

# National Historic and Scenic Trails Accomplishments 2001-2005



Bureau of Land Management  
Federal Highway Administration  
National Endowment for the Arts  
National Park Service  
USDA Forest Service

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Ala Kahakai NHT: Students from Kealakehe High School participate in annual stewardship along a trail once used by their ancestors, the Mamalahoa Trail. Also known as the King's Highway, the trail was built for horse-drawn carts between 1836 and 1855 to connect shoreline communities in North Kona and South Kohala, Hawaii.

## Dear Friends of the National Trails,

On behalf of all the National Trails System partners, we are pleased to present this five-year summary of partnership actions carried out under the umbrella of a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2001. Working together with our extensive network of public and private partners, we have significantly advanced the primary goal of the National Trails System: preservation and public enjoyment of nationally significant scenic and historic trails which commemorate our nation's rich natural and cultural heritage.

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## National Trails: The Spirit of Adventure

Witnessing a Revolutionary War reenactment along the Overmountain Victory Trail. Exploring solidified lava flows, lava tubes and ice caves through the Chain of Craters on the Continental Divide Trail. Retracing Lewis and Clark's fabulous journey of 1803-1806. Enjoying what many backpackers call the finest mountain scenery in the United States along the Pacific Crest Trail. To say that these trails offer an unparalleled richness and depth of experience for visitors is a good place to start in describing the wonder and diversity our national scenic and historic trails. With their celebration of physical movement through the American landscape – and through our natural and cultural history – the 24 National Scenic and Historic Trails preserve stories and provide experiences quite unlike any other federal land designation. They are essential to a true understanding of the American experience.



Lewis and Clark NHT: Corps of Discovery II



North Country NST: Blue blaze – North Country Trail Association



El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT: Spanish Colonial soldado reenactors at Los Adaes State Historic Site, Louisiana – George Avery



Trail of Tears NHT: Interpretive wayside illustration – Cherokee artist, Sam Watts-Kidd

## Five Agencies and Five Years: Advancing the National Trails System

In 2001, five Federal agencies, all participants in the Federal Interagency Council on Trails, agreed to work more closely together “to further the spirit and intent of the National Trails System Act.” Their agreement, defined in a 2001 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for National Trails called for cooperative effort in the management and administration of two types of national trails: scenic and historic. The agencies recognized that scenic and historic trails have a greater need for interagency cooperation because they are congressionally-established, typically interstate in extent, and involve both administration and management in multiple federal jurisdictions.

In addition to pledging to work together, the MOU identified specific areas for interagency cooperation: improving the visitor experience and enjoyment, serving communities along each trail, strengthening trail stewardship and supporting trail partnerships. Together and individually, the agencies have made significant advances over the past five years in all these areas for individual trails and for the National Trails System as a whole.

On the systemwide level, national scenic and historic trail projects have received Federal-aid Highway Program Funds, through Transportation Enhancement Activities, and the Recreational Trails Program, National Scenic Byways Program, and Federal Lands Highways Program. Other systemwide initiatives focused on mapping and training. The federal agencies and partners cooperated to produce and broadly distribute an update of the *National Trails System Map and Guide* and to increase the visibility of scenic and historic trails on appropriate national and regional maps and databases.

*Today the truly successful national scenic and national historic trails are supported equally strongly by volunteer-based nonprofit organizations and federal and state governments. Each trail can move forward only as a true collaboration between government partners and organized citizen volunteers.*

Glenn Sherer, *America's National Trails* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2002) page vi.



