



2022 Year-End Program Review





Pacific Crest Trail Association

Along the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail, 2022 was another great year of accomplishments for the Pacific Crest Trail Association and its partners.

Accomplishments focused on:

- 1. Improving our workforce and work environment**
- 2. Committing to diversity, equity, and inclusion**
- 3. Delivering benefits to the public**
- 4. Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partnership and volunteerism**
- 5. Sustaining our nation's forests and grasslands working environment**
- 6. Combating climate change to support America's working lands, natural resources and communities**



1 Improving Our Workforce and Work Environment

Taking care of the 2,650-mile Pacific Crest Trail requires an engaged, diverse, and resilient network of agency partners and volunteers. The PCTA works with multiple agency partners—most closely with the Forest Service, the lead administering agency for the PCT. Through its staff and dedicated volunteer base, the PCTA has built long-term relationships with agency staff who are committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting the PCT.

The PCTA's professional Trail Operations staff oversees protection, management, maintenance and visitor use of the PCT. They build and maintain strong partnerships and a skilled volunteer base for the Trail.

- **Director of Trail Operations**
- **Two Associate Directors**
- **Six Regional Representatives**
- **Three Regional Trail Stewardship Coordinators**
- **Two Volunteer Programs Staff**
- **GIS Specialist**



PCTA's Columbia Cascades Regional Representative Jeanine Russell (far left) with a volunteer crew working to restore the PCT in Oregon's Lionshead Fire Closure near Mount Jefferson. Photo by PCTA.

Trail Skills Colleges *Recruiting and Educating Volunteers*

One way the PCTA supports the unique work of managing a National Scenic Trail is by effectively recruiting, training, and engaging volunteers to do safe and quality work. Taught by staff, agency partners and volunteer leaders with extensive experience in trail maintenance and leadership, PCTA's free Trail Skills Colleges train volunteers in the fundamentals of trail design and maintenance.

In 2022:
7 Trail Skills College weekends

80 classes
647 participants

33% of attendees were first-time volunteers
23% of first-time volunteers joined a PCTA project later that year
667 hours contributed by first-time volunteers



EDUCATION



Volunteers at a PCTA Trail Skills College class.



Comments from Volunteers at Trail Skills College

"I really loved all of it. I loved the pacing and the positivity. I loved that I felt like I was making a difference. I loved learning about brushwork and treadwork. I loved the lunch spots. Nathan and Josh (instructors) were great. I loved having down time and camping when we weren't college-ing."

"Most enjoyable was learning the 'behind the scenes' of how the PCTA works with other agencies. Then, meeting hikers who love the PCT and want to give back."

2022
Trail Accomplishments

65,769

hours of volunteer
trail maintenance
or reconstruction

1,106

Miles of Trail
Maintained



\$ 2.0
million

In-Kind Value
of Volunteer Hours



2 Committing to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The PCTA believes everyone deserves the opportunity to enjoy time outdoors—and have access to the PCT and feel welcomed in our trail community. We acknowledge systemic racism and other social injustices and their impact on the PCT community. We are doing the work of evaluating and understanding what we can do to change the systems within our organization and address these injustices.

PCTA's efforts mirror those of the USDA's Equity Action Plan to "create new norms, practices, structures, and an organizational culture that consistently and systematically places equity at the center of program design, implementation, and evaluation." We welcome diversity and aim to be an accessible and inclusive community that honors and respects the various ways people connect with the PCT.

2022 Highlights

LGBTQ+ Affinity Trail Crew Project

In September, a four-day project was organized near Harts Pass, Washington. An affinity event for LGBTQ+ identified volunteers, the project was led by queer and non-binary PCTA staff with a focus on a safe project for individuals with underrepresented gender or sexual identities.

