

# National Trails System

## ANNUAL REPORT for FY 2012



*Anza Trail Ambassadors pose on their float at the Santa Cruz County Parade, Nogales, Arizona, December, 2011. This parade gives local agencies an opportunity to share their programs with the community. The Ambassadors worked on the float for a week, and during the parade they passed out pamphlets about the Trail. Students from both Nogales and Rio Rico High Schools chose to participate in the parade to reach out broadly to their community. Photo by Yara Sanchez used with permission.*

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Abbreviations used in this report:

NA = not applicable  
n/a = not available  
unkn = unknown

BLM = Bureau of Land Management  
CESU = Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit  
CMP = Comprehensive Management Plan  
FGDC = Federal Geographic Data Committee  
FHWA = Federal Highway Administration

FS = USDA Forest Service  
FTDS = Federal Trail Data Standards  
FWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
NHT = National Historic Trail  
NOAA = Nat. Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.  
NPS = National Park Service  
NRT = National Recreation Trail  
NST = National Scenic Trail  
SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office  
USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture

## **INTRODUCTION**

The National Trails System was created by Federal law in 1968. Today, the National Trails System includes 11 national scenic trails, 19 national historic trails, more than 1,200 national recreation trails (NRTs), and six connecting and side trails. Together the 30 scenic and historic trails now total almost 54,000 miles in combined lengths. The NRTs are officially recognized by the Secretary of the Interior (and in the USDA Forest Service by regional foresters) and can be found in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

In December 2006, six Federal agencies signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging to work closely together *to enhance visitor satisfaction, to coordinate trailwide administration and site-specific management, to protect resources, to promote cultural values, to foster cooperative relationships, to share technical expertise, and to fund lands and resources associated with the National Trails*. The MOU continues until 2016 as an active partnership of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails, an interagency group that has met since 1969 to coordinate activities under the authorities of the National Trails System Act.

The National Trails System will be 50 years old in 2018. Approaching this anniversary, goals, objectives, and prioritized actions were developed for “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018. At the same time, many Federal agencies have based their conservation priorities around America’s Great Outdoors (AGO), an ambitious conservation agenda that opens many new opportunities for developing and nurturing the trails system.

Many serious issues faced National Trails System partners in Federal fiscal year (FY) 2012, including recession-weakened organizational capacity of partner groups, expansion of the nation’s energy transmission grid, a profusion of fast-track renewable energy projects, and increasingly tight Federal agency budgets. Many Americans are not aware of the National Trails System exists and health, community, economic, and educational benefits it offers.

This report by the MOU agencies for FY 2012 reflects accomplishments along individual trails and actions that advance the National Trails System as a whole. To correlate the 24 specific tasks of the MOU to the data topics below, see Attachment A, *Checklist of MOU Tasks*. To correlate the MOU tasks to the goals, objectives, and actions of “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018,” see Attachment B. And, this report is structured to list accomplishments according to the goals and actions of America’s Great Outdoors.

## **KEY MESSAGES FROM 2012**

**America's Great Outdoors** – Components of the National Trails System contribute on many fronts to America's Great Outdoors (AGO), the current Federal interagency conservation initiative. Trails create new jobs (especially the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps), enhance recreation access, raise awareness of the values and benefits of being outdoors, engage young people, enhance urban parks and urban outreach, access "living" rural landscapes, conserve Federal lands, protect rivers and other water, and improve Federal performance as a conservation partner. In turn, the trails will indeed benefit if full funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund is ever restored. AGO-related projects (Kohala Peninsula, Hawaii; the Leopold Shack connector trail; and Collaborative Landscape Planning (see page 31) also contribute.)

**A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018** – Since 2008, the Partnership for the National Trails System, a coalition of more than 30 NST and NHT organizations, has coordinated "A Decade for the National Trails." Our six agencies all help with the top priority actions (as resources and staff allow) in marketing and outreach, youth engagement, resource inventories, land protection, mapping, construction of support facilities, training and capacity building, and strengthening volunteerism.

**Policy** – The BLM has completed a comprehensive set of policies for National Trails this past year. See manuals 6250 (NST and NHT Administration), 6280 (Management of NSTs and NHTs), and 8353 (Trail Management Areas).

**New Connecting and Side Trails** – Four river water trails connecting to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT were formally recognized by Interior Secretary Salazar on May 16. These are the first connecting and side trails recognized under Trails Act authorities since 1990.

**Challenges and Trends** – Major challenges continue to face these trails. An aging workforce and changing technologies are impacting volunteerism. Many lean state budgets mean closing state parks and reducing staff involved in the trails. Reduced Federal budgets will be a challenge to all the trails. Vandalism, neglect, erosion, and development continue to take their toll locally on resources associated with these trails. Energy independence and the wish to upgrade and add utility corridors may severely damage the visual quality of many of these trails.

**Signs of Hope** – On the hopeful side, certain trends suggest new breakthroughs in collaboration. AGO and related efforts have fostered increased interagency collaboration as well as better cooperation and communication within agencies. Retiring trail staffers have been replaced by energetic and seasoned mid-career professionals who expand the talent pool within the Trails System. Each year brings greater recognition of the National Trails System and the complex challenges it faces. And, increased public and private community investments enhance and embed the trails into the heart of community life.

## CONNECTING TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

### Agency Actions



**National Recreation Trails (NRTs)** – 64 new NRTs were recognized by Interior Secretary Salazar and Agriculture Secretary Vilsack in FY 2012, including nine as the first components of the National Water Trail System. Of these, 14 trails are located wholly or partially on Federal lands. They are:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>	<u>Length (in miles)</u>
Beaver Creek Water Trail	AK	FWS	180.0
Verchota Canoe Trail	MN	FWS	11.0
Kanatak Trail	AK	FWS	5.0
Finger Lakes Canoe Trail	MN	FWS	5.2
Halfmoon Lake Canoe Trail	MN	FWS	5.2
Nelson-Trevino Canoe Trail	WI	FWS	4.8
Tallgrass Trail	IA	FWS	2.5
Bartram Trail at Thurmond Lake	GA	USACE	27.0
Bennington Lake Trail System	WA	USACE	20.0
Overmountain Victory Trail	NC	USACE	13.0
Carlyle Lake Multi-Use Trail	IL	USACE	10.3
Veterans Trail	IA	USACE	0.3
East Lakeshore Trail	TN	TVA	21.0
Red Canyon Trail	UT	FS	8.6

Altogether, since 1971, our various agencies have nominated and now protect and maintain for public use hundreds of National Recreation Trails.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of NRTs</u>	<u>Total lengths (in miles)</u>
USDA Forest Service	371	6,048
National Park Service	79	693
US Army Corps of Engineers	78	518
US Fish & Wildlife Service	71	601
Bureau of Land Management	31	498

(Source: American Trails' Website [www.americantrails.org/NRTDatabase/](http://www.americantrails.org/NRTDatabase/).)

## **Connecting to the Great Outdoors -- Innovative Actions, by Trail**

Throughout the National Trails System, innovative projects and programs are helping fulfill the goals of America's Great Outdoors. Here is a sampling of those that connect the public to the great outdoors:

The staff of the **Ala Kahakai NHT**, along with the Ala Kahakai Trail Association and various community-based partners obtained an America's Best Ideas grant from the National Park Foundation to sponsor three Music and Talk Story events in 2012. These events celebrated places along the Trail by sharing music and stories unique to the town of Kailapa, Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, and Pu'uhoanau Honaunau NHP. (A second round of funds has been received for 2013.)

A new cooperative agreement with the Nakoia Foundation teaches local youth how to sail traditional Hawaiian fishing canoes. The program, called "Na Pe'a" (The Sails) is designed to immerse youth in the local fishing culture, with a long-term goal of using traditional canoes as a trail management tool for each trail segment. Program focus is on food security, community resiliency, revenue generation by selling fish, and providing transportation on water trails to shoreline trails.

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The **Appalachian NST** is now on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Appalachian-National-Scenic-Trail/224252207651827>.

For the Appalachian Trail's *A Trail to Every Classroom* program (now in its seventh year) the regular workshop cycle was replaced this year with enrichment and updating opportunities for the 250 program alumni who have gone through the program since 2005. More information is available at [www.nps.gov/appa/forteachers/index.htm](http://www.nps.gov/appa/forteachers/index.htm).

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For the **Arizona NST's** comprehensive management plan (CMP), Independent Resources, a Forest Service enterprise team, began the public engagement process working with the Trail administrator. The team held public workshops and made individual contacts with a number of Arizona Trail enthusiasts, ecotourism proponents, gateway community leaders, agency managers and others. The results of this effort provide valuable insights into the main issues to be addressed by the CMP. The public engagement report, along with a social and economic report also produced by Independent Resources, will help guide the CMP.

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For the **California, Mormon Pioneer, and Oregon NHTs**, a 300-page historical study of the African-American experience along these pioneer trails – *Sweet Freedom's Plains: African-Americans on the Overland Trails, 1841-1868* – has been completed and is available online at <http://www.nps.gov/cali/historyculture/research.htm>.

Planning is well underway for the development of a mobile smartphone app based on the Utah State Trail Guide. The NPS hired a contractor to do the programming work and develop an outline for content. Photography, video, and GPS location points have all been acquired for this innovative app.

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For the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT**, volume 1 of *Chesapeake Explorer* (a mobile app and an interactive map) were developed and released in 2012. This project was jointly conducted by trail staff, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and the **Potomac Heritage NST** staff. Also along this trail, orientation panels and kiosk designs were finalized and fabrication started for the first five installations.