Appalachian NST: GPS volunteers at Jefferson Rocks

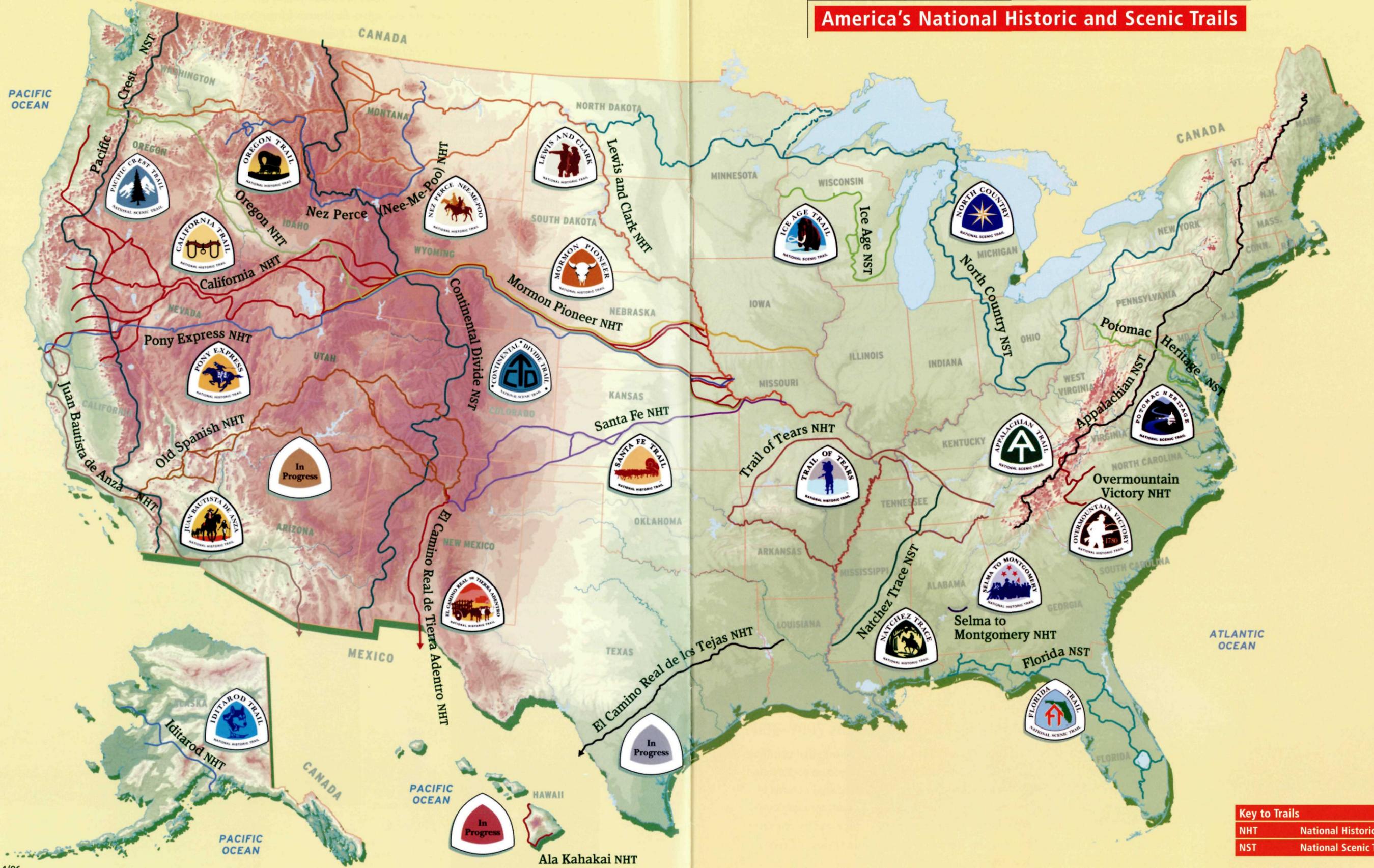


Potomac Heritage NST: Along the Laurel Highlands Hiking Trail



Florida NST: Sunrise along Lake Okeechobee –Bart Smith, Florida Trail Association

# America's National Historic and Scenic Trails



Key to Trails	
NHT	National Historic Trail
NST	National Scenic Trail

## National Scenic Trails: Making Progress on the Ground

Between 2001 and 2005, 786 miles of new trail have been added to the national scenic trails. Two trails are now completely open and four others are over 50%. Approximately 67% of all national scenic trails are now open to the public.