LGBTQ+ Cultural Humility Training for PCTA Staff

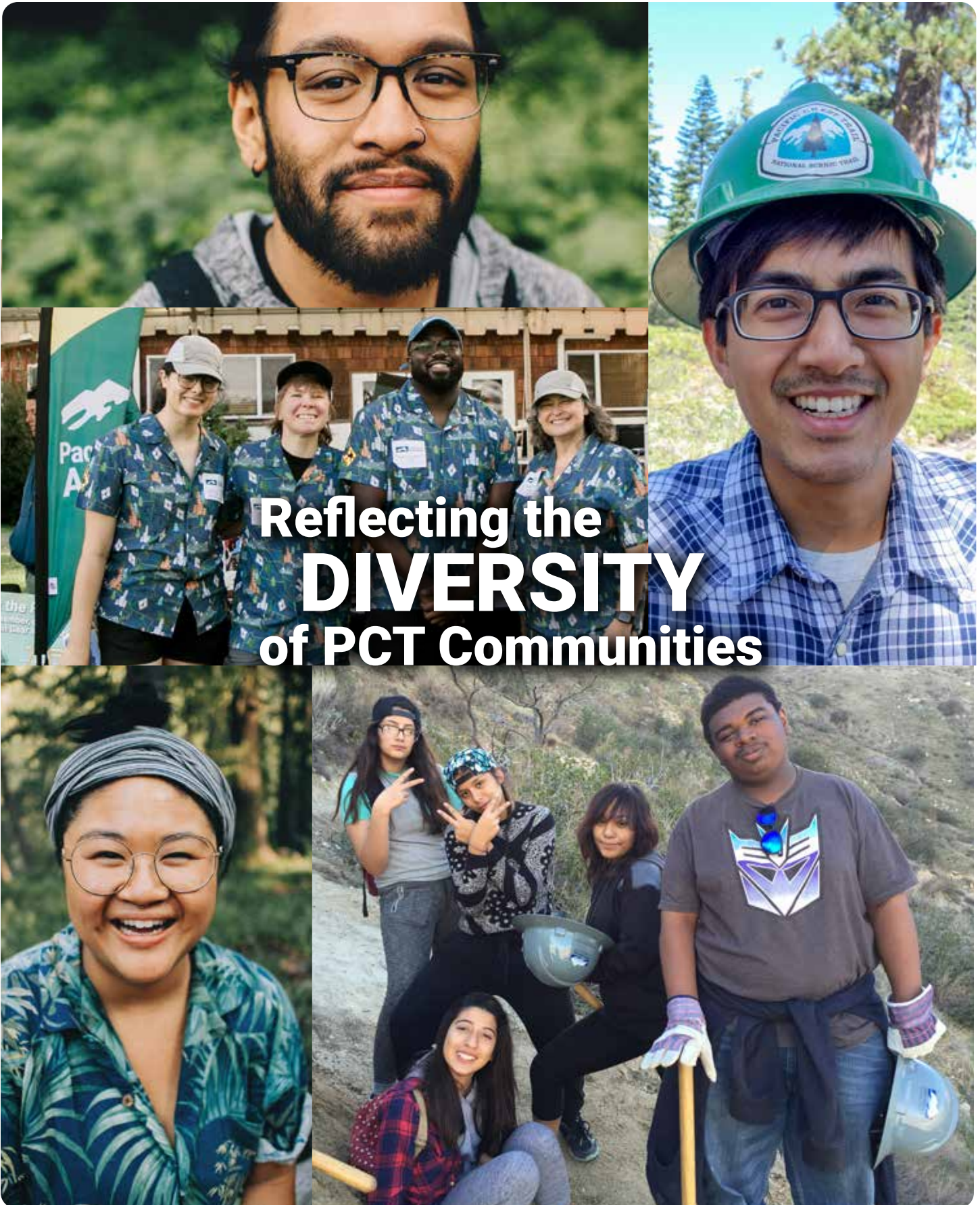
A special training event focusing on gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation. Other topics included gender pronouns and avoiding gender-based expressions or expressions that reinforce gender stereotypes.

Diverse Hires for PCTA Staff

Through a partnership with The Bridge Project, PCTA made multiple diverse hires to full-time staff positions. The Bridge Project is an innovative public-private partnership and equitable hiring pathway for the environmental sector focused on people of color and underrepresented communities.

New Diverse Board Member Cohort Welcomed

PCTA welcomed a cohort of five new members to its board of directors comprised of talented and passionate leaders from a variety of backgrounds. The cohort marked a unique first for PCTA's board—each new director is a person of color. Some new board members were found through a partnership with Latinos LEAD, an organization promoting more inclusive and effective civil society organizations by preparing and recruiting Latinos for nonprofit board leadership.



3 Delivering Benefits to the Public

The PCTA serves as the primary resource and customer service representative for PCT information, connecting people from around the world with one of the iconic recreation opportunities in the United States. We do this through many information channels.

Trail Information Program Assisting agency partners with messaging

- Staffed by a **Trail Information Manager** and **Trail Information Assistant** working in conjunction with **Director of Communications** and **Content Development Director**.
- Provides **timely direct assistance** to tens of thousands of people a year via **phone, email, social media and in person**.
- Assists our land management partners with a **single contact for trailwide customer service inquiries**.
- **Collaborates** on messaging, priorities, and best practices with agency partners along the PCT.
- **Assists Forest Service** by issuing **interagency permits** for trips of 500 miles or more.
- Shares **Safe and Responsible Use** information with trail users.
- Helps manage **PCT Trailhead Host** and **Crest Runner** programs.
- Rapidly shares **crucial land-use regulations** and **emergency information**, from fire closures to landslides.



Southern
Terminus
Posters



Communications Channels

Reaching people around the world with PCT information

PCTA Website

1,408,199
website visits

PCTA Social Media

298,000
followers

PCTA YouTube Channel

25,368 views
since 2020

Trail Dirt E-Newsletter

75,000
monthly recipients
in the US, Canada, and Internationally

PCTA Volunteer E-Newsletter

10,000
monthly recipients
in the US and Canada

PCT Communicator Magazine

50,100
distributed

PCTA Blog

1,790
pageviews per month

CREST RUNNERS

Reducing Visitor Impacts Near the
Southern Terminus of the PCT

Two Crest Runners roved
the southern 109 miles of
the PCT during peak season.



U.S.-Mexico
Border



MAR



APR



MAY



Warner
Springs, CA



The Crest Runners made contact with **1,548** hikers.
1,322 were long-distance hikers; **86** were
section hikers, and **140** were day hikers.