Trail staff are working with Federal, State, and nonprofit partners to develop youth teams to support projects along this Trail and the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT**. In Maryland's Prince Georges County, Maryland DNR's Conservation Jobs Corps organizes the projects. In Virginia, the Virginia Youth Conservation Corps works at state park sites along the James River. And three interns were hired to support a youth corps network and identify projects for future youth corps teams.

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To help promote **El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT**, the El Camino Real de los Tejas Association, with technical assistance from the NPS, received grant funding from the National Park Foundation's America's Best Idea program, for a project called "Breaking New Paths: Engaging Youth in El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail."

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The first-ever **Florida NST State of the Trail Report** lists the current inventory of certified trail segments by land manager, describing the trail tread type, campsite and trailhead locations, and major gaps. A follow-up inventory in 2013 will include trail classes and priority projects for completing the Trail. This report is available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/fnst](http://www.fs.usda.gov/fnst).

Also in 2012, the Forest Service and the Florida Outdoor Recreation Coalition co-hosted a Florida NST Symposium. Nearly 150 people came representing a diverse array of outdoor interests from user groups to recreation providers. For handouts and presentations visit [www.FLORC.org](http://www.FLORC.org).

And, the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails, in partnership with the National Forests in Florida and the Division of Park Planning, hosted six statewide open houses to present current trail-related planning efforts. Hundreds of people attended and reviewed the FNST Proposed Priority Corridor maps. Thirty-three written comments were submitted in person and many more by website.

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An **Ice Age NST** event was held October 19, 2012 in celebration of the AGO accomplishment "Establishing a model segment of the Ice Age NST within a Glacial Landscape — City of Madison (in Dane County) to the Aldo Leopold Shack (in Sauk County), Wisconsin." Deputy Interior Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Rachel Jacobson joined representatives from the NPS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Nature Conservancy, and the Baraboo Range Preservation Alliance. More than 250 people participated to show project progress at the Riverland Conservancy, Devils Lake State Park, and the Aldo Leopold Shack.

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The final year of the **Iditarod NHT** Centennial concluded with some big events: Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance board member and one of the founders of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, Dan Seavey, competed and finished in the 2012 Race as the “Iditarod Historic Trail Centennial Musher.” Dan spread a message of stewardship and history in 14 trailside communities, resulting in significant media coverage from state, national, and international outlets as diverse as *CNN* and *Sports Illustrated*.

- In March, 3,000 spectators attended the Iditarod Dogsled Race Ceremonial Start (the largest one-day attendance crowd) at BLM’s Campbell Tract, including more than 100 who attended a cake-cutting with the Centennial Musher for the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Trail.
- In May, 200 Anchorage School District students learned about dog-mushing from the youngest-ever champion of the Iditarod Race, 25 year old Dallas Seavey, at BLM’s annual Outdoor Week.
- In August, BLM, the Forest Service, and Alaska DNR set-up and staffed an Iditarod NHT exhibit at the Alaska State Fair. Housed in two tents, the exhibit was awarded the 2012 Grand Champion ribbon for educational exhibits at the State Fair. Exhibit presenters recorded 1,812 visitors receiving information on the Trail
- The Iditarod Centennial Partnership – composed of the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, Chugach National Forest, and Alaska DNR Division of Lands – was awarded the 2012 Department of Interior “Partners in Conservation” award for accomplishments during the multi-year event.

Meanwhile, the Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom! Program (a place-based/service learning curriculum development program) “graduated” its second class of 14 Alaskan teachers from the 100-hour continuing education program. It is estimated that the graduating teachers will influence approximately 1,000 students annually in communities along the Trail. This program is cosponsored by the U.S. Forest Service, the BLM, the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, and Alaska Geographic. It is modeled on the Appalachian Trail to Every Classroom program.

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Staff and partners along the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT** are embarked on a variety of creative outreach efforts, including:

- The Anza Trail Ambassador Program in partnership with the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation in Nogales, Arizona. High school youth help younger students and the public at various events in southern Arizona and San Francisco.
  - The Anza Trail MapCollaborator, a web-based GIS application to connect with partners to plan and document recreational trails, interpretive sites, and visitor facilities along the Trail. See [http://www.mapsportal.org/mapcollab\\_anza/](http://www.mapsportal.org/mapcollab_anza/).
  - *Many Worlds – Native Life Along the Anza Trail*, a children’s sticker book. See <http://www.nps.gov/juba/supportyourpark/bookstore.htm>
  - An introductory film to be used at historic sites and visitor centers. It can be downloaded at <http://www.nps.gov/juba/photosmultimedia/index.htm> .
  - A grant project at the Peralta Hacienda Historical Park in Oakland, California, which has resulted in an Anza Trail speaker series and Spanish-speaking Community Docent training program.
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For the **Lewis and Clark NHT**, a new partnership film, *Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail: Partnerships for the Future*, was completed and distributed in 2012. This film won a national “Telly Award” for government productions. Copies were sent to all the visitor centers along the trail. Also this year, trail staff worked with the Middle Missouri Lewis and Clark Network to develop a pilot marketing effort called “Lewis and Clark Country.” It was successfully launched last spring with favorable results.

Visitation to the NPS visitor center in Omaha increased dramatically this year thanks to smart community outreach, special programming, and school and civic group visits. Compared to 2011, in 2012 the number of visitors increased 85 percent, participation in off-site programs increased 79 percent, special events were up 67 percent, and Junior Ranger participation up 21 percent. NPS also initiated interpretive programming for visitors who do not enter the visitor center by providing interpretive programs on Omaha’s River City Star riverboat.

Trail staff also began building a course of study for tribal colleges in the fields of interpretation and education. Potential partners include universities, tourism organizations, and interpretive networks. The first workshops were held in 2012.

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Borrowing the concept of *A Trail to Every Classroom* from the Appalachian NST, **New England NST** staff are working to develop similar programs in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Meanwhile they have inaugurated Ridgerunner pilot programs in both states, involving 20 young people the first year.

In addition Trail staff were successful securing a grant from the New England Foundation for the Arts for the installation of sculptor Christopher Frost’s “Hespera Stones” rock sculptures in the Holyoke Range near Hadley, Massachusetts, featuring lines of poetry by Emily Dickinson. Further featuring the arts for outreach, the Trail’s first artist-in-residence, photographer Barbara Bosworth, is documenting the Trail and its uses.

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For the **Nez Perce NHT**, FY 2012 saw the creation of promotional social media through Flickr, Twitter, and YouTube. Partners collaborated to post information about the Trail on Facebook. Now four different passport stamps are available at key locations – and these are especially enjoyed by both youth and adults. Four different postcards featuring Nez Perce artists also tell the Trail story. To celebrate the Trail’s 135<sup>th</sup> commemorative anniversary, a series of tribal and nontribal speakers made presentations at many trail locations.

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In 2012 on the **North Country NST**, the North Country Trail Association (NCTA) grew its Trail Town Program to four communities with signed agreements. A North Country Trail Town is a community through which the Trail passes and which supports hikers with services, promotes the Trail to its citizens, and embraces the Trail as a resource to be protected and celebrated. Trail Towns are built on a relationship between a town, the Trail, and NCTA volunteers. This partnering grows awareness and support for the Trail, improves access and information to get members of the community active in the outdoors, and boosts the economic benefits by providing recognition to local businesses. Together, trail

partners can build a community that values outdoor recreation for the health of the environment, local trail users, and the local economy.

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For the **Old Spanish NHT**, NPS and Forest Service staff, with technical assistance from the Old Spanish Trail Association and using a grant from the National Park Foundation’s America’s Best Idea program, developed “La Vereda Vieja: Exploring an Old Trail with a New Generation”

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Along the **Oregon NHT**, five new wayside exhibits were dedicated at McCoy Park in Independence, Missouri, with additional wayside exhibits installed at Strang Park in Overland Park, Kansas, and Westport Landing in Kansas City, Missouri.

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Along the **Overmountain Victory NHT**, NPS staff – in conjunction with various partners – helped complete the fabrication and installation of new visitor center permanent exhibits at the Abingdon Muster Grounds (the Trail’s northern trailhead in Virginia). Also, the NPS continued partnerships with the Overmountain Victory Trail Association (OVTA) and other trail collaborators to produce numerous educational programs in conjunction with the annual march. Close to 9,000 students attended.

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Along the **Pacific Crest NST**, diversity outreach continues by supporting youth programs such as the NAACP Rites of Passage in Oregon, the Warm Springs Tribal PCT Crew (also in Oregon), and trail work by youth from the Environmental Charter Middle and High Schools in the greater Los Angeles area.

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For the **Pacific Northwest NST**, the Forest Service and the Pacific Northwest Trail Association (PNTA) organized 10 community focus groups along the Trail. These community-based meetings were designed to raise awareness of the Trail and the PNTA and begin to engage communities on the pending Comprehensive Management Planning process. They enabled trail staff to start (or continue) conversations about future partnership opportunities related to trail protection, economic development, and youth education and employment opportunities.

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**Potomac Heritage NST** staff published *A Foundation for Planning, Administration, Management and Interpretation of Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail Segments and for Coordination among Trail Segment Management Partners*. This is one of the first “foundation documents” for an NPS-administered trail. It summarizes pertinent plans and policies and serves as a basis for future coordination, site development, and trailwide coordination. The full text can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/pohe/parkmgmt/planning.htm>.