National Scenic Trails	Year Established	Total Authorized Length (Miles)	Miles Added (2001-2005)	Currently Open to the Public (Miles)	Percent Open to the Public
Appalachian	1968	2,170	11.5	2175	100%
Pacific Crest	1968	2,650	–	2650	100%
Continental Divide	1978	3,200	184.0	c.1500	47%
Ice Age	1980	1,000	36.0	557	56%
North Country	1980	c.4,100	91.0	2101	51%
Florida	1983	1,300	293.0	881	68%
Natchez Trace	1983	444	–	62	14%
Potomac Heritage	1983	704	171.0	c.460	65%
Total		c.15,600	786.5	c.10,386	c.67%

## National Historic Trails: Opening Pathways and Sharing History

The visitor experience for national historic trails is provided through a series of interpretive facilities along trail segments or a signed auto route. Over the past five years, 12 national historic trails have added 158.5 miles of new trail and 659 miles of auto tour routes. The four most recently authorized historic trails (Ala Kahakai, El Camino Real de los Tejas, El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and Old Spanish) are currently in various phases of planning.

National Historic Trails	Year Established	Total Authorized Length (Miles)	Miles Added (2001-2005)	Currently Open to the Public (Miles)	% Open to the Public	Auto Tour Miles Added	Total Auto (Miles)
Oregon	1978	2,170	–	2,170	100%	280	2,130
Mormon Pioneer	1978	1,300	–	1,415	100%		1,425
Lewis and Clark	1978	3,700	12.0	3,700	100%		c.6,000
Iditarod	1978	2,350	–	2,350	100%	–	
Overmountain Victory	1980	330	41.0	57	17%	110	310
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)	1986	1,170	4.5	254	22%	115	865
Santa Fe	1987	1,200	–				1,202
Trail of Tears	1987	2,200	–				993
Juan Bautista de Anza	1990	1,200	72.0	330	27%	100	865
California	1992	5,665	–	5,839	100%	280	5,839
Pony Express	1992	2,005	–			280	2,005
Selma to Montgomery	1996	54	–	54	100%	54	54
Total		c.26,430	158.5			659	c.21,686



Florida NST: 2005 Florida Folk Festival – Florida Trail Association

## Innovation through Partnership: Accomplishments 2001–2005

The national scenic and national historic trails have a unique mission that combines recreation, interpretation, volunteerism and natural and cultural resource preservation on an interagency basis. Supported by a broad array of coordinated actions at the federal, state, and local levels, these national trails are creatively achieving their mission through innovative public and private partnerships and by engaging volunteers on an unprecedented scale. Here is a systemwide review of recent accomplishments on individual trails.



## Pony Express

The Pony Express NHT was developed for use by young men on fast horses to carry mail from St. Joseph, Missouri to Sacramento, California in the unprecedented time of ten days or less. Although its existence was brief (1860-1861), it demonstrated a central overland transportation route and helped align California with the Union prior to the Civil War.

**New Interpretive Facilities** NPS is partnering with National Pony Express Association, Utah Chapter, on a series of interpretive wayside exhibits at *This Is the Place* Heritage Park in Salt Lake City: the exhibits will highlight the history of the Pony Express route, the daily routine and life of a station master, and interpret the Pony Express Monument "Changing Horses" created by Utah sculptor and artist Avard Fairbanks. BLM and NPS are also assisting the Utah Chapter with wayside exhibits on the BLM's Historic Backcountry Byway through the Utah west desert to interpret the remains of four of the Pony Express stations.

**Trail Protection** At the request of the Nevada Division of the National Pony Express Association, NPS helped convene a consultation with Federal Highway Administration, Nevada Department of Transportation, the Equestrian Alliance (a local recreation group), and the Carson City Parks & Recreation Department concerning Pony Express and California Trails access issues related to new highway construction. There was concern that the new highway bypass would block the annual Pony Express re-ride route and impede access to popular equestrian trails on adjacent BLM lands. The Pony Express re-ride issues were resolved and possible new approaches to other concerns were identified.