Day Section Long-Distance



In discussion with trail users,
the Crest Runners focused on the topics of:
Past Trail Use/Interpretation • Leave No Trace
Animals and Plants • Fire Safety and Campfires
Proper Waste Disposal • Dry Camping

They performed campsite inventory
assessments at five campsite locations
to monitor visitor use impacts
throughout the high use season.





4 Promoting Shared Stewardship by Increasing Partnership and Volunteerism

Each year the PCTA brings together agency partners and volunteers with shared values and serves as a liaison between people and our public lands. Volunteers and corps crew members perform the hard, physical labor of annual maintenance on the PCT, giving others the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the wilderness while traveling on a safe, passable trail.



The PCTA also partners with volunteer-minded nonprofits and community groups along the Trail. Many of these organizations provide local volunteer trail maintenance opportunities, group hikes and youth education.

2022 Partner Hours Contributions

8,250

Student Conservation Association

6,588

Washington Trails Association

2,237

Tahoe Rim Trail Association

10,018

American Conservation Experience

2,140

Washington Conservation Corps

585

William S. Hart Union High School

Total Partner Hours: 29,233



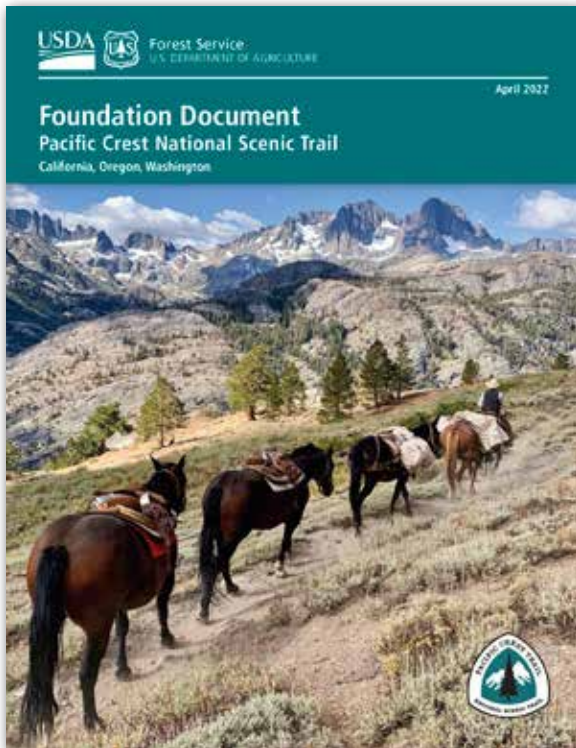
Volunteers

A driving
force
behind the
PCT



5 Sustaining Our Nation's Forests and Grasslands Working Environment

The PCTA strives to ensure a quality wild and scenic recreational experience for PCT users. Each year rough estimates suggest more than a million people experience the PCT, and this level of use impacts the Trail. Floods, fires, deep snowpack and erosion from torrential rains can make the Trail unsafe and impassable—and cause ecological damage. Proposed projects like timber thinning, energy development, and incompatible use are a constant potential impact to not only the trail tread, corridor and view shed but to the entire PCT experience.



The PCT Foundation Document *A Guide for the Trail's Future*

In 2022, the Forest Service—in collaboration with other land management agencies, PCTA, and community members—published the PCT Foundation Document to provide a common understanding of the Trail's legislative and history, legal policy and requirements, and its resources, values, and history. The document serves as a starting point for agency planners when working on projects that will affect the PCT.

The Nature and Purposes Statement (below) for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the PCT, and these concepts are further articulated in the Foundation Document's Significance and Fundamental Resources and Values statements as well as Interpretive Themes.

*"We look forward to using the **Foundation Document** as a guiding compass by which staff, partners, and the public will become acquainted with the core mission of the PCT and understand how to better protect the unique experiences and spectacular landscapes the Trail provides now and for future generations."*

*- Jennifer Eberlien
USDA Forest Service
Regional Forester
Pacific Southwest Region*

The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail is a continuous path along the spectacularly scenic crest of the Pacific mountain ranges between Mexico and Canada. The Pacific Crest Trail connects people to world-renowned desert, alpine, volcanic, and forested landscapes, and favors lands that appear wild and free from development. All people can find a sense of awe, personal challenge, and a respite from mechanized society on the PCT. Whether experienced in a day's outing, a season, or over the course of a lifetime, the Trail provides unparalleled year-round opportunities to journey on foot or horseback through remote and rugged terrain. Through art, stories, recreation, or volunteerism, the Trail inspires transformative and lifelong connections with its land, people, and communities. Collaborative management ensures the Trail is preserved for the conservation, public use, enjoyment, and appreciation of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural quality of the areas through which the Trail passes.



Great American Outdoors Act

The 2020 Great American Outdoors Act is shaping up to be a game changer for the PCT and public lands across the country.