Where the Great Allegheny Passage portion of this Trail crosses the Mason-Dixon Line at the Pennsylvania-Maryland boundary, funds from a National Park Foundation grant became the catalyst for design and installation of a major interpretive site highlighting this remarkable historic survey line.

Signs and markings along the **Santa Fe NHT** were enhanced this year by a sign plan for the Colorado portion of the Trail (funded by a Colorado Scenic Byway Grant) and new sign plans and installations in nine counties across Colorado, Kansas, and New Mexico.

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A variety of imaginative outreach events are occurring along the **Selma to Montgomery NHT**, including

- The Lowndes County Interpretive Center's two-day storytelling festival to commemorate the 1965 Selma to Montgomery March. Storytellers from the Alabama Storytelling Guild shared with children and adults stories of the March and the contributions of women during the Civil Rights movement.
  - The Lowndes Center also held a Junior Ranger Summer Camp on four Saturdays with assistance from the Montgomery Zoo, the Dallas County YMCA, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The idea was to educate children 6 to 12 years old about the importance of water conservation and preservation, wildlife preservation, fitness and healthy living, and the duties of law enforcement rangers.
  - The Selma Interpretive Center hosted its first annual Juneteenth Festival in Selma, Alabama, featuring children's activities, storytelling, and dance performances.
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Along the **Trail of Tears NHT**, sign plans and the installation of highway directional signing has been completed for 10 counties in Alabama, Missouri, Kentucky, and Georgia.

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For the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT**, the official NPS website, [www.nps.gov/waro/](http://www.nps.gov/waro/) will provide an educational platform while organizing and distributing practical information, such as GoogleMaps of the Trail. In addition, a Trail Facebook page has been created for up-to-date news and event reminders in an interactive format. This is proving to be a good format for receiving and responding to questions as quickly as possible, while alerting others to the discussion.

Additional outreach events along this trail happened at these sites in 2012:

- Fairmount Waterworks in Philadelphia, PA,
- National Trails Day in Bolton CT,
- W3R-PA celebrations in Marcus Hook PA,
- Historical Marker Designation in Philadelphia PA,
- Yorktown Day in Yorktown, VA, and
- Various lectures focusing on African-American contributions to the Yorktown Campaign.

Trail brochures and newly developed trail passport stamps are being distributed to parks and sites along the Trail route.

## CONSERVING AND RESTORING

Each year the components of the National Trails System grow in length and are improved. Most of this work occurs in partnership among Federal agencies, State agencies, nonprofit groups, and individuals.

### Statistics by Trail

Table 1 <b><u>CHANGES IN TRAIL LENGTH</u></b>  NA = not applicable, n/a = not available, unkn = unknown  Trail	New miles of trail opened to the public in FY 12	Total miles of trail now open to the public and maintained	(NHTs only) miles of auto tour route signed in FY 12	(NHTs only) Total miles of auto tour route now signed
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>				
Appalachian NST <sup>1</sup>	2.0	2,184		
Arizona NST <sup>1</sup>	35.0	819		
Continental Divide NST	41.0	881		
Florida NST	0	1,074 <sup>3</sup>		
Ice Age NST	6.5	637		
Natchez Trace NST <sup>1</sup>	0.0	150		
New England NST	18.3	215		
North Country NST	36.0	2,702		
Pacific Crest NST <sup>1</sup>	0	2,650		
Pacific Northwest NST		c. 1,200		
Potomac Heritage NST	2.0	770		
<b>NST SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>140.8</b>	<b>c. 13,280</b>		
<u>National Historic Trails</u>				
Ala Kahakai NHT	0	15	0	0
California NHT		5,839	130	3,209
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	45 <sup>2</sup>	205 <sup>2</sup>	0	195
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	0	4	0	0
Iditarod NHT <sup>1</sup>	4.0	1,242	0	0
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	0	250		900
Lewis and Clark NHT				7,193
Mormon Pioneer NHT				1,415
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		1,182	0	
Oregon NHT				2,130
Overmountain Victory NHT	1.2	82	0	104
Pony Express NHT		2,005		1,378
Santa Fe NHT			0	1,202
Selma to Montgomery NHT <sup>1</sup>		54		54
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	560.0	560	62	62
Trail of Tears NHT			0	993
Washington-Rochambeau RRNHT		680		
<b>NHT SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>610.2</b>	<b>12,118</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>18,835</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>751.0</b>	<b>c. 25,400</b>		

- Notes: 1) These trails are essentially complete in length, so few or no additional miles may be added.  
 2) Approximate length of partner-managed water trails.  
 3) This figure does not include any roadwalking segments.

Data for NHTs varies widely year to year, indicating that reporting standards are not well defined. Compared to FY 2011, the number of new miles of NSTs almost doubled, while new NHT segments added significant mileage (especially of water trail routes along newly established trails). Also, despite several hundred miles of new auto tour route signing this year, the documented mileage of auto tour routes dropped 8 percent.

<b>Table 2 CHANGES IN PROTECTION</b>				
Only the trails reporting are listed.				
Trail	Acres inventoried or surveyed in FY 12	Acres protected by Federal agencies in FY 12	Acres protected by non-Federal parties in FY 12	Number of energy projects impacting the trail in FY 12
Ala Kahakai NHT		35	105	
Appalachian NST	0	541	551	7
Arizona NST	n/a	n/a	n/a	4
California NHT	640			11
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	0	0	0	1
Continental Divide NST				7
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT				1
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	170	25		2
Florida NST	3	6		
Ice Age NST	1,964	0	695	0
Iditarod NHT			200	4
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	24		24	3
Lewis and Clark NHT				12
Mormon Pioneer NHT	0			3
New England NST			622 <sup>1</sup>	1
North Country NST		6	760	2
Old Spanish NHT				7
Oregon NHT	160			9
Overmountain Victory NHT			180	
Pacific Crest NST		1,448	0	
Pacific Northwest NST	640	0	0	4
Pony Express NHT				4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3,601</b>	<b>2,061</b>	<b>3,137</b>	<b>82</b>

Note: 1) Trail corridor partnership with Forest Legacy Program, Massachusetts Audubon Society, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and the Guilford Land Trust.

Compared to FY 2011, the acreage inventoried decreased by 22 percent, and Federal action to protect the trail corridors rose 30 percent. However acreage protected by non-Federal parties dropped 10 percent, while the number of impacting energy projects also dropped by 22 percent.

Table 3 <b><u>HIGH POTENTIAL SITES AND SEGMENTS ALONG NHTs</u></b> (Only the trails reporting data are listed.) Trail	Total number associated with the trail	Number protected in FY 12	Number experiencing threats in FY 12
Ala Kahakai NHT	40	1	10
California NHT	277	0	30
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	68	0	0
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	109		unkn
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	197	0	83
Iditarod NHT	60	1	3
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	136		2
Lewis and Clark NHT	524		
Mormon Pioneer NHT	65	0	0
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	317	2	12
Old Spanish NHT	unkn	0	5
Oregon NHT	146		22
Overmountain Victory NHT	34	1	2
Pony Express NHT	69	0	4
Santa Fe NHT	225	unkn	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	66	0	0
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	102	0	0
Trail of Tears NHT	52	unkn	unkn
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	n/a	0	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,487</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>176</b>

Compared to FY 2011, the number of high potential sites and segments has grown by 7 percent due to properties associated with some of the newer trails and newly documented properties on other trails. The number of sites and segments protected dropped more than 60 percent, but the number of trail sites and segments experiencing threats rose sharply by the same percentage.

Table 4 <b><u>CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION</u></b>							
Only trails reporting data are listed.							
Trail	Miles of trail constructed, improved or re-constructed in FY 12	Miles of trail with deferred maintenance now brought up to standard during FY 12	Number of recreation structures constructed, altered, or expanded in FY 12	Number of major trail structures installed in FY 12 <sup>1</sup>	Number of new certified sites and segments in FY 12	Acreage of certifications in FY 12	Miles of new certifications in FY 12
Ala Kahakai NHT	0	0	8	20	0	0	0
Appalachian NST <sup>2</sup>	2.0	46	4	4			
Arizona NST	59.0	201	1	1			
Continental Divide NST	41.0	32	7				
El Cam. Real de los Tejas NHT					8		
Florida NST	0	97	0	3	0	0	0
Ice Age NST	5.1	33	0	36	9		13.8
Iditarod NHT		25			0	0	0
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	4.0	6		7	0	0	0
Natchez Trace NST	65.0	65	1	8			
New England NST	18.3		4	10			
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	3.5	62	3	2	0	0	
North Country NST	150.0	168	16	16	0		
Overmountain Victory NHT	1.2				1	12	1.2
Pacific Crest NST	57.0	1,002	2	24			
Pacific Northwest NST	108.0	250	5	7	0	0	0
Potomac Heritage NST	5.0			2			
Santa Fe NHT					1		
Selma to Montgomery NHT	25.0		0	0			
Trail of Tears NHT					3	unkn	0
Washington-Rochambeau RRNHT	0.0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>544.1</b>	<b>1,987</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>% Change from FY 2011</b>	<b>+ 47%</b>	<b>+ 45%</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>+1%</b>	<b>- 33%</b>		<b>-66%</b>

Notes: 1) Major structures include bridges, kiosks, trailheads, campgrounds, and similar investments.  
2) These are estimates. Appalachian NST clubs do not report accomplishments this early in the year.

