





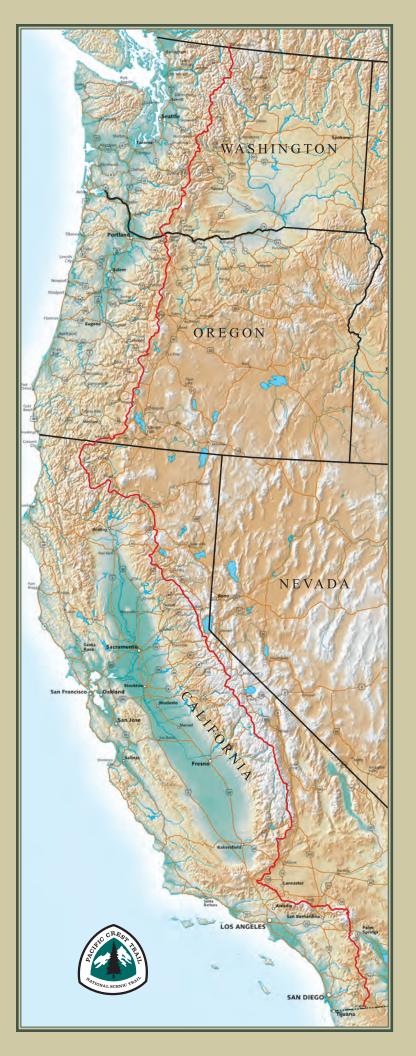






# PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL FY 2014 Appropriations Request

Prepared by: Pacific Crest Trail Association www.pcta.org



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Cover Photos by Virginia Alleman and Heather Burror



# **FY2014** Appropriations Request

The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) respectfully asks Congress to support the following FY2014 appropriations to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT):

I. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)	<ul> <li>PCT Corridor Acquisition Projects US Forest Service (USFS) Budget Request</li> <li>\$11.0 million</li> <li>California—Trail and resource protection adjacent to Anza Borrego Desert State Park and the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument; through the community of Agua Dulce; and within the Angeles and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests</li> <li>Oregon—Trail and resource protection on an inholding between the Fremont-Winema and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests</li> <li>Washington—Trail and resource protection within the boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie and Wenatchee National Forests</li> <li>\$250,000—LWCF line item for program administration Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Budget Request</li> </ul>
\$15.0 million	<ul> <li>\$4.0 million</li> <li>Trail and resource protection within the San Gorgonio Wilderness (California), Whitewater Area of Critical Environmental Concern (California), and Cascade- Siskiyou National Monument (Oregon),</li> </ul>
II. Capital Improvement & Maintenance – Trails (CMTL)	<ul> <li>US Forest Service (USFS) Budget Request</li> <li>\$2.0 million—allocation for PCT in the USFS Region 5 CMTL account to fund the following ongoing programs: <ul> <li>Full-time USFS PCT Program Manager</li> <li>Planning and optimal trail location reviews</li> <li>Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the Pacific Crest Trail Association to support volunteer trail maintenance and public education programs</li> <li>Trail maintenance, construction, reconstruction and interpretation</li> <li>Trail management and operations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
\$2.0 million	<ul> <li>Trail management and operations</li> <li>Expanded Youth and Corps Trail Crew Programs</li> </ul>
III. Trail Maintenance \$500.000	<ul> <li>National Park Service (NPS) Budget Request</li> <li>\$200,000—line item for PCT maintenance on NPS lands</li> <li>Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Budget Request</li> <li>\$300,000—line item for PCT maintenance on BLM lands</li> </ul>





### **Trail Funding Justification—FY2014**



The USFS has overall responsibility for the PCT, but operational responsibility is shared by the NPS, the BLM and several state and county parks through which the trail passes. The PCTA is the major private partner, as codified in a Memorandum of Understanding, with these land management agencies. As such and as demonstrated below, the PCTA leverages limited federal dollars through the extensive use of volunteers and private donations to

ensure the PCT is protected, preserved and promoted as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people.

### PCTA Contribution Over the Past 10 years (2003-2012):

The USFS and PCTA partnership continues to produce outstanding results. Volunteer hours have increased significantly due to the PCTA's Regional Representative Program. Five Regional Representatives cover 2,200 miles of the PCT and provide volunteer support through their local offices. Volunteers now have access to trail project information, training, tools and supplies needed to do their jobs.



Total Volunteer Hours:	<u>763,000</u>
Value of Volunteer Hours:	\$15,500,000
Private Dollars Raised:	\$ 7,600,000
Total PCTA Contribution:	\$ 23,100,000

\* In 2010 and 2011, funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allowed the USFS, BLM and PCTA to put an unprecedented number of volunteers and corps crews to work on the trail.





## **Table of Contents**

This booklet outlines the two key FY2014 appropriations to the US Forest Service (USFS) necessary for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), which the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) respectfully asks Congress to support.

#### Tab 1: LWCF

The 2,650-mile PCT is not completely protected! The PCTA and the USFS have identified more than 1,500 private land parcels, encompassing about 200 miles along the trail, which remain at risk of development or other non-compatible uses. Key to bringing these parcels into public protection is use of the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations. With the \$15.0 million requested for FY2014 as part of the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Proposal, the USFS and the BLM are ready and able to procure, from willing sellers, critical components of the PCT.

#### Tab 2: CMTL & Trail Maintenance

Each year, the combined forces of fire, flood, tree-fall and other factors severely impact the PCT. The USFS and partner public agencies cannot provide manpower sufficient to remedy these impacts adequately. The PCTA, however, annually enlists and trains battalions of volunteers, who spent about 88,000 hours last year working to keep the trail passable. The money that the USFS receives from the taxpayers is vital to keep those volunteers out on the trail, as they need supervision, tools and training to do their work.

#### Tab 3: Congressional Maps

The PCT passes through three states and 18 Congressional districts.

#### Tab 4: Letters

In the past, members of Congress have shown support of the PCT Appropriations Request by signing on to a letter addressed to the Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies. This year we are asking members of Congress to show support by signing a letter in support of the entire National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning Proposal.

#### Tab 5: PCT/PCTA Information

The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington. The PCT is one of the first two National Scenic Trails designated by Congress in 1968. (The Appalachian Trail was the other.) The USFS is responsible for administering the trail, and depends on Congress to appropriate funds annually for that purpose.

The PCTA is a private, nonprofit membership organization. Since 1977, its volunteers and small staff have worked in partnership with the USFS, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and California State Parks to ensure the protection, preservation and promotion of the PCT



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### FY2014 LWCF Request: \$61,601,508



#### Background

In August 2012, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, assembled a comprehensive land protection package for an appropriation through the FY2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for the National Trails System through the Collaborative Landscape Planning program. This \$61,601,508 million package includes 120 parcels in 17 states and 28 Congressional Districts along 11 national scenic and historic trails. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application are impressive, and perhaps, an example to be followed in future Federal efforts of all kinds.

#### The National Trails Landscape

The national scenic and historic trails are wilderness and rural, historic and cultural corridors traversing 49 states and every ecological biome in the US. These long-distance trails, stretching for hundreds or thousands of miles each, connect with 70 national wildlife refuges, 80 national parks, 90 national forests, and 100 major metropolitan areas, protect crucial conservation areas, preserve irreplaceable historic and cultural places, and provide wildlife migration corridors, as well as education, recreation and fitness for all ages.

By Congressional action, national scenic and historic trails are nationally significant. Each is a collaborative venture in the conservation, interpretation, and responsible public use of important elements of our Nation's natural and cultural heritage. As established by law, the administration and management of these trails requires Federal interagency collaboration. Significant LWCF investment is essential to protect them for public appreciation and benefit.

The collaborative nature of the national scenic and historic trails means that a financial investment by any of the partners has the potential to be greatly leveraged by contributions from other partners. This has been the case repeatedly in the National Trails System. Any Federal financial investment in these trails is highly stimulatory. In 2011 alone, private organizations, state agencies, local and tribal government entities, and volunteers contributed over \$36,000,000 in funding and other support to the National Trails System.

Federal financial investment does not just help to buy land to protect critical resources; it also sets the stage for citizen and community involvement in national trail stewardship. The Federal investment in these trails – well illustrated by the Appalachian Trail – clearly stimulates citizen engagement and volunteerism, connects citizens with the Nation's natural and cultural heritage, and strengthens communities across the land.

#### **Outcomes with Collaborative Landscape LWCF**

Each national trail has a comprehensive management plan that outlines management objectives for it. Protection of a continuous recreation corridor is paramount for the scenic trails while protection of significant cultural sites is critical for historic trails. The projects included in the proposal will help fulfill those trail-specific plans. Indicators of success vary from trail to trail, but include increased visitation, increased community participation, return of rare or endangered species, and restoration of damaged landscapes.

#### Threats to the National Trails System Landscape

National scenic trails are to be continuous corridors of superlative recreational opportunity, so permanent gaps are a major threat to their integrity. Trail gaps result in the abandonment of trail sections, negating years of effort and public and private investment. Disruption of natural and historic settings by energy development, mining and logging, housing and commercial development, and other changes destroy the quality of visitor experience along both national scenic and historic trails. Destruction of irreplaceable historic and cultural resources and rare and endangered ecosystems lessens the value and inspiring nature of these trails.