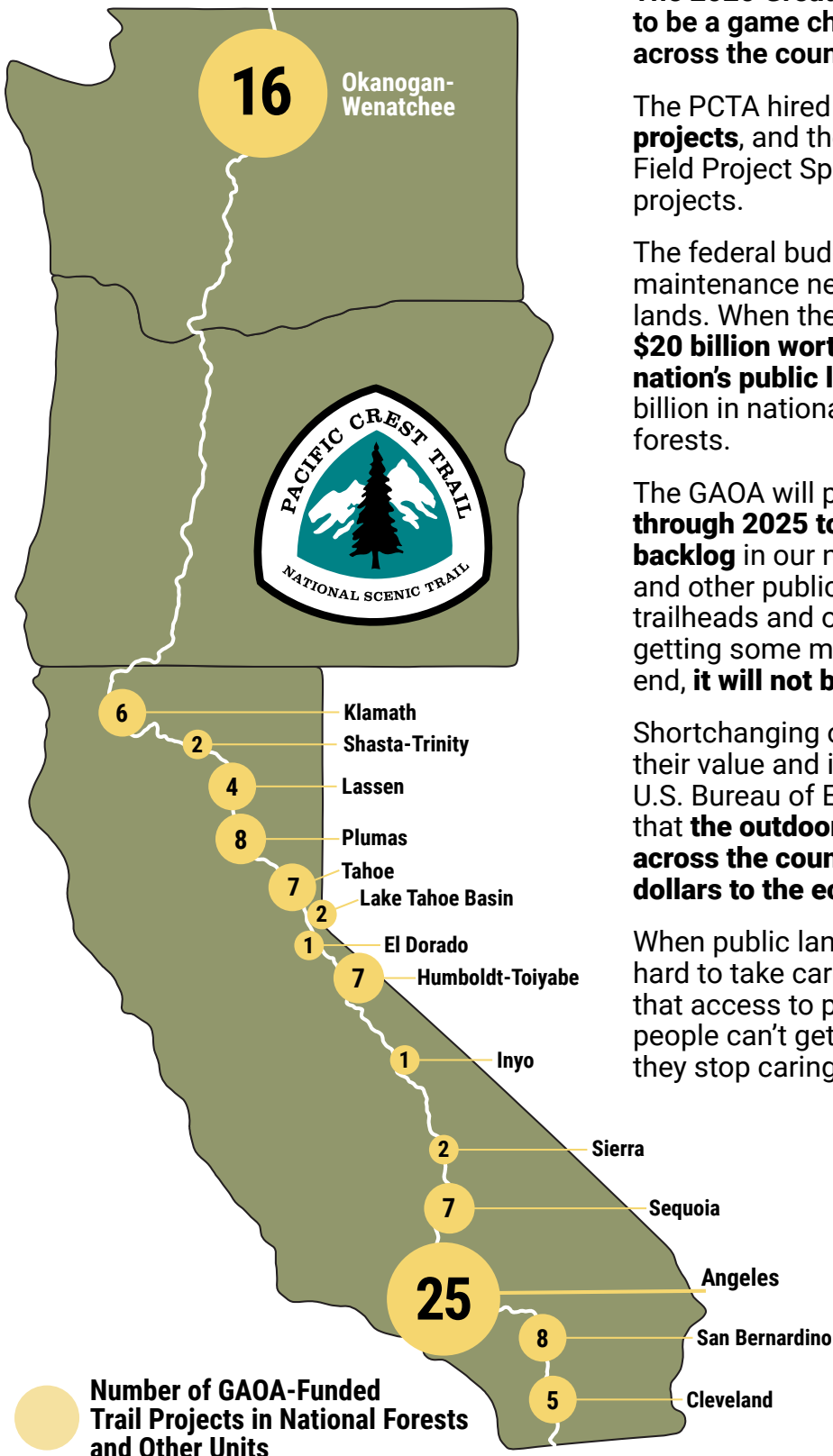
The PCTA hired **4 full-time staff to support GAOA projects**, and the GAOA partially funded the hiring of 4 Field Project Specialists to manage PCT maintenance projects.

The federal budget has not kept pace with the maintenance needs and increasing use of our public lands. When the GAOA was passed, there was about **\$20 billion worth of deferred maintenance on the nation's public lands and waterways**, including \$11.9 billion in national parks and \$5.2 billion in national forests.

The GAOA will provide just over **\$9 billion during through 2025 to address this huge maintenance backlog** in our national parks, forests, monuments and other public lands. Roads, trails, bridges, trailheads and other facilities in disrepair are finally getting some much-needed attention, though in the end, **it will not be enough**.

Shortchanging our public lands is shortsighted given their value and impact on the national economy. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis recently stated that **the outdoors industry supports 4.5 million jobs across the country and contributes nearly a trillion dollars to the economy**.

When public lands go unfunded or underfunded, it's hard to take care of them. Deteriorating roads means that access to public lands is diminished. When people can't get to the places they want to recreate, they stop caring for them.



Funding Impact of GAOA Projects on the PCT

CALIFORNIA

Volunteer Hours: 15,227
Value: \$456,048

WASHINGTON

Volunteer Hours: 5,248
Value: \$157,200

Trail Miles Maintained: 182
Trail Miles Reconstructed: 15



Monitoring & Responding to an Array of Potential Impacts

Every year, the PCTA closely monitors—and when necessary, responds to—a wide range of agency plans and issues that could threaten the Trail's wild and scenic experience. The items shown here highlight the challenges of protecting the trail experience across three states and numerous land management units.