Compared to FY 2011, the mileage of built or improved trail increased 47 percent, the mileage of trails brought up to standard increased 45 percent, and the other activities reported here increased or stayed level (with the exception of miles of newly certified trail).

## **Conserving and Restoring – Innovative Actions, by Trail**

At the behest of the community of North Kohala, Hawaii, near the north end of the **Ala Kahakai NHT**, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association (ATA) applied for and was awarded \$1.4 million dollars from the State of Hawaii Legacy Land Program to acquire, manage and protect a 35-acre shoreline parcel at Kaiholena. The ATA and the North Kohala community are currently raising an additional \$150,000 to close on the purchase.

Trail staff and the ATA also coordinated locations, planning and logistical assistance to NOAA in the formulation of Native Hawaiian, American Samoan, and Native American input into President's Obama's National Policy of Climate Change. A remarkable week-long gathering of scholars and practitioners from across the U.S. and Pacific was held at various locations along the Trail.

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Along the **Appalachian NST**, resource management focused on establishing natural resource priority zones, using a combination of rare plant data and data related to management concerns, to delineate areas of high ecological sensitivity. Maps are being produced for each trail club. A GoogleEarth® layer will be incorporated into the trail assessment data to help trail maintainers identify areas where sensitive species are located within their section to avoid harmful trail maintenance activities.

NPS staff received funding to move forward with a National Register Multiple Property Documentation form for the entire trail corridor from Maine to Georgia. This umbrella documentation will be the foundation for the future state segment listings (as funding becomes available).

Energy development, both traditional and alternative, continues to be a major issue for the Trail. The direct and cumulative impacts of these projects comprise perhaps the single greatest threat to the overall trail experience. Regional electric companies have formally announced their intentions to construct or reconstruct four major transmission lines in the Mid-Atlantic region and another in New England.

At the Palmerton Superfund Site in Pennsylvania, three overlapping projects include:

- slope stabilization and rockfall hazard reduction (allowing the Winter Trail to be reopened to hikers).
- planning for a major trail project and assistance to local municipalities for implementation of Pennsylvania Act 24 (funded from a mitigation settlement), and
- remediation activities to re-vegetate the denuded mountain, with aerial application of additional seeding and the installation of resource islands and invasive control measures.

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On January 4, along the **Arizona NST** in Pima County, AZ, the County dedicated the Davidson Canyon trailhead to Gabe Zimmerman, one of the victims of the January 8, 2011, Tucson shooting. Improvements completed at the trailhead were supported by private and public funds and consist of an expanded parking area, a sun shelter, wheelchair-accessible paths, and a tribute area. The trailhead serves the 15-mile Rincon Valley Passage of the Arizona Trail.



In the Coronado National Forest along the Trail, construction of the Incinerator Ridge Alternate Route will accommodate mountain bikers and equestrians. Nearby, 10 miles of trail – from the U.S./Mexico border north – was rehabilitated after being severely damaged by the Monument Fire in 2011. The fire started on the border near the southern terminus of the Trail in an area known for high levels of illegal border activity.

Another project on the Coronado National Forest is a possible 10-mile realignment to avoid the pending Rosemont Mine project. In 2012 the Forest Service teamed up with the Arizona Trail Association (ATA) to locate a suitable alternate route that will preserve as much of the Trail's representative characteristics as possible. The ATA also negotiated an agreement with the Rosemont Mine to provide up to \$650,000 of mitigation funds (if the mine is approved) to fund the realignment and other improvements.

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Along the Lander Trail segment of the **California NHT** in Wyoming, two innovative wayside exhibits were completed. One (in partnership with Shell Oil Company, Ultra Resources, Inc., the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, the Alliance for Historic Wyoming, the Oregon-California Trails Association, and BLM) uses gas development mitigation funds to provide interpretation at a major turnout along highway 191 near Pinedale. Here four waysides were developed and installed to discuss the impacts of energy development on the Lander Trail (both adverse and positive impacts). The other Lander Trail project was completed in partnership with the Lander Trail Foundation, Boy Scout Troop #799, Exxon Mobil Corporation, and the Forest Service. These four other wayside exhibits interpret the Trail (including a trailhead sign where visitors can hike the Lander Trail over a mountain pass). Funds were provided primarily from Exxon Mobil Corporation and the Lander Trail Foundation, with the promise of \$25,000 more for future waysides upon the completion of this project.

Also in Wyoming, at the New Fork River Crossing State Historical Park, a new trail system was mapped and NPS staff started site planning (interpretive planning there has already been completed). This property features a river crossing near Pinedale that has been relatively undeveloped since the emigrant era. It was purchased using \$1 million in gas development mitigation funds.

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To promote the conservation of the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT**, a draft conservation strategy for the Trail was developed, outlining an approach to conserve lands important to the visitor experience and identify initial conservation focus areas. Also, NPS staff convened the Chesapeake Large Landscape Conservation Workshop, bringing together conservation partners from around the watershed to develop strategies for protecting landscapes, including those along the Trail. A Land Protection Plan for the Trail has also been started to guide land conservation efforts. Plus, a new conservation initiative for this trail is an Indigenous Cultural Landscape Report which aims to document Trail-related landscapes important to Native Americans and to use this information to inform future interpretation and land conservation efforts.

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Along **El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT**, NPS staff have been coordinating with the Texas Historical Commission to prepare National Register of Historic Places nominations for trail-related sites in Texas.

The first 10 individual nominations will be considered for the State Register in early 2013. In addition, with NPS support, several researchers, including a professor at Stephen F. Austin State University, have completed an archeological report summarizing excavations in and near Nacogdoches, Texas.

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Where **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT** crosses the Rio Grande at the Oñate Crossing/Harts Mill/Old Fort Bliss site, NPS trail staff have worked with El Paso Partners and NPS cultural resource staff to complete a historic structure report, cultural landscape report, and archeological investigation highlighting the Trail's values.

A final report was submitted in 2012 for an archeological survey of 56.5 acres of trail alignments and landscape setting at La Bajada, New Mexico, a formidable obstacle for travelers in the form of a volcanic escarpment located 17 miles southwest of Santa Fe. The survey is part of a cultural landscape report for the area. Both the survey and the cultural landscape report were implemented through an agreement with the University of New Mexico.

Meanwhile, BLM and NPS staff together have contracted through the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (MSHPO) for a Multiple Properties Nomination Form (MPDF), an Historic Context Study, and 11 National Register site nominations. The MPDF and all but one nomination were approved for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2012. Six more NRHP nominations were prepared and are now in review, while 11 more require further agency review. NPS is working with the SHPO to acquire geospatial clips of all archaeological sites and surveys, all historical sites, and all registered properties located within five miles of the Trail in New Mexico.

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An *Historic Resource Study* for the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT** was prepared, completed, and published by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It can be viewed at <http://www.nps.gov/juba/historyculture/index.htm>.

In Pinal County, Arizona, an official alignment for the Anza Recreational Trail through the County was approved. It links Marana along Highway 238 to a point west of Maricopa.

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Numerous conservation efforts are occurring along the **Lewis and Clark NHT**, including:

- Collaboration with the NPS Denver Service Center to develop a dynamic, user-friendly, interactive online atlas for the Trail. This is the first and only NST or NHT to have created a comprehensive web-based atlas. Unlike a traditional printed paper atlas, this on-line service allows users to zoom in and out of areas of interest, select and display different layers of information, draw and add text directly to the web map, and export and print custom maps. The *Lewis and Clark Park Atlas* enables users to quickly and easily explore the Trail in-depth at <http://imgis.nps.gov/Geocortex/Viewer/dsc/?Viewer=LECL>.

- Completion of a 3-year comprehensive study to develop a Historic Route GIS Layer (based on the 1804 Missouri River Channel) delineating the outbound and return routes of the Corps of Discovery 1804-1806.
- At the Western Historic Trails Center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which NPS originally acquired and then deeded to the State Historical Society of Iowa with recreational use restrictions, part is being used for highway widening. To compensate for this loss of recreational land, the Iowa Department of Transportation has acquired adjoining lands of the same acreage which will be used for recreation.
- And, as preparation for future planning, Trail staff completed a “foundation document” which provides a comprehensive trailwide inventory of resources, issues, partners, and opportunities.

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For the **Old Spanish NHT** in New Mexico, NPS staff worked through the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to develop a Multiple Properties Documentation Form and Historic Context study as well as six trail segment National Register nominations. In turn, the SHPO contracted with the Old Spanish Trail Association to develop the multiple property nomination and the six individual site nominations which are currently under review to be finalized and listed.

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For the **Oregon NHT** in Oregon, a Multiple Property Documentation package has been developed and is now in its first draft review by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

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For the **Overmountain Victory NHT**, NPS has funded a Historic Structures Report for the Joseph McDowell House in Marion, NC. It has also funded master plans for the Biggerstaff’s Oldfields site and the Alexander’s Ford property – both in North Carolina. NPS funded all three projects since these properties are either certified or eligible to be certified as parts of the Trail.

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Along the **Pacific Crest NST** in California’s Inyo and Sierra National Forests, a recent windstorm (with winds over 180 mph) toppled more than 400,000 trees. Last summer more than 175 people – including Forest Service employees and volunteers – cleared 290 trail miles of 4,700 downed trees. This monumental effort included both chainsaw and crosscut saw work. Crew labor amounted to more than 29,600 person-hours, and 60 percent of this work was accomplished through generous contributions from partner organizations and volunteers.