### National Trails System Land and Water Conservation Fund

### FY2014 LWCF Request: \$61,601,508

The primary partners who work with the Federal agencies to construct, maintain, protect and promote the National Trail System respectfully ask Congress to support FY2014 LWCF appropriations of \$61,601,508 to protect critical sites and segments along the Congressionally

authorized Ala Kahakai, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, Lewis and Clark, and Nez Perce national historic trails; and along the Appalachian, Continental Divide, Florida, Ice Age, New England, North Country and Pacific Crest national scenic trails. These partners include the Ala Kahakai Trail Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Appalachian Mountain Club, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association, Connecticut Forest & Park Association, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Continental Divide Trail Society, Florida Trail Association, Ice Age Trail Alliance, Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, Lewis and Clark Trust, Nez Perce Trail Foundation, North Country Trail Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association and the Partnership for the National Trails System.

#### **Bureau of Land Management Budget Request**

#### \$5,722,260 million | 19 tracts | 3,687 acres

**Nez Perce and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trails (ID, MT):** \$1,630,000 for natural and archaeological resource protection along two national historic trails adjacent to Cow Island, Cow Creek and Lolo Creek

Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (OR, CA): \$4,092,260 for trail and resource protection within the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument, San Gorgonio Wilderness, and Whitewater Area of Critical Environmental Concern

### US Fish and Wildlife Service Budget Request

#### \$12,660,782 million | 8 tracts | 3,433 acres

Appalachian National Scenic Trail (PA): \$4,300,000 for watershed, viewshed and globally rare habitat protection along Kittatinny Ridge in the Delaware Water Gap of Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge

**El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail (NM):** \$6,860,782 for resource protection and acquisition of water rights for Middle Rio Grande National Wildlife Refuge, the southwest's first urban national wildlife refuge

Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (WA): \$1,500,000 for protection of an intact historic setting representing what the Corps of Discovery saw and experienced, and improved protection of a threatened habitat type

#### **US Forest Service Budget Request**

#### \$18,215,866 million | 70 tracts | 5,203 acres

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail (NC, TN, VA):** \$5,450,000 to protect priority viewsheds and unique, quality high-elevation ecosystems in the Pisgah, Cherokee and George Washington National Forests

**Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (CO):** \$199,300 to provide trail connectivity, conserve alpine landscapes, and protect watersheds critical to Denver's water supply

Florida National Scenic Trail (FL): \$1,776,675 to protect the remaining three miles of gaps along the 70-mile Suwannee River section and complete resource protection for critical habitat, including riparian lands

**Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (CA, OR, WA):** \$10,789,891 for trail and resource protection along the crest of the Cascades and Sierras, and the Transverse Desert Ranges from the edge of the Anza-Borrego Desert in southern CA to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in northern Washington

#### National Park Service Budget Request

#### \$25,002,600 million | 22 tracts | 5,349 acres

Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail (HI): \$4,250,000 to protect 59 acres along the Kona Coast with numerous historical and archaeological sites and a section of the Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail

**Appalachian National Scenic Trail (PA, VT):** \$3,700,000 for watershed, viewshed and globally rare habitat protection along Kittatinny Ridge in the Delaware Water Gap of Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge and to secure a corridor inholding in the Green Mountain National Forest

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail (NM): \$5,300,000 to re-route the CDNST off of roads onto lands that will afford spectacular views of and access to nationally significant volcanic landscapes in El Malpais National Monument

**Ice Age National Scenic Trail (WI):** \$3,780,000 for protection of a continuous corridor for hikers, wildlife and management along the Eau Claire River, at the edge of the Driftless Area and within the renowned Kettle Moraine

**New England National Scenic Trail (CT, MA):** \$4,000,000 for trail and resource protection on two key parcels that provide campsites for hikers, connections to two community centers and contiguous open space corridor

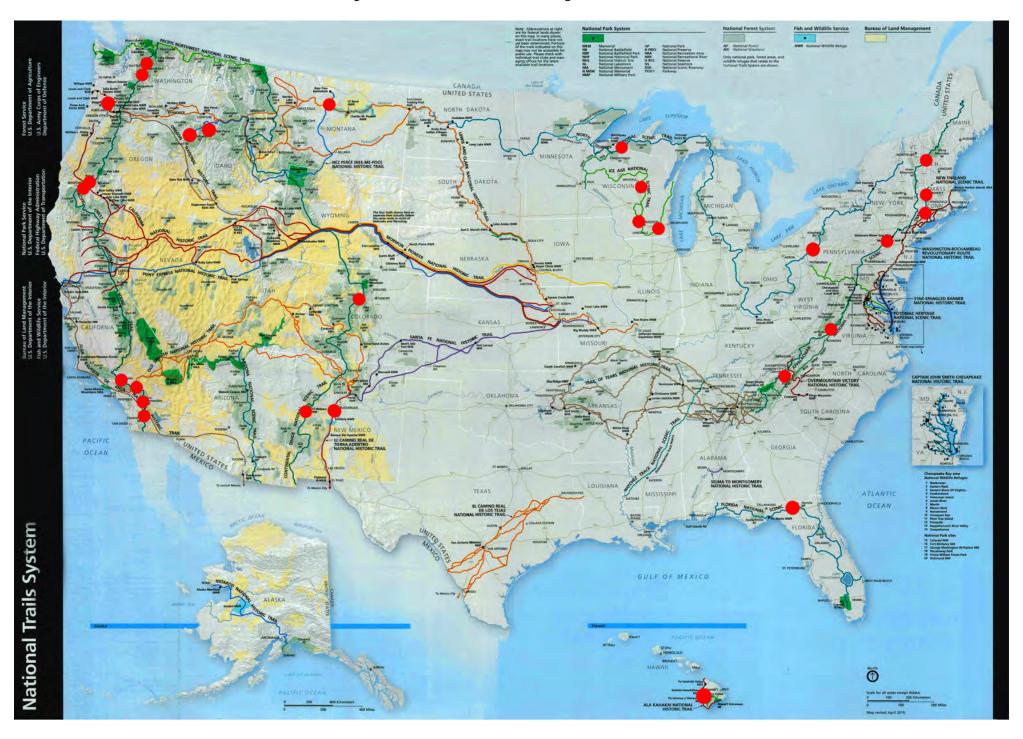
**Nez Perce National Historic Trail (OR, MT):** \$1,210,000 for trail and archaeological site preservation at the Bloody Gulch of Big Hole National Battlefield and at Old Joseph Minam State Park

North Country National Scenic Trail (PA, WI): \$2,762,600 for key trail connections between Moraine State Park and McConnell's Mill State Park in western Pennsylvania, and along the Lake Superior shoreline in Wisconsin





# FY 2014 National Trails System LWCF Project Locations





### I. Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF): \$15.0 million

### LWCF Request (Listed in Priority Order):

1) USFS PCT Corridor Acquisitions:

\$10,789,891

Priority Projects	State	<b>Congressional District</b>	Request
1 Agua Dulce	CA	CA-25	\$ 2,289,891
2 Plum Creek Timberlands	WA	WA-08	\$ 3,370,000
3 Soledad Canyon	CA	CA-25	\$ 2,300,000
4 Brown Mountain	OR	OR-02	\$ 600,000
5 Terwilliger	CA	CA-36	\$ 1,200,000
6 Donomore Meadows	CA	CA-01	\$ 200,000
7 Pine Mountain	CA	CA-36	\$ 750,000
8 Cajon Pass	CA	CA-08	\$ 80,000

2) BLM PCT Corridor Acquisitions:

\$ 4,092,260

Priority Projects	State	Congressional District	Request	
1 Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument	OR	OR-02	\$ 227,260	
2 Santa Rosa/San Jacinto Mountains National Monument	CA	CA-36	\$ 195,000	
3 Whitewater Area of Critical Environmental Concern	CA	CA-08	\$ 2,600,000	
4 San Gorgonio National Monument	CA	CA-08	\$ 750,000	
5 Hauser	CA	CA-51	\$ 320,000	

3) USFS Program Administration:

