

Moving Toward a Vibrant Future for the Pacific Crest Trail

And Committed to Our Mission to Protect, Preserve, and Advocate for the Trail

In 2022 the PCTA, like most of the world, returned to a post-pandemic normal by focusing on our core responsibilities of maintaining and protecting the Pacific Crest Trail. We made it over the pass, and now, as a changed organization, we're looking to the future.





Megan Wargo

Kevin Bacon

Climate change-driven wildfires in the last three years resulted in the closure of 792 miles of the PCT in California, Oregon and Washington—and caused a backlog of trail maintenance and restoration projects. In 2022 our dedicated volunteers started catching up. They invested 67,503 hours of time and effort on the trail, while donors like you contributed \$3.28 million to support our work.

During the pandemic, recreation on public lands increased dramatically and remains at record numbers. The pandemic reinforced how much the outdoors and connecting with the natural world matters to us all. And we welcome more people discovering the PCT—for recreation, connection, research, and healing.

It is a privilege to do this work on your behalf. I hope you'll enjoy reading the highlights of what was an impactful and challenging year.



Megan WargoActing Executive Director and CEO

Kevin BaconChair, PCTA Board of Directors



The PCT is a place for **CONNECTION**...

The Pacific Crest Trail is a place to connect—whether with the **natural world**, **ourselves**, or with **friends or family**. It's also a place where **people and communities from diverse backgrounds** can come together and celebrate a common love for the trail.

Every step on the PCT connects us to the **thousands of volunteers** whose generous contributions of time, energy and expert skills keep the trail safe and well maintained.

It's a connection to the **first Indigenous inhabitants** who traversed these lands, sometimes following ancient trade routes.

And it's a connection with the **people, agencies, businesses and foundations** whose support makes protecting and maintaining the trail possible.

LEFT: "The PCT has been our second home and as nurses, we've always run to it on our days off. Patricia and I also became the best of friends and trail sisters from the countless hikes that we've done on the PCT. And what a dream come true when we had the opportunity to backpack the first 20 miles starting from the Southern Terminus!" Photo and quote from Maria Geraldine Ignacio.

...and a place for health.

The PCT is also a place for health. It strengthens our bodies, sharpens our minds, and relaxes our souls. It heals us after trauma, pushes us to new levels of fitness and awareness, and sparks our imaginations with its potential.

As a natural corridor, the trail helps **protect the ecosystems** that we all depend on.

Scientists now know that **climate change is threatening the habitats** of many plant and animal species.

To adapt and thrive, species must be able to move their habitats. This requires **protected natural areas free from human development** to allow this movement. The **PCT Corridor** helps provide a **natural link between larger protected areas** such as national forests, parks and wilderness areas.

RIGHT: Bob Torres pauses for a quiet moment on the Knife's Edge in Goat Rocks Wilderness, Washington, with Mount Rainier in the distance. Photo by Al Chrisman.





Climate Change and the Role of the PCT

As atmospheric heating continues, its impacts—such as drought and wildfire—are changing ecosystems throughout the Western United States. Animal and plant species are gradually moving toward higher elevations and north in latitude as an adaptation to escape habitats that have or will become too hot for their long-term survival.

For this climate-forced adaptation to succeed, research has shown that the existence of protected areas—such as national parks and designated wilderness—is **not enough to guarantee long-term species survival**.

Protected areas are like islands—cut off from one another by a sea of human development. **Species survival depends on the presence of protected corridors that connect these larger areas.** The route of the Pacific Crest Trail is exactly such a corridor.

A growing body of research shows that **connecting protected areas with natural corridors** creates protected ecological networks that allow the safe movement of species.

LEFT: Some of the flora and fauna of the PCT.

The Trail as Green Infrastructure for Species Migration

Research done by Melissa Wilson at Harvard University and Travis Belote, an ecologist for The Wilderness Society, suggests that the Pacific Crest Trail corridor could serve as green infrastructure for continental wildlife corridors over the next century. This is because the PCT corridor is remarkably wild and connected when compared to other land units in the United States. 86% of the PCT is in the top 50% of the most wild and connected landscapes.