In Washington’s Glacier Peak Wilderness, after seven years of epic trail work, the newly relocated Trail is again open for use. Floods in 1994 had destroyed eight trail bridges, making this section inaccessible.

Along the Trail in Kern County, California, an interagency law enforcement team continues to address OHV trespass using the Kern County Sheriff’s office, California State Park, BLM, and Forest Service law enforcement resources. All of these parties made presentations at the annual Trail Fest at Big Bear,

California. An “incident mailbox” has been created to document Trail-related resource and law enforcement issues.

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For the **Santa Fe NHT**, NPS staff acquired from the New Mexico SHPO geospatial clips of all archaeological sites and surveys, all historical sites, and all registered properties located within five miles of the Trail in New Mexico.

NPS is also working in New Mexico, Kansas, and Missouri to document and nominate appropriate sites and segments to the National Register of Historic Places. In FY 2012, six nominations for New Mexico, a multiple property documentation form and 30 individual site nominations in Kansas, and two Trail segments in Missouri were developed.

In southeast Colorado, in coordination with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Colorado Historic Fund, a site survey, viewshed analysis, and National Register nomination project is occurring for the Trail corridor there.

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A key landmark along the **Selma to Montgomery NHT**, the Edmund Pettus Bridge, has been formally nominated for National Historic Landmark status. The National Park System Advisory Board Landmarks Committee approved it as nationally significant in recognition of the “Bloody Sunday” march held there on March 7, 1965.

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A variety of conservation projects are underway along the **Trail of Tears NHT**, including:

- An agreement with Middle Tennessee State University to inventory, evaluate, and assess the condition of historic buildings and structures along the Trail.
  - A comprehensive archaeological and historical study of Trail of Tears related forts in Georgia completed by a member of the Georgia Trail Association.
  - Agreements with the Oklahoma and Missouri State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) to nominate sites associated with the Trail in those states to the National Register of Historic Places.
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New York is the first state along the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT** to develop a top-quality wayside exhibit plan. Through a Transportation Enhancement grant, NPS was able to involve the NPS Harpers Ferry Center to develop wayside exhibit panels for 15 historical Trail sites in the Hudson Valley. Each includes two exhibits, with one panel detailing an event or theme that reflects the site’s importance and the second offering orientation to the broader stories of the Trails. This project will set the precedent for the other eight states and Washington, D.C. Meanwhile, in Rhode Island, a set of four more wayside exhibits has been developed for the Trail, to be installed in 2013.

## WORKING TOGETHER

<u>Agency Actions</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>NPS</u>	<u>FHWA</u>	<u>FWS</u>	<u>USACE</u>
Agency attended all sessions of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails	yes	yes	yes	yes	5 of 6	4
Agency has finalized agency-wide policy on National Trails System	yes	in progress	(NA) <sup>1</sup>	no	yes	
Number of trails that actively use FTDS/FGDC standards	unkn	all	unkn	(NA) <sup>1</sup>	1,500	73
Agency's NRT entries in Registry are current and accurate.	yes	yes	unkn	(NA) <sup>1</sup>	yes	yes

Notes: 1) FHWA does not manage any trail facilities, but cooperates as a partner. National trails are referenced in several FHWA guidance documents.

Most of our agencies (BLM, FS, NPS, FHWA, and FWS) have assistance agreements or cooperative agreements with American Trails, American Hiking Society, and the Partnership for the National Trails System to help develop and enhance various aspects of the National Trails System. Products include the quarterly magazine, *Pathways Across America*, implementation of A Decade for the National Trails System – 2008 to 2018, various youth initiatives, National Trails Day, Volunteer Vacations, national scenic and historic trail workshops, the 14<sup>th</sup> National Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Tucson, Arizona, and the National Trails Training Partnership.

All six agencies attend the bimonthly meetings of the **Federal Interagency Council on Trails** to consider issues of interest to the National Trails System and the broader world of trails. Among the key topics discussed this past year were:

- Making the health connection
- Urban connections
- Blueways and water trails
- BLM's new policy manuals
- The new Forest Service Planning Rule
- Interface with the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council
- Standardized methods to measure trail visitation levels
- Policy to shape secretarial recognition of connecting and side trails
- National Recreation Trails
- National Trails Day
- Impacts of energy projects
- Training and the Trails Basics course
- Compliance for trail plans

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) recently approved the **Federal Trail Data Standards (FTDS)**. These standards – crafted by an interagency team – will now serve as a common currency to enable State and Federal mapping services to communicate in providing GIS mapping for both administrative and public travel uses.

In addition, our agencies make various contributions which benefit the entire Trails System, including:

- The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** completed its National Trails System Manual series, the first-ever comprehensive set of policies for Congressionally and secretarially designated national trails (more details on p. 35).
- BLM also completed and released the NHT Inventory Project for a variety of NHTs in seven states. The project was funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). BLM's National Operations Center in Denver is analyzing the data and plans to make it available to other agencies and the public.
- The **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** does not administer National Trails, but Federal-aid highway programs have helped several initiatives benefiting the National Trails System. From 1992 through 2012 Federal-aid highway program funds to States served such programs as the National Scenic Byways Program, Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Enhancement Activities, and the Federal Lands Highway Program.

The most recent round of transportation funding and related authorities – the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act (MAP-21) – was enacted in July, 2012, and changed the eligibility for several activities that benefit National Trails. MAP-21 retained broad eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle transportation projects, retained the option for states to continue RTP, and expanded potential eligibility for recreational trails. MAP-21 eliminated funding for the National Scenic Byways Program and replaced the Transportation Enhancement Activities with the Transportation Alternatives Program. It also eliminated eligibility for scenic and historic highway programs and visitor centers, but retained eligibility for turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas. MAP-21 eliminated landscaping or other scenic beautification as independent projects (although landscaping remains eligible as part of larger projects) but provided eligibility for vegetation management to prevent against invasive species. See official guidance at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/index.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/guidance/index.cfm).

At a national level, in FY 2012, FHWA specifically supported the National Trails System through the following actions:

- RTP funds supported the FS's Technology and Development program which assists Federal and State land-managing agencies and develops trail technical assistance publications.
- A cooperative agreement with American Trails to support the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), helping provide training resources for all kinds of trails.
- Co-sponsorship of several trail conferences, including the NHT workshop in May and conferences related to other trail uses.

- Support for the National Transportation Enhancements Clearinghouse (NTEC), which provides information to the public and reports on TE Activities – an important source of Federal-aid funds for many National Trails through FY 2012.
  - A new Section 4(f) Policy Paper governing the use of land from publicly owned parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and public or private historic sites for Federal highway projects. This paper includes references to NHTs and NSTs and can be found at <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/4f/4fpolicy.asp>.
- The **National Park Service (NPS)** continues with a funding source called Connect-Trails-to-Parks. In FY 2012 this program distributed \$934,000 for 14 projects. Details are found in Attachment C at the end of this report. Among the more innovative of these projects are:
    - DC Park Prescriptions (working with school kids to get outside and get healthy),
    - A Leave No Trace initiative along the entire Appalachian NST, and
    - Distance learning (with an emphasis on tribal youth) along the Lewis and Clark NHT.
  - NPS also collects and processes all applications for national recreation trails (NRTs) other than those in national forests. In FY 2012 NPS coordinated the paperwork and field reviews for 63 NRTs. NPS maintains a complete file record of NRTs, while its partner organization, American Trails, maintains the on-line database of all NRTs.
  - The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** hosted one Trails Council meeting, actively solicited and reviewed NRT nominations submitted by field stations, and continued an on-going effort to ensure that the NRT status of trails is current on the agency webpage.
  - The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** actively solicited and reviewed NRT nominations submitted by field staff at lakes and projects and continued an ongoing effort to ensure that the NRT status of trails is current on the agency webpage.
  - The **U.S. Forest Service (FS)** worked with NPS, BLM, FWS, and the Partnership for National Trails System in the development of a comprehensive land acquisition proposal for the National Trails System. This effort exemplifies the collaborative work necessary to ensure on-going protection of our national scenic and historic trails. (See p. 31.)

The Forest Service is moving forward with the development of new comprehensive management plans for the Arizona National Scenic Trail and the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail. These plans will detail future management of these newly designated trails.

## Statistics by Trail

### Partnerships and Planning

Trail	Number of compliance actions and reviews during FY12	Number of trailwide partner meetings	Number of new partner agreements in FY 12	Number of officially recognized volunteer hours contributed
Ala Kahakai NHT	2	33	1	7,302
Appalachian NST	21	13	14	239,109
Arizona NST	5	5	0	14,570
California NHT	76	3	1	669
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	0	5	3	0
Continental Divide NST		4	3	23,624 <sup>1</sup>
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	1	5	1	
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	5	11	2	
Florida NST	2	7	8	31,259
Ice Age NST	27	45	1	69,896
Iditarod NHT	c. 45	10	3	
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	10	12	11	20,874
Lewis and Clark NHT	268	9	8	137,181
Mormon Pioneer NHT	20	1	0	40
Natchez Trace NST	0	0	0	292
New England NST	0	4	2	9,000
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	65	68	12	75,200
North Country NST	4	1	4	73,834
Old Spanish NHT	16	5	1	unkn
Oregon NHT	76	3	2	629
Overmountain Victory NHT	3	50	5	4,000
Pacific Crest NST	2	9	2	74,103
Pacific Northwest NST	5	13	2	25,370
Pony Express NHT	40	3	1	500
Potomac Heritage NST	6	1	8	0
Santa Fe NHT	7	5	3	
Selma to Montgomery NHT				1,041
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	0	16	2	0
Trail of Tears NHT	1	5	6	
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	1	4	1	c. 1,600
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>c. 708</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>c. 810,093</b>

Notes: 1) Equivalent to 2,953 volunteer days.