\$ 250,000

### Total LWCF Request:

\$15,132,151





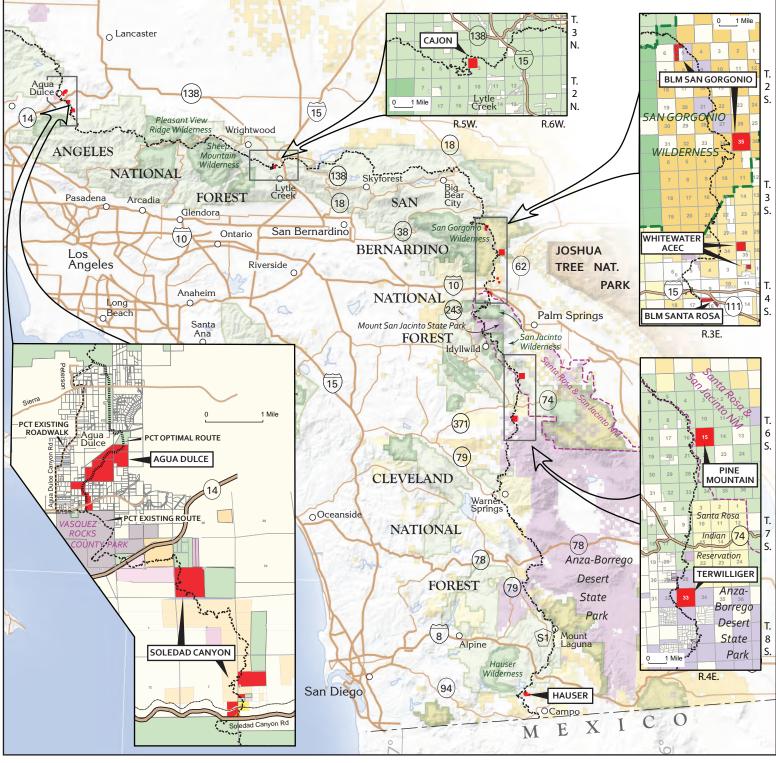
**Why is this needed?** For most of the 2,650 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, hikers and equestrians can experience some of the most sublime outdoor scenery in the world. But, in far too many spots along the way, this experience is harshly interrupted by stretches of private lands with logged-over areas, inappropriate barriers and incompatible development. More than 30 years after the 1968 congressional designation of the PCT as one of the first National Scenic Trails, it is still not completely protected. Approximately 200 miles remains marred by inadequate public rights to travel and to protect the user's experience through what should be a gorgeous and wild landscape.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund will be critical in efforts to complete the PCT. The USFS, with its partner public agencies and the Pacific Crest Trail Association, has identified key parcels for purchase from willing private sellers. In recent years, LWCF appropriations have not been adequate to keep the PCT land acquisition program on track. Opportunities to purchase some of the properties along the PCT constantly come and go. When those opportunities are missed, some permanent changes in land use that conflict with PCT use can take place. Thus, it is urgent for the USFS to continue its efforts to identify and secure those parcels crucial to the trail.

### **LWCF Progress:**

PCT Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Activity	FY 2000—FY 2012
LWCF	
Appropriations to the US Forest Service for the PCT	\$16,180,200
PCT Completed Acquisitions using LWCF funding	
Klamath NF—Copper Butte	-
Rogue River NF—Siskiyou Gap	-
Tahoe NF—Barker Pass	
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF—Plum Creek	-
(parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
San Bernardino NF—Lookout Mountain	-
Cleveland NF—Hook Ranch	-
San Bernardino NF—Mission Springs & Onyx Peak (parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	-
Angeles NF—Agua Dulce	
(parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	
Angeles NF—Soledad Canyon	
(parcels – other tracts still require purchase)	





20 Miles 0 10

#### References

All Data: Forest Service, BLM

#### Disclaimer

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.



- FY2014 LWCF Request Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
- - National Monument
  - National Forest / National Forest Wilderness
  - BLM / BLM Wilderness

Wilderness Boundary

- National Park / National Park Widerness
- California State
- Tribal Lands
- Private

#### **CALIFORNIA TRACTS Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

FY2014 National Trails System LWCF Collaborative Funding Proposal

#### MAP 1 OF 3

This map depicts the approximate location of proposed acquisition for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail



US Forest Service Region 5 Bureau of Land Management El Centro Field Office

More detailed cadastral maps can be requested from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.





### **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### California Desert Southwest

#### Project Details

LWCF Request: \$4,745,000

**Congressional District:** CA-36, Representative Ruiz

Acres: 1813

Number of Tracts: 5

Acquiring Agencies: USFS & BLM

#### **Project Descriptions:**



**Terwilliger (USFS)** - This 636.6-acre parcel located next to the Pacific Crest Trail needs to be preserved as open space and set aside for public use. Currently, the PCT crosses adjacent to the southwest and through the northwest corner of the property. This property is integral to the eventual relocation of the PCT according to the completed Optimal Location Review for the area. This privately held parcel is within the Anza Borrego Desert State Park checkerboard of properties, which have increasingly been developed for housing and other uses.

**Pine Mountain (USFS)** - The Pine Mountain parcel is located within the PCT viewshed on the stretch of trail known as the Desert Divide. This parcel is surrounded by USFS land and is one of the few remaining tracts of private land located within the southern part of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument that is not held by the USFS, BLM or Indian reservation.

**Santa Rosa / San Jacinto and Whitewater Area of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM)** - These three tracts totaling 533 acres are within the Whitewater Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. This is a difficult area with development pressures as the PCT crosses under I-10, a railroad and other secondary roads.

**Benefits of Protection:** All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to urban areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

**Threats to the Landscape:** Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, loss of public access and loss of habitat for threatened and endangered species.

**Partner Contributions:** Over the past 10 years, the Pacific Crest Trail Association has provided 763,000 volunteer hours worth \$15,500,000 as well as \$7,600,000 in private dollars raised to benefit the trail - a total contribution of \$23,100,000. Friends of Desert Mountain pre-purchased the Pine Mountain parcel and is holding it for federal acquisition. Anza-Borrego Foundation contributed \$40,000 and PCTA contributed \$15,000 in FY12 to purchase an important 40-acre parcel in the Anza Borrego Desert State Park checkerboard. In Terwilliger Valley there is a mix of CA State Park lands, BLM ownership and USFS rights of way, along with lands purchased by the Anza-Borrego Foundation. It is likely that all of these partners will continue to work on needed purchases in this area.





Prepared in collaboration by: The Pacific Crest Trail Association | (916) 285-1846 | www.pcta.org The Partnership for the National Trails System | (608) 249-7870 | www.pnts.org



### **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### San Gorgonio Wilderness California

#### **Project Details**

LWCF Request: \$750,000

**Congressional District:** CA-08, Representative Cook

Acres: 950

Number of Tracts: 7 Acquiring Agency: BLM

Project Description: The seven parcels and 950

acres that comprise the San Gorgonio Wilderness project area all lie within the Wilderness boundary. These parcels are part of the checkerboard of BLM and private lands within the BLM side of the Wilderness. The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail travels directly across one of the parcels. The other lands are directly adjacent to the PCT and lie within the trail's foreground. These parcels are part of a unique transition zone where the PCT moves from the hot desert of the Mission Creek area up to the cooler evergreen forests of the Big Bear Lake area.

**Benefits of Protection:** All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to urban areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

**Threats to the Landscape:** Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

**Partner Contributions:** Over the past 10 years, the Pacific Crest Trail Association has provided 763,000 volunteer hours worth \$15,500,000 as well as \$7,600,000 in private dollars raised to benefit the trail - a total contribution of \$23,100,000. The Mojave Desert Land Trust facilitates acquisitions on behalf of landowners in this area.





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San Gorgonio Wilderness.



### **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### Agua Dulce, Soledad Canyon, and Cajon Pass, California

#### Project Details

LWCF Request: \$4,669,891

Congressional District: CA-36, Representative Ruiz

Acres: 288

Number of Tracts: 10

Acquiring Agency: USFS

**Project Descriptions:** 



**Agua Dulce and Soledad Canyon** - The USFS Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail program has been active in acquiring tracts for a trail corridor through the small community of Agua Dulce located to the north of Los Angeles. This corridor would relocate the PCT off of a four-mile road walk, which has grown increasingly hazardous due to the substantial commercial and residential growth of this area. Several key parcels for the corridor have been purchased with previous PCT LWCF dedicated funding. The community of Agua Dulce has endorsed the trail corridor and has championed continued funding to develop the trail corridor to secure a protected trail corridor. Soledad is located just south of Agua Dulce. This corridor represents one of the few wildlife corridor links in the Santa Clara River system and links two separated areas of the Angeles National Forest.

**Cajon Pass** - The 161.63 acres that make up the Cajon parcels are located in Swarthout Canyon. Swarthout Canyon is critical to PCT long-distance hikers as it is the first possible camping location when travelling on the trail north from Interstate 15. These parcels are at the bottom of a long climb (if heading trail north on the PCT) and are visible for miles. These parcels are some of the few private parcels sprinkled amidst USFS lands and the trail noticeably and deliberately skirts around them as it winds its way up into the San Gabriel Mountains.

**Benefits of Protection:** All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to urban areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

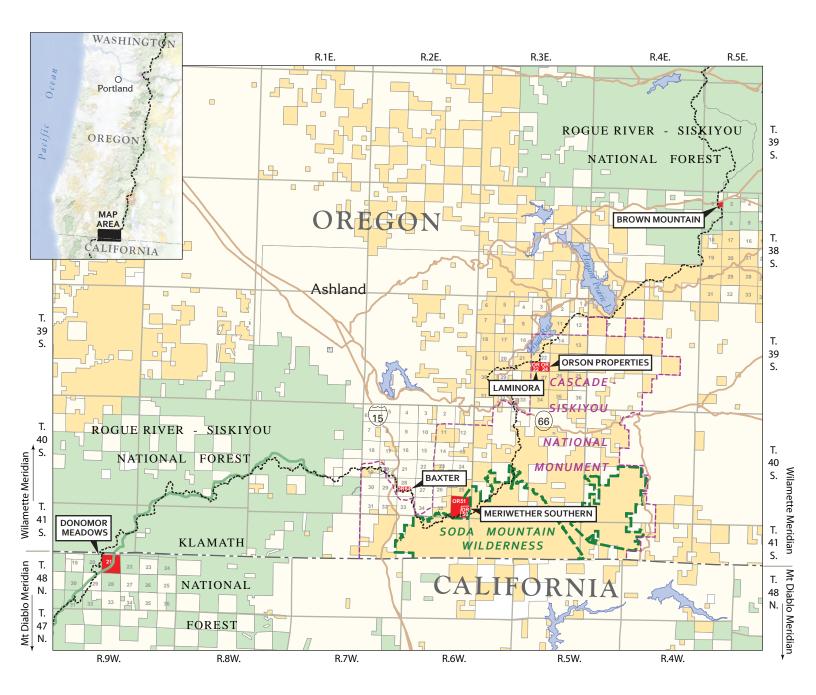
Threats to the Landscape: Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

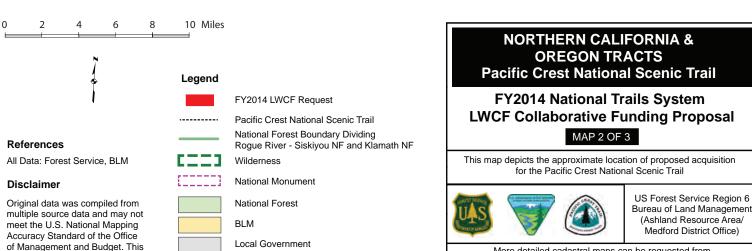
**Partner Contributions:** Over the past 10 years, the Pacific Crest Trail Association has provided 763,000 volunteer hours worth \$15,500,000 as well as \$7,600,000 in private dollars raised to benefit the trail - a total contribution of \$23,100,000. The Santa Clara River Watershed Committee has been a proponent for acquisition in Agua Dulce and Soledad Canyon, designating parcels as high priority for conservation. Nine parcels have been acquired so far.