Agency Plan Types

Forest Plans
National Monuments
Oversnow Travel
Management
Park Plans

Resource Management
Trail System Management
Travel Management
Visitor Use Management
Wilderness Stewardship

Plans PCTA Engaged on in 2022

Lake Tahoe Basin Over Snow Vehicle
Lassen National Forest Over Snow Vehicle
North Cascades National Park Wilderness Stewardship
Pacific Northwest Comprehensive Management
Placer County Mines to Pines Trail
Placer County Parks and Trails Master
Plumas National Forest Over Snow Vehicle
Sequoia National Forest
Sequoia National Forest Travel Management
Sierra National Forest

Management Project Types

Illegal and Incompatible

Uses: grazing, ski resort expansion, commercial and competitive events, housing developments, illegal motorized and mechanized use

Infrastructure Develop

and Enhancement: bridge installations, trail network expansions, water pipelines, transportation expansion and enhancements

Resource Development:

wind and solar, pipelines, energy lines, dam reauthorization

Vegetation Management:

timber harvesting, fuels reduction, reforestation, invasive plant eradication, watershed, meadow, and fire restoration

Other: public land transfers, endangered species

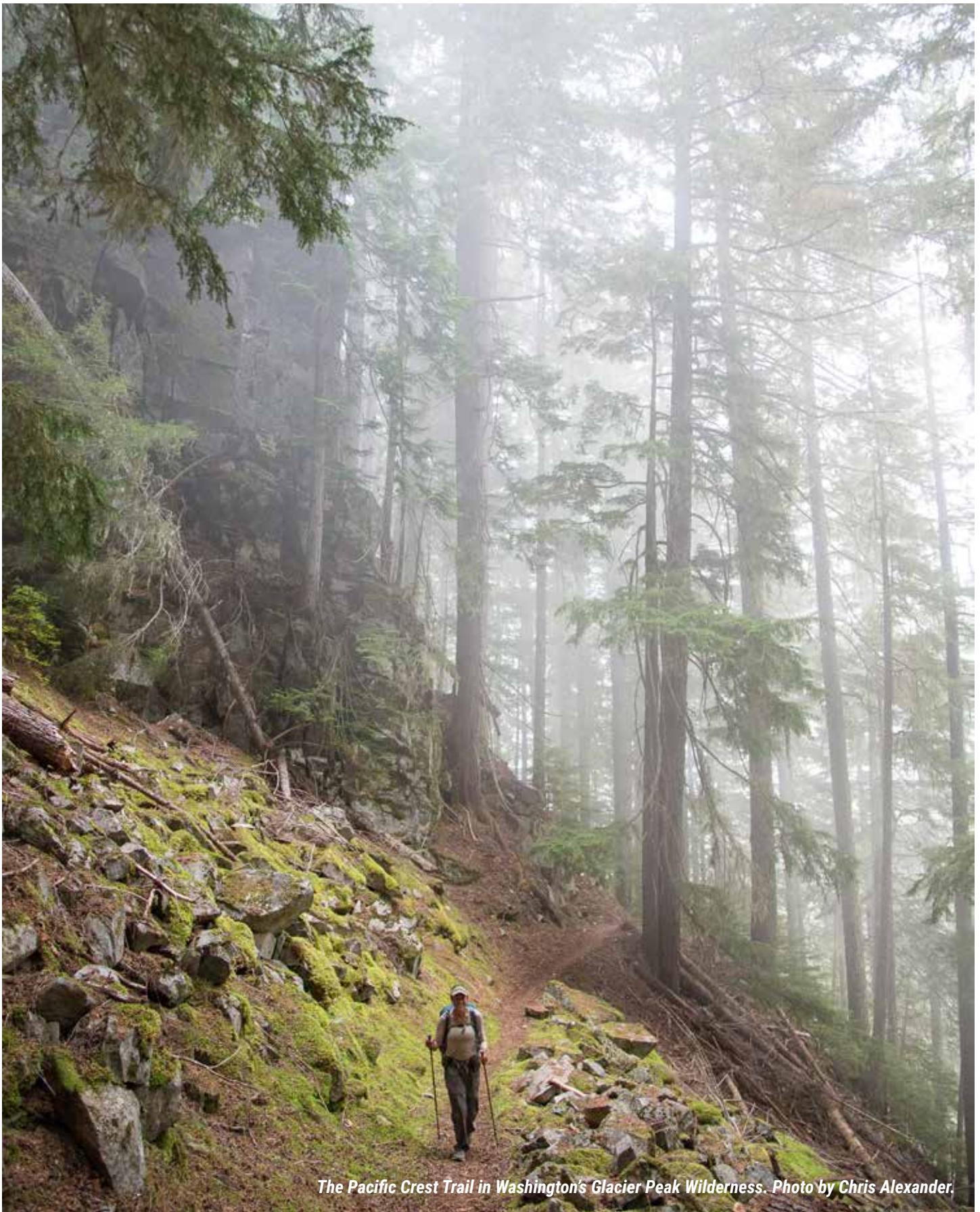
Projects PCTA Engaged on in 2022

5 Creeks Multi-Use Trail
Big Bear Transfer Station Land Exchange
Bonneville Power Authority
Conductor Replacement
Bridge of the Gods pedestrian lane
Claremont Forest Resiliency
Colby Meadows Multi-Use Trail
Cold Springs Trailhead & Hazard Tree Removal
Crest to Coast Trail
Drakesbad Leach Field
Gifford Pinchot National Forest Non-Commercial Thinning
Hat Creek Recreation Enhancement
Johnson Pass SnoPark Trail Connector
Lake Tahoe Basin Trails Analysis
Lassen National Forest Connected Communities
Little Naches Upland Restoration
Lower McCloud Fuels
Mountain High Resort Mountain Bike network
Mountains to Sound Heritage Area
North Big Bear Restoration Plan (e-bikes & fuels)
North Cascades National Park Backcountry Camps
North Cascades National Park Grizzly Restoration
North Yuba Landscape Resilience
PCT Trail Realignment Stevens Pass
River Complex Salvage
South Fork Fuels
South Fork Sacramento
Squaw to Alpine Gondola

State Route 4 Pavement Anchor Project