Several trends seem to be going on at once in this arena of trail activity. Compared to FY 2011, compliance actions are slightly down by 3 percent, trailwide meetings have increased by almost 20



percent, the level of new agreements is down by 5 percent, while formally recognized volunteer hours have decreased by 6.5 percent. Regarding volunteer hours, four new trails are reporting hours, but volunteers levels along some the more established trails has been gradually dropping.

<b>Table 6</b> <b><u>PLANNING ACTIVITIES</u></b>  Trail	Participation in statewide, metropolitan, and local planning	No. of local trail corridor plans	No. of Federal interagency projects
Ala Kahakai NHT	very frequent	4	
Appalachian NST	frequent	NA	17
Arizona NST	occasional	3	1
California NHT	little or none	0	4
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	frequent	1	1
Continental Divide NST	frequent		
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	occasional	unkn	0
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	occasional		3
Florida NST	occasional	3	2
Ice Age NST	frequent	5	2
Iditarod NHT	frequent		3
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	occasional	4	8
Lewis and Clark NHT	frequent	unkn	6
Mormon Pioneer NHT	little or none	0	2
New England NST	frequent		
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	very frequent	6	78
North Country NST	occasional	3	6
Old Spanish NHT	occasional	unkn	2
Oregon NHT	little or none		8
Overmountain Victory NHT	frequent	2	
Pacific Crest NST	frequent	3	10
Pacific Northwest NST	occasional	2	1
Pony Express NHT	little or none	1	9
Potomac Heritage NST	very frequent	3	3
Santa Fe NHT	frequent		0
Selma to Montgomery NHT	little or none		
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	frequent	6	1
Trail of Tears NHT	occasional	unkn	0
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	frequent	20	3
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>66</b>	<b>170</b>
<b>Compared to FY 2011</b>		<b>-20%</b>	<b>- 8%</b>

Compared to FY 2011, most of these figures show a modest decline.

## Data Management

Trail	Trail has full-time or part-time data steward	Data sets are updated and accessible to public	Website hits during FY 12	Publications distributed in FY 12
<b>Table 7</b> <b><u>DATA MANAGEMENT</u></b> Y = yes, N = no, unkn = unknown				
Ala Kahakai NHT	Y	N		20
Appalachian NST	Y	Y	64,000	10,000
Arizona NST	Y	N	n/a	0
California NHT	Y	Y	124,684	46,477
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	Y	Y	149,400	8,000
Continental Divide NST	N	N	n/a	0
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	Y	Y	30,131	100
El Camino Real/Tierra Adentro NHT	Y	Y	30,427	5,000
Florida NST	N	Y	c. 12,000	
Ice Age NST			92,088	
Iditarod NHT	Y	Y	unkn	c. 2,000
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	Y		66,459	65,000
Lewis and Clark NHT	Y	somewhat		13,660
Mormon Pioneer NHT	Y	Y	114,994	46,882
Natchez Trace NST	Y	Y	0	0
New England NST	Y	Y/N		1,200
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	Y	soon	47,000	270,000
North Country NST	Y	Y	563,000	10,000
Old Spanish NHT	Y	Y	33,197	135,000
Oregon NHT	Y	Y	227,340	56,212
Pacific Crest NST	Y	Y	744,430	13,400
Pacific Northwest NST	N	N	n/a	n/a
Pony Express NHT	Y	Y	162,956	48,421
Potomac Heritage NST	N	Y	12,000	22,000
Santa Fe NHT	Y	N	96,847	6,291
Selma to Montgomery NHT	Y	N	108	17,108
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	Y	Y	56,800	10,000
Trail of Tears NHT	Y	Y	315,967	79,297
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	Y	Y		c. 6,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>Y = 24 (83%)</b>	<b>Y = 18.5 (64%)</b>	<b>2.9 million</b>	<b>c. 872,060</b>

As in FY 2011, most of the trails have data stewards, and many provide at least some data to the public (with that percentage increasing from 59 percent to 64 percent). The number of website hits decreased (because of more accurate reporting) by 29 percent. However publications distributed rose 42 percent.

## Mapping

Table 8 <b><u>MAPPING</u></b>  Only trails reporting data are listed.  Trail	Level of GIS/GPS activity	Frequency that trail is shown on national and state maps
Ala Kahakai NHT	high	sometimes
Appalachian NST	high	always
Arizona NST	medium	sometimes
California NHT	medium	often
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	medium	often
Continental Divide NST	high	seldom
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	medium	sometimes
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	medium	often
Florida NST	medium	sometimes
Ice Age NST	low	often
Iditarod NHT	high	sometimes
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	medium	sometimes
Lewis and Clark NHT	high	often
Mormon Pioneer NHT	low	often
Natchez Trace NST	high	always
New England NST	medium	often
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	high	always
North Country NST	high	sometimes
Old Spanish NHT	high	often
Oregon NHT	medium	often
Overmountain Victory NHT	medium	sometimes
Pacific Crest NST	medium	often
Pacific Northwest NST	medium	often
Pony Express NHT	low	often
Potomac Heritage NST	low	sometimes
Santa Fe NHT	medium	sometimes
Selma to Montgomery NHT	low	sometimes
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	medium	often
Trail of Tears NHT	medium	sometimes
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	medium	sometimes

The level of e-mapping varies from year to year and trail to trail. Only a few trail offices operate at full performance, and several are just getting involved. Similarly, the degree to which these trails appear on national and state maps seems to be a function of their age – the ones established decades ago are the best known.

## **Working Together -- Innovative Actions, by Trail**

**Ala Kahakai NHT** staff, in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources, NOAA, other conservation organizations, and community groups and individuals developed and finalized the Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for the protection of the South Kohala coral reef and fisheries. The CAP includes the Trail's CMP strategy for community-based management as a guiding principle. The necessary partnerships to implement the marine management activities indicated for South Kohala in the CMP have thus been established.

Trail staff also provided planning assistance to the Kailapa Community Association in planning and building capacity for this Hawaiian Homelands community to manage their shoreline. They met with the Department of Hawaiian Homelands in support of the Community Association's efforts, provided mapping to the University of Hawaii's Department of Planning and Urban Development for planning a community facility there, assisted with planning, and offered archaeological consultation.

Trail staff continue to work with the University of Redlands to develop new decision-making tools that link to the Trail's current GIS capacity. This suite of new digital systems will help trail staff and partners to better understand and visualize in space and time the complex natural and human systems through which the Trail passes, with the goal of improving the quality of trail planning and management. Once fully tested, the system will provide access to files, maps and documents about access, safety, history, science, culture, traditional uses, regulations, and other information relevant to Trail users and stewards. Users will include local families with historic ties to the Trail, community groups, and other land management agencies and private land owners along the Trail.

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Along the **Arizona NST**, the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service celebrated filling in the Trail's final gaps. On February 4, 2012, the Arizona Trail Association, with all Federal partners present, hosted a grand celebration marking the Trail's completion. Earlier, in the fall of 2011, the Flagstaff Ranger District had completed a final link through the San Francisco Peaks. Later, BLM hosted another celebration as the Trail's final major link was actually completed. These accomplishments mean there is now a connected trail route across Arizona from Mexico to Utah.

By written agreement, the Grand Canyon National Park and the Kaibab National Forest have joined together to build the 7-mile Greenway Trail and trailhead. It starts in Tusayan, Arizona, and links to the Grand Canyon visitor center. It now serves as the Arizona NST route north into the Park.

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For the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT**, NPS renewed its strong partnership with the non-profit Chesapeake Conservancy through a new cooperative agreement, focusing on a Trail Conservation Strategy and continuing outreach to develop public support for the Trail and participation in segment planning.

One related project is an NPS effort to work with stakeholders along 95 miles of the James River to detail how the Trail will develop there, producing the *Concept Plan for the James River Segment* and a detailed

action agenda. Another effort is the Chesapeake Rivers Collaborative which has assembled Federal, State, and nonprofit partners to address land conservation opportunities on four river corridors associated with the Trail. And nearby, along the lower Rappahannock River, NPS has initiated development of interpretive signage in partnership with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

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With the demise of the Continental Divide Trail Alliance in 2011, partners associated with the **Continental Divide NST** are getting organized in new and creative ways. The Forest Service has signed three new partnership agreements to obtain GIS and mapping services (with Bear Creek Survey) and volunteer support (with Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado and the Colorado Trail Foundation). In addition, it is working closely with three sets of Youth Corps teams to continue building and maintaining the Trail. Meanwhile the new Continental Divide Trail Coalition promises to provide trailwide support and advocacy once it gets organized.

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In Santa Fe County, NM, along **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT**, NPS staff worked with the County to integrate the Trail as a retracement trail into a multimillion dollar county trail project along the Santa Fe River.