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Private

map has no warranties as to its

contents or accuracy.

Bureau of Land Management (Ashland Resource Area/ Medford District Office)

More detailed cadastral maps can be requested from the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. National Trails System Land and Water Conservation Fund

### FY2014



### **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Donomore Meadows, Brown Mountain

#### Project Details

LWCF Request: \$1,027,260

Congressional District: CA-01 and OR-02, Representatives LaMalfa and Walden Acres: 1463

Number of Tracts: 7

Acquiring Agency: BLM & USFS

**Project Descriptions:** 



Donomore Meadows.

**Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Baxter Property (BLM)** - This 240-acre parcel is located 30 minutes from Ashland, Oregon, where the PCT crosses Interstate 5 at the Siskiyou Summit. As the PCT approaches the interstate crossing from the east, it traverses the parcel for over a mile. The property owner is interested in selling the parcel, and acquisition would further consolidate public ownership of the PCT corridor just outside the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. Acquisition would also allow for a minor relocation of the PCT, thereby minimizing the necessary road walk on Highway 99 in order to cross underneath Interstate 5. In addition, the parcel contains one of the few year-round water sources on the PCT within the Bureau of Land Management's administrative boundaries.

**Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Meriwether Southern (BLM)** - These parcels, totaling 814 acres, are located 30 minutes from Ashland, Oregon, immediately south of the Bureau of Land Management's Hyatt Lake Recreation Area. Approximately one and one half mile of the PCT is on or directly adjacent to the parcels. The property owner is interested in selling the parcel, and acquisition would further consolidate public ownership of the PCT corridor within the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. This area of the PCT is especially popular as it is in close proximity to campgrounds within the Hyatt Lake Recreation Area.

**Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, Laminora and Orson Properties (BLM)** - These parcels total 321 acres with the PCT directly adjacent to the northern boundary of the tract.

**Donomore Meadows (USFS)** – This 160-acre parcel is located just south of the California-Oregon state line, and is an inholding within the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest's administrative boundaries. Approximately half a mile of the PCT is directly adjacent to the parcel's western edge. The parcel contains a system of idyllic mountain meadows that abound with wildflowers in early summer. At the south end of Donomore Meadows, the PCT crosses Donomore Creek on a simple footbridge (the northernmost water source on the PCT in California) and walks the western edge of the meadow crossing in and out of a mixed conifer forest. This parcel encompasses a large system of meadows historically used for grazing cattle. Acquisition of the parcel would protect both the views of the meadows from the PCT as well as the important water source flowing through the meadows.

**Brown Mountain (USFS)** - This property is part of a 103-acre inholding between the Fremont-Winema National Forest and the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The property owner is working with a developer to subdivide and sell off the property for private residences. While only 49 acres of the inholding are included here, the other owner involved has approached the forest about sale of that property, enabling the agency to consolidate land ownership here completely. At this time there are no easements in place to protect the visual character of the Pacific Crest Trail, and development of this inholding would degrade the integrity of the trail. This parcel is located within a one hour drive of Ashland, Medford and Klamath Falls, Oregon. The area serves as a gateway not only to the PCT, but also to the unique lava flows at Brown Mountain, Fish Lake, Fish Lake Resort as well as campgrounds and other trail opportunities. This area experiences heavy and varied recreation use all year, including significant horseback riding, backcountry skiing and snowshoeing. The high-elevation forest is comprised predominately of Shasta red fir and Ponderosa pine. Protecting the quality of this section of trail would promote community-based recreation and help to preserve one of the nation's great recreation corridors. Acquiring this parcel would help to maintain the scenic integrity of the area.

**Benefits of Protection:** All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to urban areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

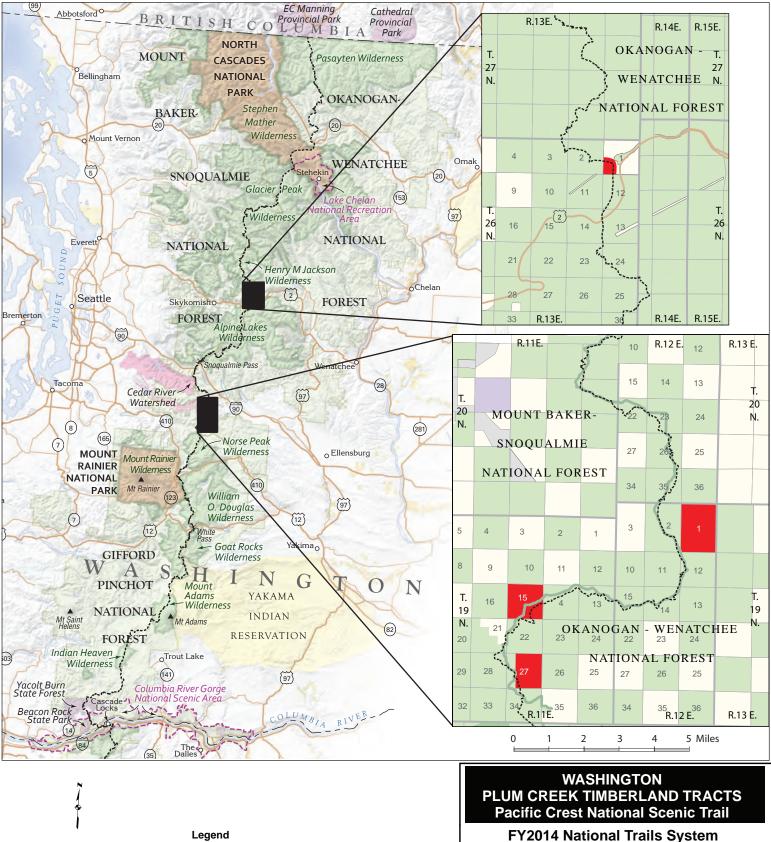
**Threats to the Landscape:** Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

**Partner Contributions:** Over the past 10 years, the Pacific Crest Trail Association has provided 763,000 volunteer hours worth \$15,500,000 as well as \$7,600,000 in private dollars raised to benefit the trail - a total contribution of \$23,100,000. BLM and the Pacific Forest Trust are actively seeking to consolidate land ownership in and around the newly formed Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which has 30,000 acres of private land. BLM has acquired 5,700 acres so far, and the Pacific Forest Trust and the Conservation Fund have donated funds for acquisition. PCTA worked with BLM and shouldered the majority of the cost in purchasing a conservation easement in this project area, as has the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy for another tract. It is likely that these organizations will continue to contribute to the project.





Prepared in collaboration by: The Pacific Crest Trail Association | (916) 285-1846 | www.pcta.org The Partnership for the National Trails System | (608) 249-7870 | www.pnts.org



**LWCF Collaborative Funding Proposal** MAP 3 OF 3

This map depicts the approximate location of proposed acquisition for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail







FY2014 LWCF Request Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail

References All Data: Forest Service, BLM

#### Disclaimer

Original data was compiled from multiple source data and may not meet the U.S. National Mapping Accuracy Standard of the Office of Management and Budget. This map has no warranties as to its contents or accuracy.



National Forest



Washington State

Local Government

Private



### **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### Plum Creek Timberlands Washington

#### Project Details

LWCF Request: \$3,370,000

Congressional District: WA-08, Representative Reichert

Acres: 1598

Number of Tracts: 4

Acquiring Agency: USFS

**Project Description:** The Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail traverses the length of these properties. This area is facing increased development pressure due to its close proximity to Seattle. These lands are owned by Plum Creek Timber Company, a willing seller. The proposed acquisitions are all within the boundaries of the Mt. Baker-Snogualmie and Wenatchee National



Plum Creek Timber Company lands.

Forests, which share a common border that runs north and south along the crest of the Cascade Range. The project area is located in eastern King County and western Kittitas County. King County, with a population of 1.8 million people, is the twelfth-most populous county in the United States. The area is heavily visited by the recreating public. It contains the headwaters of the Green River and a series of high mountain lakes, numerous streams and rivers, large stands of old growth, huckleberries and mountain meadows. The scenic views are among the most striking in the Cascade Range. The area also provides habitat for a variety of endangered species including grizzly bear, wolf, spotted owls, marbled murrelets, steelhead, salmon and bull trout. An abundance of other wildlife inhabit the area, including elk, deer, cougar, coyote, bobcat, and an occasional moose.