### WANTED!

*Two hundred grey mares from four to seven years old, not to exceed 15 hands high, well broke to the saddle, and Warranted Sound, with black hoofs, and suitable for running the "Overland Pony Express."*

Leavenworth Daily Times, February 10, 1860



"Changing Horses" Pony Express Monument by Avard Fairbanks (Salt Lake City, Utah)



## Lewis and Clark

The Lewis and Clark NHT, with its rich history and unsurpassed landscapes, commemorates the compelling 3700-mile journey of the Corps of Discovery from the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to the Columbia River and the Pacific, and explores the political, social, and economic impacts of the expedition across this wide area.

**Sharing the Story** The innovative and widely-praised interpretive project "Corps of Discovery II: 200 Years to the Future" participated in all major bicentennial events since its 2003 opening at the Monticello Visitor Center in Virginia, reaching over 425,000 visitors in 75 cities on its way to the Oregon/Washington coast. The tour will conclude in St. Louis in September 2006. In 2004, Fort Clatsop National Memorial was redesignated as Lewis and Clark National Historical Park.

**Civic Engagement through Art** Through a series of collaborative public artworks funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, and administered by the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies and the New England Foundation for the Arts, artists were asked to interpret the Lewis and Clark experience, and to motivate and encourage people to examine their legacy in a new and creative manner.

Karen McCoy, an associate professor at the Kansas City Art Institute, served as lead artist for the Lewis and Clark ArtsPlan, and mentored a regional artist at each of the four sites where she worked. The sites included the Falls of the Ohio in Louisville, Kentucky and Clarksville, Indiana, Three Flags Commemoration in St. Louis, Missouri, and Signature Events at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center, Hartford, Illinois and St.Charles/Portage des Sioux, Missouri.



The Merrick brothers of Spirit Lake, North Dakota, performing the Drum Song; in background are soldiers from the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division's "The Old Guard." Washington, DC March, 2003.

**Tree in Tree, Three Flags Commemoration, St Louis, Missouri** Tree in Tree honors the ancient Osage Indian presence in Missouri. An Osage Orange sapling was planted within the hollow trunk of an old Red Oak tree, symbolizing a “re-rooting” of the Osage in the earth of their ancestral homeland. Indians of North America often manipulated trees by bending branches, or trunks, as the trees were growing. These marker, or guide trees, usually pointed the way to water or sacred places. This tethered branch points eastward. The Osage consider that they are always traveling in an easterly direction on their life paths. The orientation towards the rising sun is also a metaphor for a new beginning and a gesture of support and hope for the revitalization of Osage culture and language. The project was dedicated in a ceremony in collaboration with members of the Osage nation.

*I enjoyed the opportunity to share cultural history, to interpret the Native American perspective about Lewis and Clark; generally the group of people I shared with at Corps II have been open and receptive. That shows that general America is open to hearing other sides of the Lewis and Clark story.*  
Dakota Goodhouse, Standing Rock Sioux, 2006



Three Flags Commemoration: Eddy Red Eagle blessing the Tree in Tree site –Karen McCoy



Tree in Tree (detail): One branch of the sapling was drawn through a slot carved in the eastern side of the trunk and tethered parallel to the ground.—Karen McCoy



## Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)

In 1877, pursued by the U.S. Army, nearly 750 Nez Perce fled from Oregon's Wallowa Valley toward Canada. Consisting mostly of women, children and elderly, the group traveled almost 1,200 miles on a winding journey through four states. The exhausted and starving Nez Perce were finally trapped and surrendered at Bear Paw Battlefield in north central Montana, just short of the safety of Canada. In 1986 Congress acknowledged the significance of the Nez Perce Conflict of 1877 to all Americans by establishing the Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT.

**Interpretive Videos** Two new videos were produced in partnership with the Nez Perce Tribe, Lewis-Clark State College and NPS. *Walking on Sacred Ground* is a resource protection message for visitors to the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark. *Surviving Lewis & Clark: The Nimiipuu Story* details challenges Nez Perce Indians faced (including the 1877 war) following the Corps of Discovery.

