donor Restrictions**	\$ (287,236)	\$ 191,804
Total Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 594,592	\$ 474,477
Net Assets (Beginning of Year)	\$ 4,787,694	\$ 4,313,217
Net Assets (End of Year)	\$ 5,382,286	\$ 4,787,694

Total Revenue & Support
2021 **2020**
\$5,285,861** **\$4,021,619**

Total Expenses
2021 **2020**
\$4,691,269 **\$3,547,142**

Total Surplus (Deficit)
2021 **2020**
\$ 594,592 **\$ 474,477**

*Private Sources include memberships, donations, other revenue, and in-kind donations.

Total Revenue and Support Amount above is the sum of **Total Revenue and Support - Without Donor Restrictions and Surplus (Deficit) With Donor Restrictions.

The 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 2021 financial statements were audited by Gilbert Associates, Inc. of Sacramento, CA. In the opinion of the auditor, the PCTA's 2021 financial statements fairly present the financial position of the PCTA in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For more information or copies of the 2021 audited financials, visit www.pcta.org/financials.

Business and Foundation Supporters

Thank you to all the extraordinary businesses and foundations who not only set an example for others who wish to support our work, but play a crucial role in helping to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest Trail.

Corporations and Businesses

Forester Pass (\$50,000+)

Eagles Nest Outfitters

High Sierra (\$15,000 - \$49,999)

Hydro Flask

Mom's Pie House

REI

Tuolumne Meadows

(\$5,000 - \$14,999)

Harney & Sons Tea

HIKE For Mental Health

National Geographic

North Drinkware

Zpacks, LLC

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

Backcountry Press

BearVault

Buff

Darn Tough

Del Rio Vineyard Estate
Dru Bru Taproom & Brewery
Go Beyond Racking, LLC
Inviting Light Photography
M C Enterprises
Next Mile Meals
Outdoor Viewfinder
Powers Inc.
Rumpl
Seek Dry Goods
Tarpent, Inc.
The Trek
Wilderness Press
Yellow Blaze Transit

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

Mount Baker - Snoqualmie
National Forest

Business Members (\$250 - \$999)

Adventure Maps, Inc.
Backcountry Foodie
Coyote Matters
Good Deeds Mortgage
High 5 Cannabis
Johnson Braund, Inc.
Juniper Ridge

Plaza Super Jet
Point6
Tahoe Oral Surgery and Implant Center
Woodshop Creations

Trailside Business Members (\$250 - \$999)

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Thunder Island Brewing Co
Triple Crown Coffee

Foundations

Courtney Knight Gaines Foundation
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Namaste Foundation
The Hyde Family Foundation
William A. Kerr Foundation

The PCTA Legacy Society

The PCTA Legacy Society honors donors who have designated contributions to the PCTA in their estate plans.

An asterisk () signifies a deceased donor.*

Anonymous (21)
David and Joan Allen
Patty A. Andersen
Jonathan Arp
William Ballenger
Bruce Bates
Burton and Susan Bates
Jane and Jay Baxter
Stace E. Beaulieu
David Beaver and Harry Trines
Chris and Jason Benz
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Ron Vaughn, PCT Class of 1998,
1999 and 2001

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Peter J. Wascher

C. S. Whitney*

Michele and Matt Wier

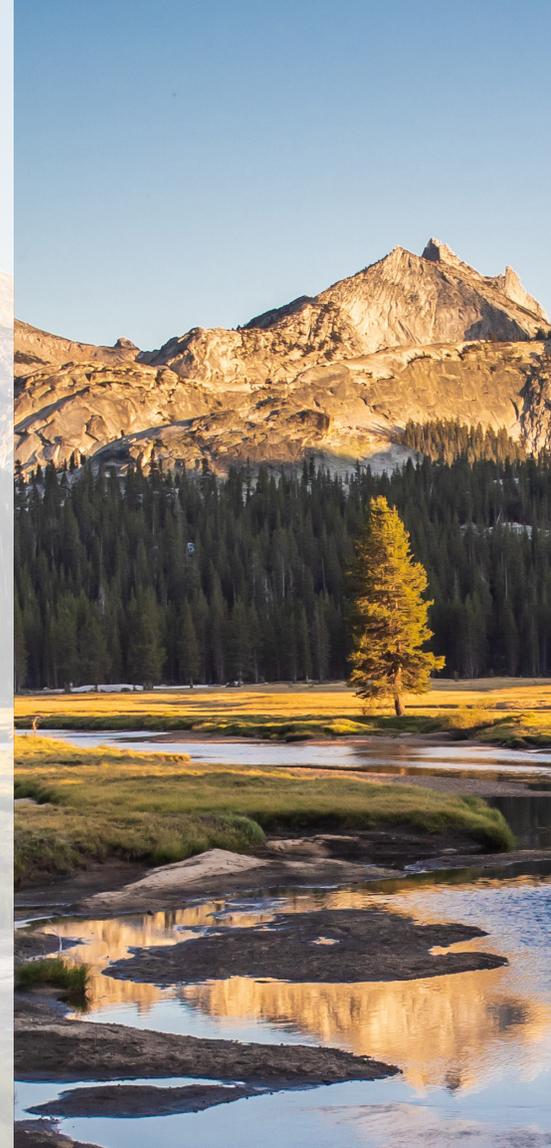
Mace Winter

Dr. Cynthia and Curt Wrinkle

Alan Young

Janet "Smudge" Zaleski

Judith Zineski*





Tuolumne Meadows in Yosemite National Park, California. Photo by Stephanie Seitz.

PCTA Staff

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Liz Bergeron, Executive Director and CEO

Teresa Raichart, Chief Financial and
Administrative Officer

Leslie Sabin, Executive Assistant

TRAIL OPERATIONS

Jennifer Tripp, Director of Trail Operations

Justin Kooyman, Associate Director of
Trail Operations

Jack Haskel, Trail Information Manager

Cassidy Barkalow, Trail Information
Assistant

Ellen Ginda, Volunteer Programs Manager

Hazel Platt, Volunteer Engagement
Associate

Landon Coates Welsh, Volunteer
Training Coordinator

Michael DeCramer, North Cascades
Regional Representative

Jeanine Russell, Columbia Cascades
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Ian Nelson, Northern California/
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Connor Swift, Northern Sierra
Regional Representative

Ben Barry, Southern Sierra
Regional Representative

Anitra Kass, Southern California
Regional Representative

Galen Keily, GIS Specialist

Matt Rump, Regional Trail Stewardship
Coordinator for Northern Sierra

Michelle DiMeglio, Regional Trail
Stewardship Coordinator for
Southern Sierra

Michelle Daneri, Regional Trail Stewardship
Coordinator for Southern California

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Shari Hansen, Associate Director of
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Mark Waters, Associate Director of
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Jen Havener, Philanthropy Manager

Uriel Reynoso, Philanthropy Assistant

Katherine Eason, Philanthropy Clerk

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Daniel Carmin, Communicator Magazine
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Ryan Brizendine, Systems Administrator
and Web Developer

Tammy Marsh, Accounting Manager

Gaby Guerera, Salesforce Database
Administrator

Arian Kitto, Staff Accountant

Sheila Garcia, HR Generalist

57,643

volunteer and corps crew
service hours

15,400

PCTA members

\$2.8 million
in private contributions

3.6 million
unique website visits



Pacific Crest Trail
Association



2021 Numbers

Sunset view from Cowhorn Mountain, Oregon. Photo by James Parsons.

BG admiring the view near Soledad Canyon, California. Photo by Gary Pegg.

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.



Pacific Crest Trail Association

PCTA's Agency Partners



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