Currently, roughly 90% of the PCT is permanently protected on federal, state, and tribal lands. But about 10% of the trail is still in private hands and vulnerable to development.

Without protection, these private lands **fragment the corridor** and could block the movement of species to more sustainable habitats. To realize the trail's potential as green infrastructure for climate change adaptation requires **permanent protection** for every mile of the PCT.

RIGHT: A section of the Pacific Crest Trail in Oregon demonstrates the trail's important role as a protected corridor connecting larger protected areas.





PCTA Land Protection

Working to Complete the Trail's Protected Corridor

Land conservation is proving to be an effective strategy for **climate change adaptation**.

PCTA's Land Protection Program aims to permanently protect the Pacific Crest Trail, trail corridor, and viewshed through acquisitions of land and easements within the mile-wide trail corridor.

Every acquisition not only **ensures public access** and **protects the trail experience**, but also **links the larger islands of protected lands** the PCT crosses.

LEFT: The Pacific Crest Trail shown here near Interstate 15 in Southern California near Ralston Peak, is a crucial protected corridor that links larger protected areas and plays a role in sustaining biodiversity by providing species with safe migration to new habitats as climate change leaves previous habitats inhospitable. Photo by Joe Aquirre.

Celebrating Another Permanently Protected Addition to the Trail

A land protection milestone in 2022 was the **completion of the Picayune Lake acquisition** in Northern California.

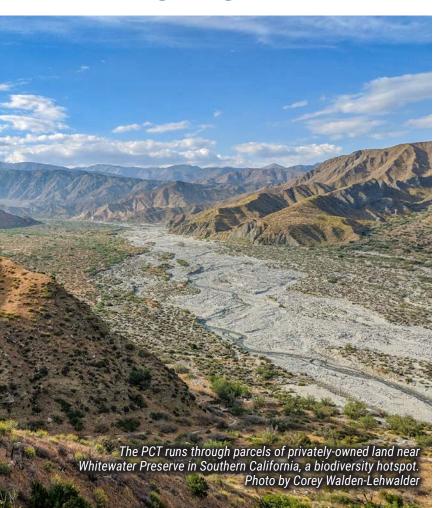
In 2018, a timber company put up for auction the 640-acre Picayune Lake property. Nestled in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, the property featured **outstanding views, abundant wildlife** and included **1.2 miles of the PCT**. It was a unique opportunity to protect the PCT on one of the last few private lands between Castle Crags Wilderness and Trinity Alps Wilderness, a distance of approximately 40 trail miles.

Fearing the land might be harvested for its timber—irreparably impacting the flora and fauna and drastically affecting the viewshed and the trail experience—two PCTA supporters stepped up to purchase the land with a view to its conservation.

With funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the parcel was divided and 320 acres that included the 1.2 miles of the PCT were transferred in July 2022 to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, where it now enjoys permanent protection.

2022 Highlights





PCTA and the California 30x30 Initiative

The U.S. commitment to tackling the climate crisis domestically and abroad includes a national goal to conserve at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and freshwater and 30 percent of US ocean areas by 2030, an initiative commonly referred to as 30x30.

As part of that strategy, the California 30x30 Initiative coordinates the efforts of the state, Indigenous tribes, nonprofit organizations, and the public to conserve 30% of the state's land and coastal water resources by 2030.

PCTA is exploring how the approximately \$1.6 billion that will be available for the Initiative could help advance PCT land protection and other trail projects. In 2022, PCTA Land Protection staff attended several events with state agencies who fund work in the regions and habitats where the PCT is located. We currently participate in some of the California 30x30 regional working groups, anticipating land acquisitions and conservation projects along the PCT to contribute to the state's 30x30 goal.





Great American Outdoors Act Funding Helps with PCT Maintenance Backlog

The federal budget has **not kept pace** with the maintenance needs and increasing use of our public lands. When the **Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA)** was passed in 2020, there was about \$20 billion worth **of deferred maintenance on the nation's public lands** and waterways, including an **extensive maintenance backlog along the Pacific Crest Trail**.