**Benefits of Protection:** All acquisitions provide critical scenic protection to the PCT experience – particularly in proximity to urban areas, and along narrow easements for the PCT through private lands with no protection. All parcels provide habitat and wildlife corridors for threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Acquisitions improve safety by eliminating road walks, and provide critical open space to link areas of the existing public lands.

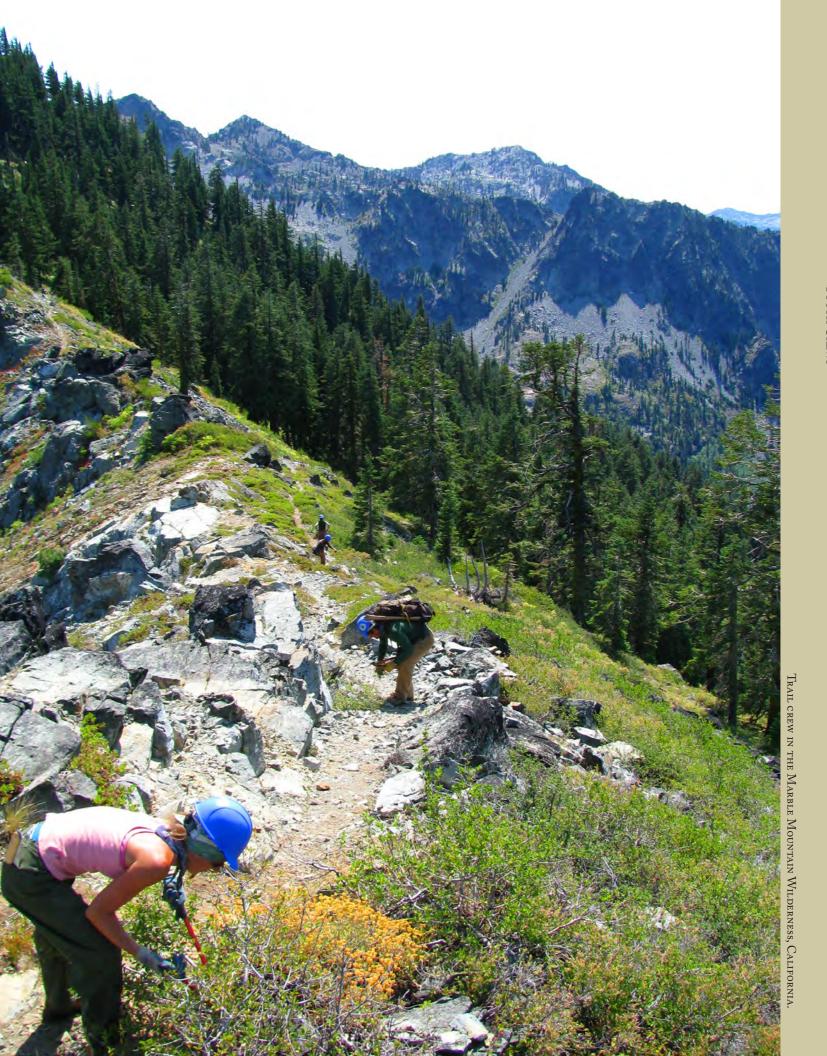
**Threats to the Landscape:** Agricultural conversion, residential development, visual intrusion, and loss of public access.

**Partner Contributions:** Over the past 10 years, the Pacific Crest Trail Association has provided 763,000 volunteer hours worth \$15,500,000 as well as \$7,600,000 in private dollars raised to benefit the trail - a total contribution of \$23,100,000. TPL has invested approximately \$20,000 in the Plum Creek Timberlands acquisition, to date acquiring 17 parcels.





Prepared in collaboration by: The Pacific Crest Trail Association | (916) 285-1846 | www.pcta.org The Partnership for the National Trails System | (608) 249-7870 | www.pnts.org



CMTL & TRAIL MAINTENANCE, Youth Crews





### II. Capital Improvement & Maintenance—Trails (CMTL) —USFS: \$2.0 million

### **CMTL Request:**

Allocate \$2.0 million for the PCT in the USFS Region 5 CMTL to fund the following ongoing programs in Regions 4, 5 and 6:

- Full-time USFS PCT Program Manager
- Planning and optimal trail location reviews
- Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the PCTA to support volunteer trail maintenance and public education programs
- Trail maintenance, construction, reconstruction and interpretation
- Trail management and operations
- Expanded Youth and Corps Trail Crew Programs

**Need:** Every year, dedicated Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) volunteers flock to the woods with picks, shovels, saws and spirit to rebuild washed-out bridges, cut away fallen trees, and restore eroded portions of the trail. PCTA recruits young and old by the hundreds to give their time and energy to fix what needs to be fixed all the way from Mexico to Canada on the PCT. In 2012 alone, PCTA volunteers and corps crews devoted 88,000 hours to keeping the trail open. As a result, hikers and equestrians alike will tell you that the PCT is one of the finest wilderness trail experiences in existence.

But we need help from the USFS. Our volunteers cannot be successful without support from the Forest Service. They need tools, training classes, food and transportation help to make it to where their efforts will do the most good. The USFS has to purchase materials to rebuild those bridges, to plan the work effectively, and otherwise ensure that the PCT continues to be a world-class trail for the thousands of users who expect to go out and enjoy it.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association urges congressional support of an appropriation for the Forest Service for PCT maintenance. Programs administered within this budget are programs that "give back" – to youth, to rural communities and to the public. The youth corps and volunteers learn skills in forestry and trail maintenance, and gain experience in cooperation and leadership. Jobs are created in rural areas, while visitors from all over the world spend their recreation and tourism dollars in communities along the trail. At the same time, the ongoing work of keeping the trail accessible is achieved. These programs represent what can be accomplished when people work across boundaries toward a common goal.





## III. Trail Maintenance—NPS and BLM: \$500,000

### **PCT Maintenance Request:**

- \$200.000 to the NPS
- \$300,000 to the BLM

**Need:** This appropriation is needed to meet the demand for federal agency supervision of PCTA volunteer crews to maintain and repair the PCT in the following National Parks, BLM National Monuments and BLM districts:

- Sequoia National Park
- Kings Canyon National Park
- Devil's Postpile National Monument
- Yosemite National Park
- Lassen Volcanic National Park
- Crater Lake National Park
- Mt. Rainier National Park
- North Cascades National Park
- BLM Santa Rosa & San Jacinto
- Mountains National Monument
- BLM California Desert District
- BLM Medford District
- BLM Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument



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**Progress:** During 2012, the PCTA completed trail maintenance projects for a total of 88,000 volunteer and corps crew hours in cooperation with federal agency partners and private partners, including:

- Ashland Woodlands and Trails Association
- Boy Scouts of America
- PCTA Trail Gorillas
- PCTA Can Do Crew

Student Conservation Association

PCTA Medford Area Volunteers

In 2008, PCTA entered into the first long-term Challenge Cost Share Agreement with the BLM, which provides funding for the support of volunteer work projects on BLM lands.

PCTA volunteers and staff worked with BLM and local volunteers to repair offhighway vehicle damage to the trail and reclaim user-created bootleg trails in southern California.

The PCTA has developed a volunteer framework in order to facilitate the coordination of volunteer groups along the entire trail. New groups are being recruited to adopt trail sections and take responsibility for trail maintenance and protection within their adopted section. The goal is to have all 2,650 miles of trail cared for by some type of local community volunteer organization.





### Youth Trail Crew Programs

**Alternative Spring Break:** In Southern California, PCTA actively works with universities to offer alternative spring break programs. In 2012, 15 students from the University of Florida contributed nearly 500 hours of work on the PCT in the Cleveland National Forest.



University of Florida

**Antelope Valley College - Fire Academy:** Members of Antelope Valley College's Marauder Fire Crew have joined PCTA volunteers in numerous projects and participated in PCTA sponsored training programs. In 2012, 16 members of the College's fire crew joined the PCTA Trail Gorillas on three projects in the Angeles National Forest repairing damage to the trail caused by the Station Fire.







Youth Trail Crew Programs



**Boy Scouts:** In 2012, 36 Scouts from three separate Boy Scout troops worked on the trail in California and Oregon, contributing a combined total of nearly 700 volunteer hours. Two of these work crews were organized by two Scouts as their Eagle Scout service projects. In order to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts, a Scout must plan, organize, lead, and manage an extensive service project.

**California Conservation Corps:** The California Conservation Corps is a state agency hiring young men and women, 18 to 25, for a year of natural resource work and emergency response. The young women and men of the Corps

Boy Scouts of America

work hard protecting and restoring California's environment, responding to disasters, becoming stronger workers, citizens and individuals through their service. In 2012, a California Conservation Corps crew contributed more than 1,500 hours on two projects in the Shasta Trinity National Forest and more than 9,000 hours on a project in Mt. San Jacinto State Park.

**Environmental Charter Schools:** The Environmental Charter Schools in South Los Angeles provide students with a unique learning experience that utilizes environmental service learning to inspire students to find authentic meaning in their studies. The neighborhoods served by ECS have crime rates that are twice that of the national average, low levels of educational attainment, and high levels of poverty. In 2012, students from the Environmental Charter High School and Middle School volunteered on three projects in the Angeles National Forest and on in the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area.