Stehekin River Road Relocation
Tahoe Basin Caldor Hazard Tree Fuels Reduction
Timothy Lake Trail Network
Ward Creek Trail Reroute
West Lassen Headwaters
Williamson Rock Endangered Species Closure
Wind River Conveyance

Agency planners should refer to the PCT Foundation Document when working on projects and planning efforts that will affect the management of the PCT or have the potential to "substantially interfere with the nature and purposes" of the Trail. Planning efforts and projects should be designed to address the PCT's nature and purposes, significance, and fundamental resources and values. To view or download the full PCT Foundation Document PDF, scan the code below with your smartphone.





The Pacific Crest Trail in Washington's Glacier Peak Wilderness. Photo by Chris Alexander.

5 Combating Climate Change to Support America's Working Lands, Natural Resources and Communities



A 120-degree day on the PCT in Southern California. Photo by Adam Arico.

The Threat

Climate Change is Altering the PCT and Surrounding Habitats

Drought, more intense wildfires with longer seasons, more fallen trees because of disease, and extreme rain events like “atmospheric rivers” are causing extensive trail damage and closures until crews can make necessary repairs. Under pressure from these changes, plant and animal species are moving up in elevation and north in latitude. The rich biodiversity along the PCT is at risk.

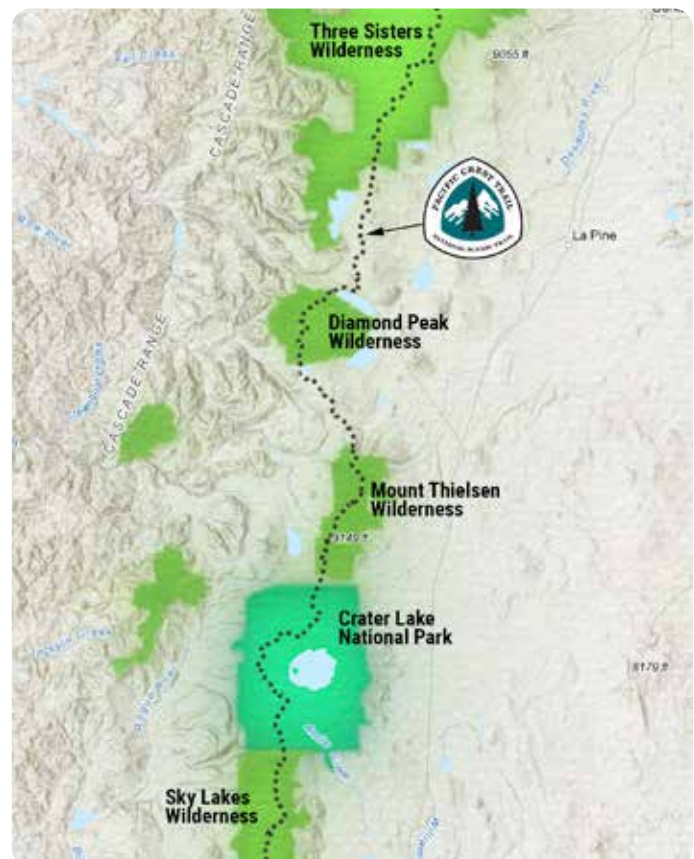
The Challenges

Isolated Islands of Biodiversity

The PCT spans an extraordinary nine ecoregions that contain chaparral, desert, old-growth forests, alpine tundra, grasslands, volcanic plains, and rainforest. But many of our protected areas like national parks, forests, and designated wilderness are now isolated—often separated by roads, power and rail lines, agriculture, towns and cities, and other forms of development.

This fragmentation of the natural ecosystem is leading to a documented loss of biodiversity throughout our nation and the world. The PCT Corridor helps ensure the safe movement and genetic health of plant and animal species and gives species opportunities to adapt to habitat loss from fire, drought and other climate-related changes.