The act will provide just over \$9 billion through 2025 to address these maintenance needs nationwide—with a potential for up to \$7 million for the PCT.

In 2022, GAOA funding supported the PCTA hiring **four new full-time and four seasonal staff positions** to support maintenance projects on the PCT.

Funding Impact

of Great American Outdoors Act Projects on the PCT

CALIFORNIA

Volunteer Hours: 15,227

Value: \$456,048

WASHINGTON

Volunteer Hours: 5,248

Value: \$157,200

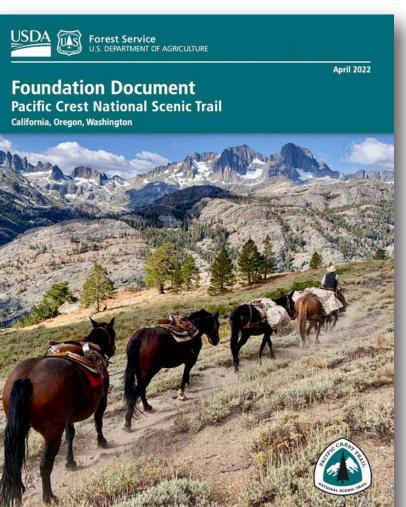
Trail Miles Maintained:

187

Trail Miles Reconstructed:

15

Photo of damaged bridge on the PCT in Washington by Ethan Gehl.



A Definitive Guide to the PCT's Resources, Values, and History

In 2022 the **PCT Foundation Document** was completed after three years of effort. The **PCTA**, **USDA Forest Service** and the **National Park Service** collaborated on the comprehensive publication which will serve as a **guide for future management** of the trail.

The PCTA and Forest Service reached out to a wide range of stakeholders from the PCT community for input on the values and significance of the trail. The document also involved working with tribes, cultural resource specialists, and tribal liaisons to ensure the document was inclusive of language that included tribal perspectives from among the 60 tribes whose lands are adjacent to or near the PCT.

The PCT Foundation Document does not prescribe how to manage the trail, but instead provides detailed information on where and why management is necessary.

Scan to read the document.

PCTA's Strategic Plan: A Community-Guided Process

As part of the PCTA's process to develop our next strategic plan, in 2022 we sought input from over 80 members of the PCT community representing a wide variety of perspectives and experiences with the trail—from volunteers, trail users, and agency partners to nonprofit partners, authors, and scientists.

We also **engaged with organizations and communities whose input was historically not included** in past planning processes.

We **listened carefully** to these community members, whose suggestions are helping **define a vision for PCTA's future** and develop our strategic goals.

The association's next strategic plan is **expected to be complete in 2023**.





Improvements to the PCT Long-Distance Permit Application Process

Each year, the PCTA administers permits for longdistance travel on the PCT on behalf of the USDA Forest Service. In 2022 PCTA's permit team worked to create a **new online permit registration system** that could better handle the thousands of people seeking long distance permits (continuous travel of **500 miles or more** on the PCT).

The new, more efficient system provides **randomly assigned appointment times** to applicants that eliminates the stress of waiting and continuously refreshing web browsers to complete the application.

The new system also provides for **friends or family members traveling together to get the same start dates.** The new system was enthusiastically received by permit applicants.



I was introduced to the PCT as a child backpacking with family in the 1960s. I continue to enjoy the trail and surrounding areas with my adult children.

I'm attempting a thru-hike this summer. The experience will celebrate a lifetime of inspiration, adventure, and wonderful family memories.

Thank you, PCTA for your role in enhancing trail education. You're an invaluable reference as I prepare. Your management of permits is exceptional.

Thank you for broadening appreciation to new groups of people. Above all, thank you for advocating and protecting a resource of great personal and international significance.

-Jim Barmore

Improving the PCT Experience



2022 Volunteer Accomplishments

65,769
hours of volunteer trail

hours of volunteer trail maintenance or reconstruction

1,106
miles of the PCT maintained

\$2.0 million in-kind value

in-kind value of volunteer hours

667volunteers attended 80 training events



2022 Trail Skills Colleges

After two years when the pandemic required our volunteer training to move online, 2022 marked the full return of our premiere in-person training events—our Trail Skills Colleges.