Environmental Charter High School





### Youth Trail Crew Programs

**Forest Youth Success:** Forest Youth Success (FYS) is a program designed to teach job skills, forest management, ecology, citizenship, and leadership skills to the youth of Skamania County, Washington. In 2012, a crew leader from PCTA's Mt. Hood Chapter led a total of 34 students from the FYS program on three three-day projects in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

NAACP Urban Youth: Since 1991 the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Vancouver, Washington branch and the Gifford Pinchot National Forest have partnered to get urban youth involved in environmental education, hiking, camping and recreating on public lands. In 2012, 16 kids from the Urban Youth Program worked on a twoday project in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.



NAACP Urban Youth

**Student Conservation Association:** The Student Conservation Association is a nonprofit organization that offers conservation internships and summer trail crew opportunities to high school and college-age volunteers from all academic and personal backgrounds. In 2012, four SCA trail crews devoted more than 6,000 hours of work to the PCT throughout California.



Student Conservation Association





### Youth Trail Crew Programs

**Washington Conservation Corps:** The Washington Conservation Corps, which is part of the AmeriCorps program, is a subagency of the Washington State Department of Ecology. It employs men and women 18 to 25 years old in an outreach program to protect and enhance Washington's natural resources. In 2012 a crew from the Washington Conservation Corps devoted more than 2,000 hours in the course of two week-long projects on the trail in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

### William S. Hart Unified School District:

The Trailblazing Program at the William S. Hart Union High School in Santa Clarita, California provides a unique work opportunity for its underserved student population. The program gives them experience in forestry and trail maintenance, as well as workforce preparation. In 2012, a crew of seven students contributed more than 1,000 hours of work on the trail in the Angeles National Forest.



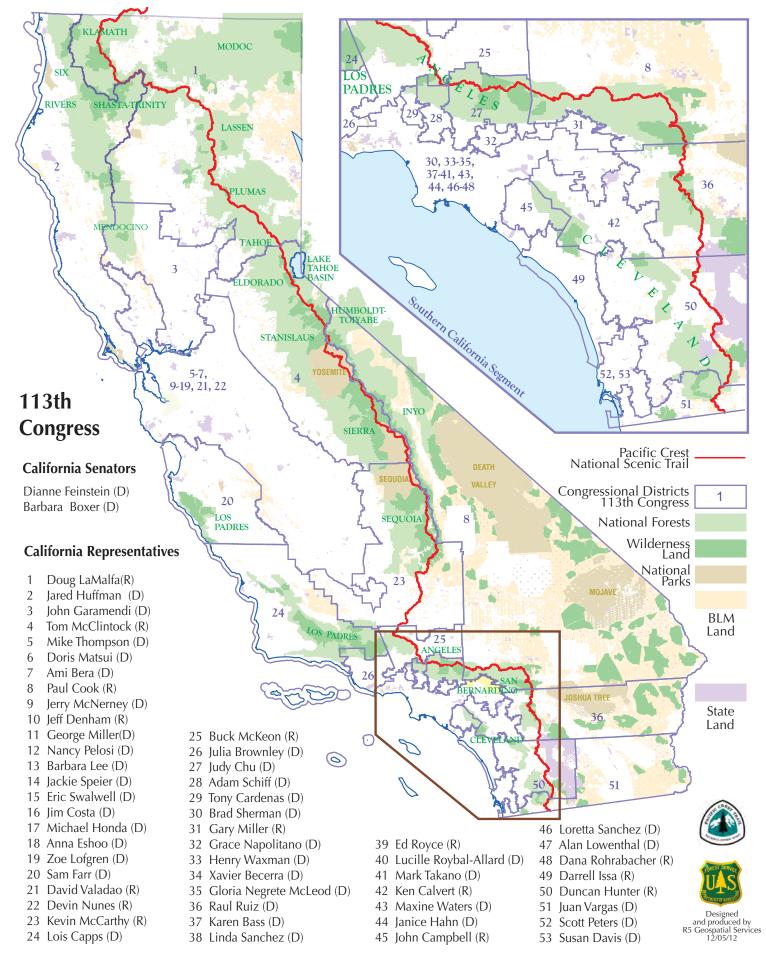
Environmental Charter High School

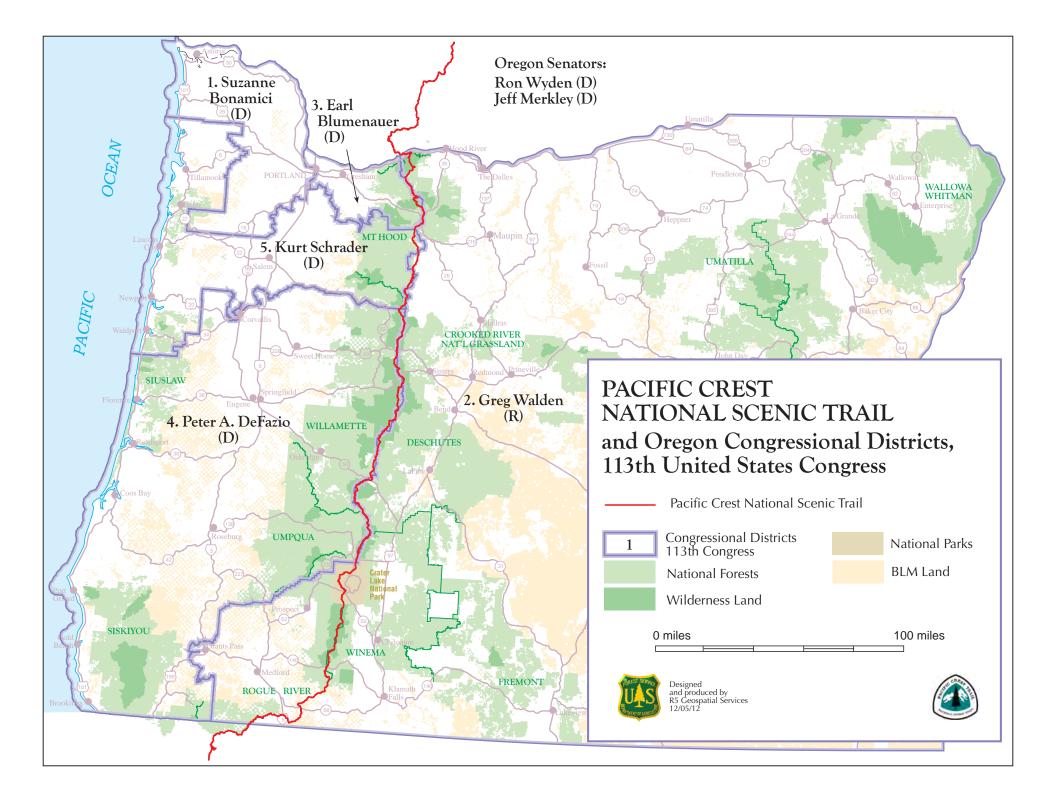


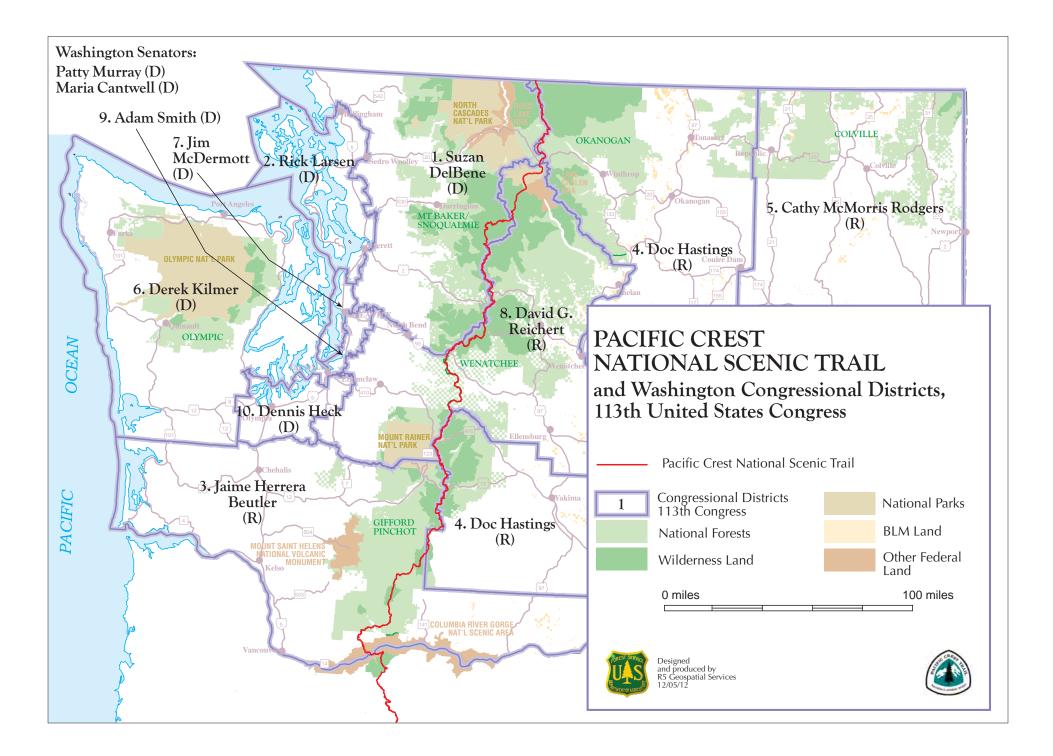




# PACIFIC CREST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL and California Congressional Districts, 113th United States Congress













Dear Chairman XXX and Ranking Member XXX,

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"

We urge you to support the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) proposal for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 and urge you to support this proposal in the FY2014 Interior and Energy Agencies Appropriations bill. The National Trails System CLP LWCF proposal represents the very best in high leverage community-based conservation and sustainable recreation efforts at the landscape scale.