**Trailside Interpretation** A Challenge Cost Share agreement was established with the Appaloosa Horse Club to provide interpretive presentations at sites along the trail. The club was also awarded two national Forest Service Centennial Costshare projects for 2005 and 2006 for a trail naturalization and a maintenance project.

**Supporting the Trail** Another Challenge Cost Share agreement with the Nez Perce Trail Foundation established a new office, an executive director and plans to certify sites in Nespelém, Washington and Wallowa, Oregon.



Nez Perce descendants retrace the Nez Perce NHT through Yellowstone National Park – Harold Pfeiffer, 2004

*We, the surviving Nez Percés, want to leave our hearts, memories, hallowed presence as a never-ending revelation to... the event of 1877. This trail will live in our hearts. We want to thank all who visit these sacred trails... they will share our innermost feelings.*

Frank B. Andrews, Chief Joseph Band



## Trail of Tears

In 1838, the U.S. government forcibly removed more than 16,000 Cherokee Indian people from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, and sent them to Indian Territory (today known as Oklahoma). The Trail of Tears NHT commemorates the paths of 17 Cherokee detachments and encompasses about 2,200 miles of land and water routes through nine states.

**New Water Trail Route** A cooperative initiative to develop the trail's water route on the Mississippi, Arkansas, Ohio, and Tennessee Rivers was launched with the Trail of Tears Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Trail dedication and commemoration, Pea Ridge National Military Park, Arkansas



Illustration from new interpretive wayside – Cherokee artist, Sam Watts-Kidd



Along the Trail of Tears NHT: Elkhorn Tavern, Pea Ridge Military Park, Arkansas



Hapuna Beach State Recreation Area, near Kawaihae, Hawaii

## Ala Kahakai

Ala Kahakai NHT is a 175-mile trail corridor established to tell the stories of Hawaii's history and people while preserving and protecting cultural and natural resources and traditional lifestyles. The goal is to link the many ancient and historic shoreline trails and routes that traverse hundreds of ancient Hawaiian settlement sites through over 200 ahupua'a, or traditional sea to mountain land divisions. The corridor connects all four National Parks, numerous state and county parks, premier resort communities, urban and rural neighborhoods, and wilderness areas along the entire western and the southern east shorelines of Hawaii island.

**Research** Cultural landscape projects included the first phase of a petroglyph inventory. In partnership with Waikoloa Land Company and Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park, 12,000 petroglyphs were recorded at Anaeho'omaluu.

**Trail Management** In partnership with West Hawaii Explorations Academy, a charter high-school; University of Redlands' (California) Environmental Studies Program; and NPS Pacific West's Hawaii Office, a prototype tool utilizing GPS and digital cameras was developed for future use by trail management groups. A related internet mapping site and database was created to process trail management information.

**Strategic Planning** A new non-profit trail "friends" association was formed; partnership agreement models created; a proposal for community-based management of a segment of state-owned trail submitted; trail and non-profit association logos and collateral development launched. Key partners include Common Works Development Institute of Canada, Puu Anahulu Community Association, State of Hawaii Division of Forestry, and O Communications.



Black sand beach at Luahinewai: Hikers enjoy fine weather and ocean conditions for National Trails Day 2004. In 1791, Ka'u Chief Keoua landed by canoe and bathed in Luahinewai's legendary pond in preparation for his final encounter with Kamehameha at Kawaihae, where he was sacrificed to the war god Kukailimoku thereby bringing the entire island of Hawaii under Kamehameha's rule.

*Trail development activities are focused on the completion of the trail's Comprehensive Management Plan and on developing research tools, trail partnerships and management prototypes with native Hawaiian families and cultural groups, landowners, governments, academic organizations, community organizations and hiking groups.*

Aric Arakaki, Superintendent, Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail, National Park Service



## Iditarod

The Iditarod NHT commemorates a 2,200 mile system of winter trails that first connected prehistoric Native Alaskan villages, later became a major route for the settlement of Gold Rush-era Alaska, and continues to play a vital role in modern-day Alaska.