Trail Skills College events

342 62 classes 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



Volunteers gather at PCTA's North Cascades Trail Skills College. Photo by Patrik Bangle.

New Estate Planning Program Creates Opportunities for PCT Legacies

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, PCTA has a new partnership with Thompson & Associates, one of the nation's foremost valuesbased estate planning firms, to provide no-obligation estate planning services to PCTA's supporters free of charge.

The program helps people create a thoughtful estate plan that provides for loved ones and self-directs all or part of their estates that would otherwise have been collected as tax to the causes they care about-such as the Pacific Crest Trail.

Thompson & Associates consultant Ken Turpen has met with many PCTA supporters who appreciate the program's focus on values and the peace of mind their legacy plans provide. Due to the popularity of the program, we will continue to offer Thompson & Associates services into the foreseeable future.

If you are interested to learn more about this new program, contact PCTA's Director of Philanthropy.



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Pacific Crest Trail **Association**



| Without Donor Restrictions | 2022 | 2021 |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Revenue and Support | | |
| Private Sources* | \$ 3,639,272 | \$ 3,873,000 |
| Government Grants | \$ 1,717,255 | \$ 1,700,097 |
| Total Revenue and Support** | \$ 5,356,527 | \$ 5,573,097 |
| Expenses | | |
| Trail Operations | \$ 2,658,367 | \$ 2,223,883 |
| Land Protection | \$ 262,370 | \$ 223,614 |
| Public Information and Education | \$ 1,060,212 | \$ 913,252 |
| Fundraising | \$ 1,081,345 | \$ 919,561 |
| Management and General | \$ 471,070 | \$ 410,959 |
| Total Expenses | \$ 5,533,364 | \$ 4,691,269 |
| Surplus (Deficit) Without Donor Restrictions | \$ (176,837) | \$ 881,828 |
| With Donor Restrictions | | |
| Individual Contributions | \$ 966,365 | \$ 477,347 |
| Investment Income (Loss) | \$ (294,183) | \$ 196,221 |
| Net Assets Released from Restriction | \$ (902,400) | \$ (960,804) |
| Surplus (Deficit) With Donor Restrictions** | \$ (230,218) | \$ (287,236) |
| Total Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (407,055) | \$ 594,592 |
| Net Assets (Beginning of Year) | \$ 5,382,286 | \$ 4,787,694 |
| Net Assets (End of Year) | \$ 4,975,231 | \$ 5,382,286 |

Financials

Total Revenue & Support

2022 2021

\$5,126,309** \$5,285,861

Total Expenses

2022 2021

\$5,533,364 \$4,691,269

Total Surplus (Deficit)

2022 \$ (407,055)

2021 \$ 594,592

*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 2022 financial statements fairly present the financial position of the PCTA in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. For more information or copies of the 2022 audited financials, visit www.pcta.org/financials.

Business and Foundation Supporters

Thank you to our new and renewing corporate and business partners in 2022 who helped to strengthen our programs that keep the trail safe and enjoyable for hikers and horseback riders.

Corporations and Businesses

Forester Pass (\$50,000+)
Eagles Nest Outfitters

High Sierra (\$15,000 - \$49,999) REI Woolrich, Inc.

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

Barefoot Wine & Bubbly Darn Tough Gossamer Gear Inc Harney & Sons Tea Corp. Mom's Pie House Osprey Packs Inc. Outdoor Viewfinder

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

BearVault
Buff, Inc.
Cascade Crest 100 Mile Endurance Run
CNOC Outdoors
Del Rio Vineyard Estate
Dru Bru Taproom & Brewery
Go Beyond Racing, LLC
Inviting Light Photography
M C Enterprises

Next Mile Meals
North Drinkware
Outdoor Viewfinder
Powers Inc.
Ready Wise, Inc.
Rizzoli International Publications, Inc.
Seek Dry Goods
Target Circle
Tarptent, Inc.
The Trek
Trailside Fitness
Triage Creative
ZPacks, LLC

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

Mount Baker - Snoqualmie National Forest National Geographic Maps Point6

Business Members (\$250 - \$999)

Admissions Edge Counseling
Adventure Maps, Inc.
Amy Stork Consulting
Backcountry Foodie
Craft Contracting Ltd.
GoodVibeGoda
GRAYL
Juniper Ridge
Master System, Inc.
Plaza Super Jet
Point6

Quest Fabrication Corporation TownShirt Co. Triple Crown Coffee Wilderness Press YarCom Inc.