In August 2012, the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service, assembled a comprehensive land protection package for an appropriation through the FY2014 LWCF for the National Trails System through the CLP program. This \$61,601,508 million package includes 120 parcels in 62 Congressional districts in 17 states. The interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application are impressive, and perhaps, an example to be followed in future Federal efforts of all kinds.

These collaborative, high-priority projects will close gaps and protect critical sites along 11 of the 30 national scenic and historic trails (NSHTs), enhance connectivity for recreation and fitness, and support economic development for rural communities along the trails. Conservation goals will also be furthered, including expansion of important wildlife habitat and migration corridors along the crests of the Cascade, Appalachian, Rocky Mountain, and Sierra Nevada Mountain ranges; over the eskers and moraines left by the Ice Age glaciers; following the Kona Coast of Hawaii; and along the Suwanee, Gila, Upper Missouri, Eau Claire and Lolo Rivers. Protection of critical sites necessary to tell the historic and cultural stories of the NHTs include a Nez Perce battlefield, a Lewis & Clark campsite, a section of the 16<sup>th</sup> century route of the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and ancient salt-making ponds along the Ala Kahakai.

The 30 national scenic and historic trails of the National Trails System extend more than 53,000 miles across 49 states linking together 80 national parks and monuments, 70 national wildlife refuges and more than 90 wilderness areas. These trails also pass through or near 100 of America's cities of 50,000 or greater population. They afford millions of Americans inspiring outdoor recreation and educational experiences both close to home and in the remotest deserts, highest mountains, and along some of the wildest rivers of our land while also protecting critical habitat and travel corridors for wildlife. These trails help to vividly tell the stories of all the major ethnic and cultural communities that comprise the rich diversity of our Nation in the places where critical times in their histories occurred. They span the history of our Nation from the time of Native-American control of the continent thru European discovery and colonial rule to Euro-American settlement of the West and the great Civil Rights struggles of the recent past. Users of these trails contribute to the \$646 billion spent by outdoor recreationists each year.

These long-distance trails are also one of the most ambitious and innovative ventures in large-scale collaborative stewardship of our public heritage in American history. Each of the 30 trails is developed and sustained through scores of long-term partnerships between Federal agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners. The handful of Federal staff who administer and manage these trails rely on the contributions of thousands of citizen volunteers to make them available for public enjoyment and reinvigoration. In 2011, volunteers along the National Trails System contributed at least 1,141,866 hours valued at \$24,390,258 to sustain the trails. The partner organizations also contributed \$8,740,790 to benefit the trails. Since 1995, citizen volunteers across the National Trails System have contributed at least 11,598,721 hours valued at \$202,593,824 and the trail organizations have contributed an additional \$117,248,915 to build, maintain, explore, interpret, and protect America's national scenic and historic trails.

As impressive as those numbers are they do not convey the full depth of involvement of citizens from throughout the land in caring for elements of our natural, cultural, and historic heritage along our national scenic and historic trails that give deep meaning to their lives. In an era of "nature deficit disorder," wide-spread childhood obesity, and alienation among communities, the 45 year old grand experiment of the National Trails System provides

### DRAFT

28 "

countless opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature and with one another while benefiting from healthful outdoor recreation. Communities are linked by these trails in common endeavors to celebrate their heritage. Strangers become life-long friends through working together to sustain these national trails. These are among the intangible benefits that come from the preservation of critical lands along these national trails.

The inclusion of the National Trails System as part of the CLP LWCF package for FY2014 will protect critical places and resources for public benefit and will help foster and enhance our community-based citizen stewardship of conservation and heritage landscapes. This strategic investment of Federal money will leverage additional monetary and in-kind contributions many times over while it enriches the lives of millions of people and strengthens our communities.

We strongly urge the Committee to recognize the many benefits of the National Trails System and to provide strong funding for the acquisition of land and easements along these trails through the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning proposal within the Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations. We look forward to working with the Subcommittee in the coming months to ensure that this critical proposal is adequately funded in FY2014.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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...

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### National Trails System Land and Water Conservation Fund

February 2013



Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of our organizations and our 150,000 members, we are writing in support of a \$61,601,508 appropriation from the FY2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund for the National Trails System Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) proposal. Our national scenic and historic trails represent the natural and cultural backbone of America, protect our precious natural, cultural, and historic resources, and contribute to the \$646 billion in outdoor recreation spending each year. The National Trails System proposal represents the very best in high leverage community-based conservation and sustainable recreation efforts at the landscape scale.

The 30 national scenic and historic trails of the National Trails System extend more than 53,000 miles across 49 states linking together 80 national parks and monuments, 70 national wildlife refuges and more than 90 wilderness areas. These trails also pass through or near 100 of America's cities of 50,000 or greater population. They afford millions of Americans inspiring outdoor recreation and educational experiences both close to home and in the remotest deserts, highest mountains, and along some of the wildest rivers of our land while also protecting critical habitat and travel corridors for wildlife. These trails help to vividly tell the stories of all the major ethnic and cultural communities that comprise the rich diversity of our Nation in the places where critical times in their histories occurred. They span the history of our Nation from the time of Native-American control of the continent thru European discovery and colonial rule to Euro-American settlement of the West and the great Civil Rights struggles of the recent past.

These long-distance trails are also one of the most ambitious and innovative ventures in largescale collaborative stewardship of our public heritage in American history. Each of the 30 trails is developed and sustained through scores of long-term partnerships between Federal agencies, State and local governments, Indian tribes, and nonprofit organizations. The handful of Federal staff who administer and manage these trails rely on the contributions of thousands of citizen volunteers to make them available for public enjoyment and reinvigoration. In 2011, volunteers along the National Trails System contributed at least 1,141,866 hours valued at \$24,390,258 to sustain the trails. The partner organizations also contributed \$8,740,790 to benefit the trails. Since 1995, citizen volunteers across the National Trails System have contributed at least 11,598,721 hours valued at \$202,593,824 and the trail organizations have contributed an additional \$117,248,915 to build, maintain, explore, interpret, and protect America's national scenic and historic trails.

As impressive as those numbers are they do not convey the full depth of involvement of citizens from throughout the land in caring for elements of our natural, cultural, and historic heritage along our national scenic and historic trails that give deep meaning to their lives. In an era of "nature deficit disorder," wide-spread childhood obesity, and alienation among communities, the 45 year old grand experiment of the National Trails System provides countless opportunities for people of all ages to connect with nature and with one another while benefiting from healthful outdoor recreation. Communities are linked by these trails in common endeavors to celebrate their heritage. Strangers become life-long friends through working together to sustain these national trails. These are among the intangible benefits that come from the preservation of critical lands along these national trails.

The inclusion of the National Trails System in the FY2014 budget as part of the Collaborative Landscape Planning package will protect critical places and resources for public benefit and will

help foster and enhance our community-based citizen stewardship of conservation landscapes. This strategic investment of Federal money will leverage additional monetary and in-kind contributions many times over while it enriches the lives of millions of people and strengthens our communities. Investing in the conservation of America's national scenic and historic trails is an investment in the land that sustains us and in our people who care for the land.

Sincerely,

Fiz Bergeim

Liz Bergeron, Executive Director and CEO Pacific Crest Trail Association

Tausa da Martin

Teresa Martinez, Co-Founder and Director Continental Divide Trail Coalition

alan Limm

Alan Brown, President Ala Kahakai Trail Association

R.S. k

Bruce Matthews, Executive Director North Country Trail Association

Loy M. Ainsworth, Ph.D.

Troy Ainsworth, Executive Director El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association

fim Goons

Jim Evans, Executive Director Nez Perce Trail Foundation

Mark Wenger, Executive Director Appalachian Trail Conservancy

James Wolf, Director Continental Divide Trail Society

Sonx Went

Gary Werner, Executive Director Partnership for the National Trails System

Mike Wollma

Mike Wollmer, Executive Director Ice Age Trail Alliance

findy Hatcher

Lindy Hatcher, Executive Director Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation

James L. Mallory

James Mallory, Vice-Chairman Lewis & Clark Trust

Carlos Schomaker, President Florida Trail Association

Eric Hammerling, Executive Director Connecticut Forest & Park Association

ult

John Judge, President Appalachian Mountain Club

#### Congress of the United States . Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

Mike Simpson, Chairman Subcommittee on Interior, Environment Environment and Related Agencies H 307 U.S. Capitol James Moran, Ranking Member Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Simpson and Ranking Member Moran:

As members whose constituents use the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), we have seen first-hand the impact the trail has, not only on members of our own districts and the local economies, but on all American citizens and international visitors. Due to the trail's national and international significance, we write to urge the Committee to robustly fund the programs that support the Pacific Crest Trail, and other trails like it across the country. In particular, these programs are the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails account, and the land acquisition fund within the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These programs help the Pacific Crest Trail, and trails like it, leverage millions of dollars worth of donations and volunteer hours, and ensure that the work done at the local level is consistent with local and nationally agreed-upon plans.