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Along the **Iditarod NHT**, BLM staff provided field support, staff, and equipment to an 8-day cooperative trail improvement project last winter with the Takotna Community Association and the Iditarod Historic Trail Association. Partners donated \$10,000 of personal equipment to access the job site (97 miles one way overland with snowmobile, winter camping gear, tools and fuel). Five crews worked a total of 400 hours on brushing and marking 26 miles of an isolated section of the Trail 100 miles from their homes.

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For the **Lewis and Clark NHT**, NPS staff helped launch a new non-profit organization – the Lewis and Clark Trust Inc. – whose mission is to raise funds to promote and preserve the Trail.

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As part of their National Register listing initiative, NPS staff for the **Mormon Pioneer NHT** have entered a cooperative agreement with Brigham Young University’s Office of Public Archaeology to produce a Multiple Property Documentation Form and two nominations for National Register of Historic Places listings for the Trail.

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For the **Pacific Crest NST**, a strong interagency collaboration has been developed by the Pacific Crest Trail Association, local Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service offices, and the San Diego Gas and Electric Company to address mitigation needs and trail improvement possibilities associated with the Sunrise Powerlink Project in San Diego County, CA.

Along the Pacific Crest NST, a new equestrian collaborative partnership for the Trail has developed among the Backcountry Horseman of California and Oregon, Oregon Equestrian Trails, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and various BLM and Forest Service offices. In addition, the Forest Service, BLM,

NPS, and the Pacific Crest Trail Association (as well as several land trusts) developed two trail corridor protection Collaborative Landscape Project proposals for FY 2014 funding.

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For the **Pacific Northwest NST** in Washington, grants from the Recreational Trails Program have provided \$839,945 since FY 2004 towards maintenance projects along the Trail.

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**Potomac Heritage NST** staff established a partnership with the American Hiking Society to publish a guide to a segment of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, a unique demonstration of the potential for a continuous trail route featuring important historic features across the District of Columbia.

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The comprehensive management plan (CMP) for the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT** was completed and approved this year. Already a range of implementation projects – including many associated with state and local celebrations of the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 – involve many partnerships and include:

- Youth teams to support development projects along the Trail, such as:
    - Trail and Bicentennial activities in the City of Baltimore,
    - Conservation Jobs Corps projects in Prince Georges County (with Maryland DNR), and
    - Three interns to build a network of youth corps program and to identify trail projects for future youth corps teams.
  - Launch of the Trail’s new interactive website: [www.starspangledtrail.net](http://www.starspangledtrail.net).
  - Release of volume 1 of “Chesapeake Explorer,” a mobile app and interactive map (in conjunction with **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT**, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network, and the **Potomac Heritage NST**).
  - An interpretive assistance workshop for 70 trail partners,
  - An orientation film now playing at the Fort McHenry Visitor Center in Baltimore.
  - In partnership with the Maryland Historic Trust, publication of *In Full Glory Reflected*, a colorful history and travel guide to sites and stories associated with the War of 1812 and the writing of the national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*.
  - Teacher training in partnership with Center for the Constitution in Virginia.
  - A sign plan leading to design, fabrication and installation of signs using Scenic Byway funding. Phase I installation (25 3-sided orientation kiosks and 20 interpretive waysides) was completed and phase II (design of 40 waysides) began.
  - Using Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network grants at Havre de Grace, Fort McHenry, and Baltimore (all in Maryland) helped improve public access, interpretation, and effective media along the Trail.
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## Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)

Building on recent meetings organized by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) and various land acquisition officers of NPS, BLM, Forest Service, and the Fish & Wildlife Service, these four federal agencies submitted a comprehensive land protection pre-proposal package on May 25 for the new Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) process for FY 2014 Land and Water Conservation funds. This pre-proposal – including 12 of the 30 NSTs and NHTs – was chosen in June as one of 10 finalists to submit a full proposal. By selecting this pre-proposal to compete Federal agencies were asking, in effect, for the first time in a generation, “What are the land protection needs of the National Trails System?”

The response of the four agencies, submitted on August 10, was a \$61 million package of about 120 parcels in 17 states and 31 Congressional Districts along 11 national trails and in every ecological biome in the U.S. Parcels varied in size from 1 to 3,129 acres. Some came in bundles, completing gaps along certain trails. Some would help protect fragile cultural resources. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application were impressive, and, perhaps, an example to be followed in future Federal efforts of this type. Hopefully, this will be the beginning of a multi-year, strategic, comprehensive land protection program for the entire National Trails System.

In August it was learned that the NTS proposal had been passed on to the final selecting group of bureau directors and officers of the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior. The informal feedback received was that the National Trails System proposal was "strong" and "unique".

Throughout this process, PNTS provided valuable assistance to the Federal agencies by assisting with data organization and communication and by providing technical advice and expertise. While PNTS was a key partner in this process, it did not make recommendations or decisions regarding which parcels should be included in the final CLP – those decisions were made entirely by Federal agency staff.

## UNMET NEEDS AND CONCLUSION

<b>Table 9</b> <b><u>UNMET NEEDS</u></b>  Only trails reporting data are listed.  Trail	Miles of trail still to be built	(NHT's only) Miles of auto tour route still to be signed or marked	Number of key natural and cultural resource sites still to be protected
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>			
Appalachian NST	0		unkn
Arizona NST	10 <sup>1</sup>		unkn
Florida NST	c. 300		unkn
Ice Age NST	c. 570		
New England NST	17		
North Country NST	1,900		
Pacific Crest NST	0		2
Pacific Northwest NST	50		
Potomac Heritage NST	485		
<b>NST Total</b>	<b>c. 3,330</b>		<b>2</b>
<u>National Historic Trails</u>			
Ala Kahakai NHT	200+	200+	
California NHT		3,000	
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	3,000		68
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	n/a	entire trail	unkn
Iditarod NHT	c. 700	300	
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		300	
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		0	25
Old Spanish NHT		2,700	c. 200
Overmountain Victory NHT	248	220	
Pony Express NHT		757	
Selma to Montgomery NHT	45		
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	560	106	
<b>NHT Total</b>	<b>c. 4,750</b>	<b>7,583</b>	<b>c. 293</b>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>c. 8,080</b>		<b>c. 295</b>

Notes: 1) This does not include many small re-routings that are needed to get the Trail off primitive roads.

Because most of these numbers are rough estimates, it is hard to compare them year to year. For many of the trails it is difficult to ascertain how many miles of corridor or trail tread still need to be completed because exact route locations are not yet known.



One key step in the development of a national scenic or historic trail is the comprehensive management plan (CMP), the basic requirements for which are outlined in Section 5 of the National Trails System Act. Many of the early CMPs, conducted in the 1980s, are now obsolete, so some trail offices are undertaking revised CMPs. Finding funds to update or revise old CMPs is a huge unmet need for many trails.

#### Trails with CMPs Currently Underway

Arizona NST  
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT  
New England NST  
Old Spanish NHT  
Pacific Northwest NST  
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

#### Trail CMPs Being Revised

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

#### Other Trails Where CMPs Should be Revised or Amended

Appalachian NST  
Iditarod NHT  
Lewis and Clark NHT  
Natchez Trace NST  
North Country NST  
Trail of Tears NHT (due to added routes under PL 111-11).

## **CONCLUSION**

**America's Great Outdoors** – Launched in 2010, with strong White House support, “AGO” has become a wide-ranging action plan spanning many Federal departments and agencies (including all six involved with this report). In a few places in the AGO report specific NSTs and NHTs are mentioned – especially in the recent list of 100 top priority state projects. Therefore the format of this annual report is shaped to suggest ways that the operations of the National Trails System help accomplish many of the goals and tasks of AGO.

Among the many tasks associated with AGO, the National Trails are contributing strongly to the following:

- Connecting American to the Great Outdoors
  - Jobs, especially the new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps
  - Enhanced recreation access
  - Raising awareness of the values and benefits of being outdoors
  - Engaging young people

- Conserving and Restoring America’s Great Outdoors
  - Full funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund
  - Urban parks and urban outreach
  - “Living” rural landscapes
  - Conserve Federal lands, especially natural and cultural resources
  - Protect rivers and other waters
  
- Federal Agencies Working Together
  - Improve Federal performance as a conservation partner

**A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018** – Since 2008, the Partnership for the National Trails System, a coalition of more than 30 NST and NHT organizations, is coordinating “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018,” leading up to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System Act in 2018. The Partnership’s top priority actions to carry out Decade goals are:

Goal One: Increase public awareness of the National Trails System . . .

- Develop and market a TV special depicting each NST and NHT – as well as the National Trails System as a whole.
- Develop programs and activities to engage and involve youth (especially in urban areas) in appreciating, using, and helping to sustain NHTs and NSTs.
- Work with the Department of the Interior Office of Youth in Natural Resources to share and spread information about opportunities for youth involvement in the National Trails System.

Goal Two: Complete and enhance the designated National Trails . . .

- Complete inventories of the natural and cultural resources and mapping of the routes of all NSTs and NHTs.
- Develop and implement land protection plans for all NSTs and NHTs.
- Collaborate with Federal agencies to include mapped corridors to preserve the integrity and aesthetic quality of all NSTs and NHTs and their adjoining landscapes in agency land management plans.
- Complete construction of all NSTs and NHTs and any necessary interpretive and other support facilities.

Goal Three: Build capacity of organizations and Federal agencies to better administer, manage, and sustain national trails.

- Regularly provide training for trail organizations to enhance their ability to recruit and retain leaders, to raise funds to sustain their efforts, and to better govern themselves. Provide training for organization leaders and agency staff in trail land and resources protection techniques.
- Enhance the volunteer programs and volunteer coordination staffing of the Federal agencies and the trail organizations to significantly increase volunteer recruitment, training, empowerment, and retention.