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

Cheval Insurance Services, Inc.
Green Lakes Accounting & Tax Services LLC
Montezuma Valley Market
Mt. Williamson Motel and Base Camp
Olallie Lake Rustic Resort
Trinity County Brewing Company

Foundations

Brinker Family Foundation
California Alpine Club Foundation
Dan Cameron Family Foundation
Elizabeth Maughan Charitable Foundation
Gwladys and John Zurlo Charitable Foundation
KBF CANADA
M. J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Namaste Foundation
Partnership for the National Trails System
The Fuller Foundation
The Hyde Family Foundation
William A. Kerr Foundation
Woolrich Outdoor Foundation

Background photo: The PCT near Cutthroat Pass in Washington. Photo by John Meehan.

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 (32) 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** Magnus Bennedsen* Chris and Jason Benz Liz Bergeron and Lori Harmon Donna and Dave Bewley Brian C. Booth James "Conductor" Call Roger Carpenter and Cynthia Kleinegger Hervey Chapman* Carol J. Cohen. M.D. Steven L. Conrad* Julia Cordero John and Julie Crawford Mike and Tina Dawson John Delaney Living Trust* Charles T. DeWoody Cecil I. Dobbins* Jim and Polly Dodds Laraine Downer Jean Flla Robert Francisco (go-BIG, 2006) Ron Frey* Linda Gass

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Chris McMullan Dave and Debbie McNeil Rav C. Miller* Don and June Mulford* Michael and Wendy Murray James A. Nee* Brittany Nunnink O'Brien Marcia Lund* Deborah and Wes Pelham A. Ouinn John Reilly Joel L. Relethford Linda Rose Richard Sammut David and Jo Seeber Lexi Shear Amanda I. Silvestri Lolly Skillman Tina Smith Jed L. Stalev Tom Straus Wayne and Kristi Teague Jay and Terri Thesken Joan Tomlinson Phyllis Tompkins* Thomas Troutner* Ron Vaughn, PCT Class of 1998, 1999 and 2001 Dick Vogel Peter J. Wascher C. S. Whitney* Michele and Matt Wier Mace Winter Dr. Cynthia and Curt Wrinkle Alan Young Janet "Smudge" Zalewski Judith 7ineski*

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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

Amy Calvillo Aubin, Associate Director of Volunteer Programs

Jack Haskel, Trail Information Manager Cassidy Barkalow, Trail Information Assistant

Hazel Platt, Volunteer Engagement Associate

Landon Coates Welsh, Volunteer Training Coordinator

Jeanine Russell, Columbia Cascades Regional Representative

lan Nelson, Northern California/ Southern Oregon Regional Representative

Connor Swift, Northern 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

PHILANTHROPY & MEMBERSHIP

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Jen Havener, Philanthropy Manager Ryan Jones, Relationship Manager Uriel Reynoso, Philanthropy Assistant Katherine Eason, Philanthropy Clerk

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Virginia Esperanza Lorne, Conservation Project Manager

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Chris Rylee, Director of Communications Scott Wilkinson, Content Development Director

Daniel Carmin, Communicator Magazine Designer and Producer

ADVOCACY

Mark Larabee, Advocacy Director

ACCOUNTING & OPERATIONS

Ryan Brizendine, Systems Administrator and Web Developer

Tammy Marsh, Accounting Manager **Gaby Guerera**, Salesforce Database Administrator

Sheila Garcia, HR Generalist

2022 Numbers

14,700PCTA members

57,503total volunteer hours

\$3.7 million in private contributions

3.2 million unique website visits



Association



Smoke from the Cedar Creek wildfire in Oregon made the PCT seem like walking on Mars. Photo by Robin Hopkins.