The PCT, along with the Appalachian Trail, was one of the first two scenic trails in the National Trails System authorized by Congress in 1968. The PCT traverses three states, winds through 26 National Forests, 8 National Parks and 5 State Parks. While the U.S. Forest Service administers the trail, the real mainstay for it comes from volunteers. The limited federal dollars obtained through two programs, the United States Forest Service Region 5 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails account, and the Land and Water Conservation Land Acquisition Fund, have allowed the Pacific Crest Trail Association to leverage and coordinate more than 650,000 hours of volunteer services and \$7 million in donations to the PCT.

Core Pacific Crest Trail programs are funded through the United States Forest Service Region 5 Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails (CMTL) account. CMTL funding is used for ongoing trail maintenance, construction and reconstruction efforts, and for supporting the USFS supervision of volunteer and youth corps crews for trail maintenance and repair. In 2011, this support allowed the Pacific Crest Trail to leverage 115,000 hours of volunteer support. Additionally, there is a need for land acquisition funding for the Pacific Crest Trail in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The land acquisition process for the length of the Pacific Crest Trail is now 90% complete following a successful track record bringing parcels into public protection through LWCF

appropriations. Additional funding will allow for the managing agencies to acquire some of the remaining 10% of parcels needed to complete linkage of the entire trail, making the PCT one of two complete national scenic trails.

We strongly urge the Committee to recognize the impact that these programs have and provide sufficient funding for the Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails account, as well as the land acquisition fund within the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Sincerely,

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Dave Reichert Member of Congress

KoronRa

Karen Bass Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio

Member of Congress

Sam Farr Member of Congress

Dick Z

Rick Larsen Member of Congress

JACh-

Lucille Royal-Allard Member of Congress

Kurt Schrader Member of Congress

Letter in support of PCT Trail Programs FY13 Appropriations March 20, 2012

Earl Blumenauer Member of Congress

Judy/Chu Member of Congress

 $\mathbf{n}$ 

Anna Eshoo Member of Congress

Bob Filner Member of Congress

Barbara Lee Member of Congress

gretta Sanchez Member of Con ess

Adam Smith Member of Congress

Sackie Speier Member of Congress

60 Lynn Woolsey

Member of Congress

Laura Richardson Member of Congress

Pete Stark Member of Congress

C

Jim McDermott Member of Congress

Letter in support of PCT Trail Programs FY13 Appropriations March 20, 2012

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704

COMMITTEES: **APPROPRIATIONS** BUDGET HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS RULES AND ADMINISTRATION VETERANS' AFFAIRS

October 26, 2012

Chief Tom Tidwell U.S. Forest Service 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250

Dear Chief Tidwell:

I am writing in support of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail and request your full consideration for funding from the Fiscal Year 2014 Land and Water Conservation Fund. Investing in the Pacific Crest Trail program is necessary to protect threatened wetlands, preserve endangered habitats and enhance recreational access that would serve generations to come.

In Washington state, the Pacific Crest Trail has been a multi-year effort to protect the trail and consolidate land ownership in the area of the Plum Creek Timberlands. The trail is located on, or immediately adjacent to many land parcels that have been extensively logged or under imminent threat of clear cut logging. The Trust for Public Land, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, and the U.S. Forest Service have been working together to consolidate the checkerboard land ownership in this area, which would achieve one of the longest stretches of uninterrupted Pacific Crest Trail in Washington.

Acquisition of these parcels is critical to preserving wildlife habitat and watershed resilience, as well as providing improved recreational access in the Washington Cascades region. Funding is vital to protect environmentally sensitive land and create trails that will be enjoyed for many decades. Thank you for your fullest consideration of Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail project.

Sincerely.

Patty Murray United States Senator

PM/ab

448 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4704 (202) 224-2621

THE MARSHALL HOUSE 1323 OFFICER'S ROW VANCOLIVER, WA 98661-3856 (360) 696-7797

2930 WETMORE AVENUE SUITE 903 EVERETT, WA 98201-4107 (425) 259-6515

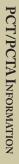
2988 JACKSON FEDERAL BUILDING 915 2ND AVENUE SEATTLE, WA 98174-1003 (206) 553-5545 TOLL FREE: (866) 481-9186

website: http://murray.senate.gov e-mail: http://murray.senate.gov/email PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

**10 NORTH POST STREET** SUITE 600 SPOKANE, WA 99201-0712 (509) 624-9515

950 PACIFIC AVENUE SUITE 650 TACOMA, WA 98402-4450 (253) 572-3636

402 EAST YAKIMA AVENUE SUITE 420 YAKIMA, WA 98901-2760 (509) 453-7462 34



View of Mtt. Rainier from the Goat Rocks Wilderness, Washington. Photo by Richard Combs  $O_{2013}$ 

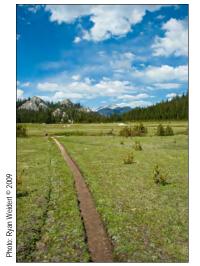






## **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**

### **Fact Sheet**



From desert to glacier-flanked mountain, meadow to forest, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail symbolizes everything there is to love—and protect—in the Western United States.

**Background:** The PCT spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington. Hundreds of thousands of outdoor enthusiasts enjoy this national treasure each year. In the 1968 National

Trails System Act, Congress authorized the PCT as one of the first national scenic trails. Congress charged the USFS with the responsibility to administer the PCT in cooperation with the many land managers along its route.

- Designated by Congress as one of the first National Scenic Trails in 1968
- Contiguous route completed (but not entirely protected) in 1993
- Location: Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon, and Washington
- Length: 2,650 miles Private Land: 200+ miles
- Land Managers:
  - 26 National Forests
  - 8 National Parks
  - 5 State Parks
  - 3 National Monuments
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - Scenic and State Recreation Areas
  - · County Parks and Indian Lands
- Lowest point: 100 feet at the Columbia River, Oregon/Washington border
- Highest point: 13,180 feet at Forester Pass, California
- Congressional Districts on the PCT:
  - 10 in California, 4 in Oregon, 4 in Washington





## **Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail**



### Pacific Crest Trail Association Fact Sheet

#### **PCTA Mission**

The mission of the Pacific Crest Trail Association is to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT), as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people.

The PCTA strives to achieve this mission by promoting the PCT as a unique educational and recreational treasure and one of the finest pedestrian/ equestrian trails anywhere in the world. The PCTA is a private nonprofit and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) by the Internal Revenue Service. The PCTA provides a broad range of services to its members and the international public, and serves as a communications link among users and land management agencies.

#### **Staff and Board of Directors**

In 1993, the PCTA hired its first paid staff. Today, the PCTA has a regular staff of 17, including an executive director and trail and administrative staff.

A 13-member volunteer board of directors provides leadership and governance for the PCTA. Board members are elected for a three-year term.

#### Membership & Budget

In 2012, we celebrate an ever-expanding membership base. The PCTA now represents more than 8,500 PCTA members worldwide, and has an annual budget of \$2 million.

#### **Partnerships**

The PCTA works in partnership with the USFS, the NPS, the BLM, and the California State Parks to protect, preserve, and promote the PCT. Through a long-term Memorandum of Understanding among these agencies, the PCTA is recognized as the major private partner. Along with the government agencies, the PCTA leads the coordination, management, and operation of the PCT and feeder trails. Activities include signing, condition surveys, trailhead and trail use surveys, water development, and adopt-a-trail programs, as well as new construction and ongoing maintenance activities. Educational opportunities also are plentiful as our volunteers lead interpretive trips and speak to local schools, agencies, businesses, and other civic organizations.



**Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail** 



#### **Pacific Crest Trail History**

- 1926 first known record of a proposal for a trail through California, Oregon and Washington
- 1932 Clinton Clarke, the "father of the PCT," begins promoting the trail
- 1930s exploration begins
- 1935 1938 YMCA organizes relays to scout the trail's route
- 1939 the PCT appears on a federal government map for the first time
- 1940s work halted due to WWII
- 1950s advocacy work continues
- 1968 designated as National Scenic Trail
- 1988 monuments placed at the southern and northern terminuses
- 1993 Golden Spike "completion" ceremony
- 2000 US Forest Service hires full-time PCT Program Manager
- 2001 US Forest Service signs agreement with National Park Service for PCT land acquisition work



#### **Pacific Crest Trail Association History**

- 1935 first meeting of the Pacific Crest Trail System Conference
- 1971 Warren Rogers, Clinton Clarke's protégé, founds the Pacific Crest Trail Club
- 1977 Pacific Crest Trail Conference incorporated
- 1987 Pacific Crest Trail Club merges with Pacific Crest Trail Conference
- 1992 Pacific Crest Trail Conference changes its name to Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA)
- 1993 PCTA hires first paid staff
- 1990s PCTA grows its membership and volunteer base
- 1997 PCTA begins annual advocacy trips to Washington, D.C.
- 2006 PCTA adopts Strategic Plan
- 2010 PCTA exceeds 100,000 annual volunteer hours with the help of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act





Before and after: California Conservation Corps crew members clear brush on Mt. San Jacinto in Southern California.

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