Right: A section of the PCT in Central Oregon demonstrates the Trail's important role as a protected corridor connecting larger protected areas.





The Challenges (cont.)

The PCT Corridor is at Risk

About 10% of the Trail remains on private lands and is vulnerable to development, extractive industry, and more. The landscape connections created by the PCT are as important for our human populations as for animal and plant species. More than 29 million people live in counties crossed by the PCT. It provides a free recreational resource and access to public lands for all. It also supports local economies through outdoor recreation tourism.

The Opportunities

Linking the Landscapes Along the PCT

A growing body of research now shows the PCT—renowned worldwide for providing high-quality recreation experiences—has high value as a corridor that connects landscapes for wildlife movement and climate change adaptation. We need innovative strategies, like preserving the PCT corridor to protect these fragile connections.

The 2,650-mile Trail passes through scenic landscapes and ecosystems that maintain our climate, support animal and plant life, and determine the quality of our air, water, and food. Connecting protected areas within larger landscapes is vitally important as scientists recognize that wildlife and plant communities need to be able to migrate safely to adjust to a warming climate.



The PCT (yellow line) aligns almost perfectly with priority landscapes for conservation as identified by The Wilderness Society.



Above: An example of protecting land through acquisition, the PCTA worked with The Trust for Public Land to acquire and permanently protect 10,300 acres along the PCT in Northern California.

The Solution

Protecting the PCT Corridor Through Land Acquisition

The PCTA's Land Protection Program acquires land and easements within the mile-wide trail corridor. Every acquisition ensures public access, protects the trail experience, and increases the connectivity of protected lands along the Trail. These acquisitions also address climate change by improving water quality, sequestering carbon, and preserving forests.



2022 Land Protection Highlights

Permanent Protection of Three Land Parcels Along the PCT



Piute Mountains Property: Transferred to the USFS

The Piute Mountains (Szeremeta) property, 10 acres now part of the southern boundary of Sequoia National Forest, protected the PCT by maintaining the Trail's alignment in a natural wooded setting instead of what might have been a forced road walk for trail users.



Soledad Canyon Property: Transferred to the USFS

The Soledad Canyon (Boy Scouts) property protects 5 acres in a historic area of Los Angeles County just north of the Santa Clara River, near the site of the 1992 "Golden Spike" ceremony marking the completion of the PCT's entire length."



Picayune Lake Property: Transferred to the USFS

The Picayune Lake property adds 320 acres to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, and protects the last portion of the PCT on private lands between Castle Crags Wilderness and Trinity Alps Wilderness, a distance of close to 40 trail miles.



2022 Accomplishments Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

Connecting People to the Outdoors Through Volunteer Stewardship

Providing volunteer support to organize and execute projects

PCTA staff hours spent on volunteer programs	16,651
New trainings posted online	27
New volunteer projects posted online.....	212
Volunteer project email announcements sent.....	66
New volunteers	514
Returning volunteers	894
Tool caches.....	47
Inventory of tools and equipment.....	Separate report submitted
Weeks JHA is posted online	52
High school programs contacted	7
University programs contacted.....	0

Reporting on all volunteer and corps crew service hours and accomplishments

Volunteer hours for financial match.....	Separate report submitted
Volunteer hours for trail maintenance activities	65,769
Volunteer hours for land protection activities	106
Volunteer hours for administrative activities.....	181
Volunteer hours for governance and committee activities.....	582
Number of volunteer hours for visitor use management.....	667





Volunteers reflecting age, gender, and ethnicity:

Ethnicity	
Alaskan Native; Native American	2
Asian	7
Asian; Latinx	1
Asian; Pacific Islander	13
Asian; Pacific Islander; White; Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	1
Asian; White	1
Asian; White; Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	1
Black	3
Black; Latinx; White; Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	1
Black; Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	1
Latinx	18
Latinx; Native American	1
Latinx; White	2
Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	7
Native American	1
Native American; White	1
White	532
White; Multi-Racial/Multi-Cultural	3
Unknown	750
Declined to Answer	62
Total	1,408

Age	
14 and Under	1
15-18	3
19-24	47
25-35	147
36-54	202
55 Plus	445
Unknown	445
Total	1,408

Gender	
Gender Variant/ Non-Conforming	1
Man	459
Non-Binary	3
Woman	233
Unknown	704
Declined to Answer	8
Total	1,408



PCTA-affiliated youth corps volunteer hours	20,408
PCTA-affiliated high school volunteer hours	865
Miles of trail maintained	1,106
Miles reconstructed/constructed	33.38
Trailhead kiosks constructed	0
Square feet of log cribbing constructed	1
Square feet of stone cribbing constructed	1,841
Bridges constructed (greater than 20' long, 5' off the deck)	0
Feet of turnpike/puncheon constructed	100



Sponsor volunteer training opportunities

PCTA staff hours spent on trainings	3,546
Volunteers attending Basic or Wilderness First Aid	61
Basic or Wilderness First Aid trainings hosted	8
Volunteers attending crosscut and/or chain saw training	170
Crosscut and/or chain saw trainings hosted	23
Number of volunteers attending other trail skills training	416
Other trail skills trainings hosted	49