**Policy** – After several years of effort, BLM staff this year completed a National Trails System Manuals series. Among our agencies, this is the first-ever comprehensive set of policies for congressionally- and secretarially-designated National Trails under the authorities of the National Trails System Act (and other related laws and policies). Other agencies have struggled to accomplish this – BLM did it first and we all applaud them.

The three BLM policy manuals are:

- 6250 – National Scenic and Historic Trail Administration
- 6280 – Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation, and
- 8353 – Trail Management Areas – Secretarially Designated National Recreation, Water, and Connecting and Side Trails.

These policy manuals emphasize the nature and purpose of the trails, identification of NHT high potential sites and segments, the continuous nature of NSTs, selection of official National Trail Rights-of-Way, and establishment of National Trail Management Corridors at the local planning level. All three manuals can be accessed at: <http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-500/directives/dir-manu/manu-dir.html>.

**New Connecting and Side Trails** – As part of the implementation of the recently completed CMP for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT, four river water-trails were formally recognized by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on May 16 under Section 6 of the National Trails System Act:

- the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania and New York,
- the Chester River in Maryland,
- the Upper Nanticoke in Delaware, and
- the James River in Virginia.

All of these river water-trails commemorate Captain John Smith’s interactions with Native Americans at the mouths of each river. Through these consultations he learned enough to map these rivers and delineate the earliest European mapping of the entire Chesapeake Bay watershed. These are the first connecting and side trails in the National Trails System since the first two were recognized in 1990.

**Research** – There are many research needs associated with the National Trails System. Perhaps the most glaring gap is not being able to systematically and comparatively (and economically) measure trail visitor use. That is the primary missing information in the statistical tables shown in this report.

There is no common or universal method for measuring trail use. A recent Appalachian NST study estimates annual usage of the trail by some 1.9 million people. This is more accurate than any previous figures, but not a method easily replicated by others. It is critical that we develop a standard visitor use methodology to be able to compare trail visitation with comparable figures occurring at parks, forests, visitor centers, and similar destinations. With such data we can then do research in visitor satisfaction, economic impacts, and the cost/benefits of operational and project funding.

**Challenges** – Major challenges continue to face these trails. An aging workforce and changing technologies will clearly affect the number of volunteers in the future. The depressed economy makes fundraising difficult for nonprofit partners. Many strapped state budgets mean closing state parks and reducing staff involved in the trails. Level or even reduced Federal budgets over the next few years will be a challenge to all the trails. Vandalism, neglect, erosion, and development continue to take their toll locally on resources associated with these trails. Energy independence and the wish to upgrade and add utility corridors – as well as install thousands of acres of wind farms and solar arrays – may severely damage the visual quality of many of these trails. It has become clear that the past decade’s conflicts over oil and gas drilling and cell phone towers were just a prelude to current conflicts associated with renewable sources of energy – primarily wind farms and solar arrays. Dozens of these alternative energy projects – often huge and industrial in nature – may negatively impact various trails and trail sites. Mitigating or moving some of these projects will prove a challenge in balancing the twin goals of fostering energy independence and protecting treasured landscapes.

**Hopeful Trends** – On the hopeful side, several trends suggest new breakthroughs in collaboration. AGO and related efforts have fostered increased interagency collaboration as well as better cooperation and communication within agencies. Several venerable trail staffers have retired and been replaced by seasoned mid-career professionals who expand the talent pool within the Trails System. At the same time – within agencies, among partners, and with the general public – each year brings greater recognition of the National Trails System and the complex challenges it faces. As time goes on and communities appreciate the value these trails bring, we are documenting increased public and private investments that enhance communities and embed the trails into the heart of community life.

**Summary** – The impressive accomplishments documented throughout this report indicate that the National Trails System is as strong as ever, providing an ever-expanding diversity of travel and adventure experiences for Americans and international visitors. These trails offer unmatched quality of life experiences in outdoor recreation, education, scenic transportation, and access to the precious natural and cultural resources that define this Nation. Essential to all these efforts is an unwavering, impressive, and ever growing cadre of volunteers working in close partnership with a network of committed public agencies.

## ATTACHMENT A

### CHECKLIST OF MOU TASKS

The data in this annual report have been clustered so that similar data can be found with other information that relates to it – this is not the order in which the tasks are listed in the 2006 MOU. The following checklist shows where the reported information can be found for each of the MOU tasks:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	Attend Trails Council, issue report	<i>Working Together, Agency Actions</i>	21
2	Develop policy	<i>Working Together, Agency Actions</i>	4, 21, and 35
3	Participate widely in planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	25
4	Coordinate trail plans with others	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	25
5	Prepare and implement plans	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	25
6	Conduct NEPA and NHPA compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	24
7	Foster interagency training	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	21-23
8	Support meetings, publications, etc.	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	21-23
9	(USACE) Protect trail resources	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	
10	Develop data and mapping standards	<i>Data Management, Table 7</i>	26
11	Collect and manage data and mapping	<i>Data Management, Tables 7-8</i>	26 and 27
12	Update NRT listings	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	5, 21-23
13	Formulate unified policies	<i>Working Together</i>	21-23
14	Establish a contact list		
15	Hold annual meeting	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	24
16	Execute supplemental agreements	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	24
17	Cooperate in planning and compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Tables 5-6</i>	24 and 25
18	Encourage regular schedule of meetings	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	24
19	Take full advantage of agency programs	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	25
20	Coordinate for effectiveness	(Monthly conference calls)	
21	Conduct collaborative planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	25
22	Enhance administration and management	<i>(See innovative actions, by trail)</i>	
23	Encourage innovation	<i>(See innovative actions, by trail)</i>	
24	Develop/use a unified tracking system	<i>This report</i>	

ATTACHMENT B

**MOU TASKS AND DECADE ACTIONS**

Since the National Trails System MOU was signed in 2006, agencies and partners involved in the National Trails System have fashioned a framework of goals and objectives to coordinate actions at the national and trail-wide levels so that the National Trails System in 2018, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be substantially better known, better protected, and better served by both the agencies and trail partners than in 2008, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This effort is called “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018.”

Half of the factors assessed and measured in this Annual Report help achieve the top-priority actions of the Decade. Because most of the MOU tasks pertain to Federal agencies, they do not correlate directly to the Decade actions that relate primarily to outreach and partners.

<u>Top-Priority Decade Action</u>	<u>MOU Task No.</u>
<u>Promotion</u> : National Trails System publicity through a Public Television Special	None
<u>Youth Involvement</u> : Outreach to youth organizations and Department of the Interior’s Office of Youth	None
<u>Resource Protection</u> : Develop protection strategies for each NST and NHT	10 – Data and Mapping Standards
<u>Planning Coordination</u> : Include well-mapped trail corridors in all affected public land plans	3 – Participate widely in planning 4 – Coordinate trail plans with others 5 – Prepare and implement plans 6 – Conduct NEPA and NHPA compliance 10 – Data and Mapping Standards 17 – Cooperate in planning and compliance 21 – Conduct collaborative planning
<u>Capacity-Building</u> : Build partners’ organizational and volunteer skills and capacity through training and other means	7 – Foster interagency training
<u>Interagency Collaboration</u> : Encourage interagency collaboration, perhaps even co-located offices and joint administration	2 – Develop policy 13 – Formulate unified policies 19 – Take full advantage of agency programs 22 – Enhance trail administration and management

ATTACHMENT C

**2012 CONNECT-TRAILS-TO-PARKS PROJECTS**

(ranked by size of award)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Trail(s)</u>	<u>Park or Other Federal Area</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Award</u>
Develop Education Program	Natchez Trace NST	Natchez Trace Parkway	AL, MS, and TN	\$ 100,000
Interpretation at Lions Park Transit and Trail Hub	Old Spanish NHT	Arches Nat. Park	Moab, UT	99,996
Shingobee Connection Trail/ Pumphouse Bay Bridge	North Country NST	Chippewa Nat. For.	Minnesota	99,840
Implement Signage/New Media	Potomac Heritage NST plus additional trails	Nat. Capital Region	Greater DC	98,800
DC Park Prescriptions Initiative	Potomac Heritage NST Plus other trails	Nat. Capital Region	Washington, DC	84,760
Landscape Painting on the Trail	New England NST	Weir Farm, etc.	CT and MA	83,200
Distance Learning Along the Trail	Lewis & Clark NHT	Ft. Union TP NHS Knife River Indian Villages NHS	North Dakota	64,500
Implement Leave No Trace Initiative	Appalachian NST	Many locations and parks in 14 states		64,200
Children's TV Program	Ice Age NST	Ice Age Reserve Units	Wisconsin-wide	57,200
Creative Youth Engagement	New England NST	Numerous local parks	CT and MA	49,920
Enhancing James River Assets	Capt. John Smith CNHT	Numerous wildlife refuges	Central Virginia	43,543
Non-Motorized Pathway	Old Spanish NHT	Arches Nat. Park	Moab, UT	36,644
Trail Construction and Upgrades	Ice Age NST	Ice Age Reserve Units	Wisconsin	31,845
Interpreting Indian Language & Culture (only part of funding used)	Lewis & Clark NHT	Ft. Union Trading Post NHS, North Dakota Knife River NHS		19,552
			TOTAL	\$ 934,000