Coordinate with the PCT Program Manager and agency units

Agency partner meetings to coordinate field program of work:

	Local	Unit	Regional/ Trailwide	Total
U.S. Forest Service	110	47	26	183
Bureau of Land Management	7	1	1	9
National Park Service	1	7	0	8
Other	2	0	0	2
Total	120	55	27	202

Provide Trail and Land Management Support

PCTA staff hours spent on trail planning and protection	1925.5
PCTA staff hours spent providing technical assistance	1,325
PCTA staff hours spent on visitor use management	864

Increase Access to and Protection of the Natural, Cultural, and Scenic Qualities of the PCT by Conserving Open Space through Land Acquisition

Number of PCTA staff hours spent on coordinating land acquisition projects	2,119
Number of acres acquired	320



Benefits to the Public & Trail Communities

Respond to inquiries from the public and trail users regarding the PCT

Emails responded to.....	4,362
Phone calls responded to	2,477
Social media requests responded to.....	142
Media requests responded to.....	61

Publish a periodic magazine

Copies of the <i>PCT Communicator</i> magazine distributed.....	50,100
Email addresses the Trail Dirt Newsletter is distributed to.....	294,356

Maintain a website

Number of website visits	1,408,199
Updates to the Trail Conditions pages.....	18

Promote PCT at events

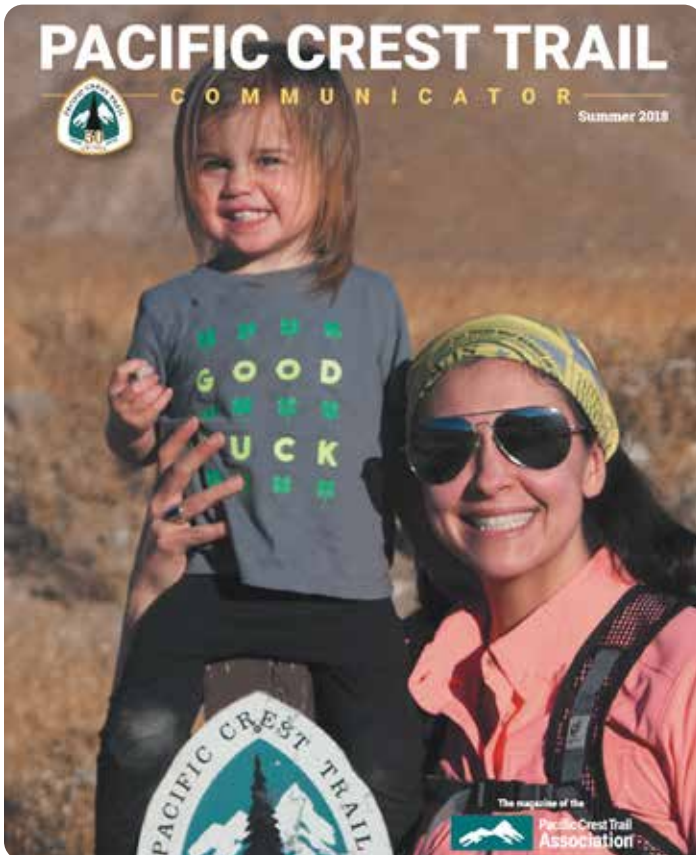
Conferences and outreach events attended.....	22
PCTA staff hours spent planning or participating in events.....	599
PCTA volunteer hours spent planning or participating in events	198

Issue long distance permits

Long-distance permits issued for thru travel	4,967
Long-distance permits issued for section travel	3,307

Distribute PCT brochures

Map brochures distributed.....	4,282
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2022 Volunteer & Corps Crew Hours

Maintenance Program Hours

Southern California Region

American Conservation Experience	2,630
Trail Gorillas	8,806
Student Conservation Association	2,748
William S. Hart Union High School	585
Miscellaneous Region Projects	875

Southern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience	2,814
Can Do Crew	2147
Trail Gorillas	493
Miscellaneous Region Projects	2,218

Northern Sierra Region

American Conservation Experience	4,574
Carsonora Trail Crew	735
Pounder's Promise	1,125
Student Conservation Association	3,802
Tahoe Area Volunteers	126
Tahoe Rim Trail Association	2,237
Will Work for Krumms Trail Crew	693
Miscellaneous Region Projects	1,121

Northern CA/Southern OR Region

Ashland Woodlands & Trails	135
Lyon's Pride	470
Southern Oregon Rockers	152
Student Conservation Association	1,700
Miscellaneous Region Projects	733

Columbia Cascades Region

Mid-Oregon Volunteers	2,728
Mt. Hood Chapter	7,175
Washington Trails Association	528
Miscellaneous Region Projects	1,194

North Cascades Region

North 350 Blades	6,249
White Pass Chapter	927
Washington Conservation Corps	2,140
Washington Trails Association	6,060
Miscellaneous Region Projects	140

Trailwide Miscellaneous

Total PCT Maintenance Hours..... 65,769

Non-Maintenance Programs Hours

Administrative	181
Governance	582
Land Protection	106
Outreach	198
Visitor Use Management	667

Total Non-Maintenance Hours.....1,734

Total Service Hours.....67,503