**Trail Interpretation** Historic interpretive panels were installed at five trailside communities in partnership with BLM, FS, a statewide Iditarod Trail friends group, and local governments.

**Route Marking** Members of a sunsetted federal advisory council for the Iditarod NHT working with BLM formed a statewide non-profit advocacy group for the trail. The group matched NPS Challenge Cost Share Program funding with volunteer labor for installation of trail route markers across 30 miles of treeless tundra on the Seward Peninsula.

*...in the month of March I left for the north. That was many years ago when there were only two modes of travel, mush dogs or just mush.*

Charles Lee Cadwallader, Reminiscences of the Iditarod Trail



Cross-country skiers enjoy an interpretive wayside at the Eagle River Nature Center in Chugach State Park



Rohn Cabin, 7th of 24 checkpoints along the trail



## California

The California NHT carried goldseekers and farmers to the gold fields and rich farmlands of California during the 1840s and 1850s, the greatest mass migration in American history. Today, more than 1,000 miles of trail ruts and traces can be rediscovered between Casper, Wyoming and California.

**National Landmark** BLM and NPS are cooperating to complete a resource study defining the boundaries of the South Pass National Landmark and nominating the South Pass Rural Historic District in Wyoming.

**Resource Protection** BLM and NPS played a key role as mediator in a complex highway construction project in Carson City, involving the National Pony Express Association, the Equestrian Alliance, FHWA, Nevada Department of Transportation, and Carson City Parks & Recreation.

**Telling the Story** In partnership with the Nevada/California Chapter, NPS is developing a series of wayside interpretive exhibits along the Carson Pass and Big Tree route.



Scott's Bluff, Nebraska



## Mormon Pioneer

During 1846-47, Brigham Young led the Pioneer trek from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, covering about 1,300 miles through five states. Tens of thousands followed during the next two decades along the route planned and mapped by Young's followers which was designated in 1978 as the Mormon Pioneer NHT.

**Auto Route Guides** A series of state by state interpretive guides are being produced by NPS. The first guide – for Illinois and Iowa – has been completed and electronically published on the Mormon Pioneer NHT website. The Nebraska guide should be available as a printed publication in the summer of 2006.

**Trail Interpretation** In partnership with the Mormon Trail Heritage Foundation and the Iowa and Nebraska Mormon Trail Associations, and with funding from the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, a series of interpretive wayside exhibits along the trail were developed and installed from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Additional waysides for southeastern Wyoming are in production and will be ready for installation in the Spring of 2006.



Mormons near Fort Bridger, Wyoming – painting by W.H. Jackson



## Oregon

As the harbinger of America's westward expansion, the Oregon NHT was the pathway to the Pacific for fur traders, gold seekers, missionaries and others. Beginning in 1841 and continuing for nearly three decades, an estimated 300,000 emigrants followed this 2,170-mile route from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon.

**Mapping the Route** University of Utah's DIGIT laboratory provided training to Oregon-California Trails Association volunteers to collect accurate data on trail swales and related sites along the Oregon and California trails. Following training, five volunteers documented the Oregon Trail from the Idaho border to the End of the Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City. NPS provided technical support for the project and funding for volunteer training and travel through the Challenge Cost Share Program.

**Interagency Cooperation** NPS and BLM offices continue to coordinate trail management and interpretation efforts across several states: in Nevada, agency staff are cooperating on reviewing plans and designs for the California Trail Interpretive Center, a new multi-million dollar facility at Elko, and on producing a series of 34 related trail wayside exhibits; in Wyoming, NPS is assisting in the production of interpretive waysides for the Lander Road segment of the Oregon and California Trails. In 2005, NPS and BLM co-organized a workshop session on cultural tourism at the Governor's Conference on Tourism in Pendleton, Oregon.

*Several families will leave Sangamon County, this spring, for Oregon and California, among them are some of our best citizens. A disposition to emigrate to the shores of the Pacific, will enable persons who wish to purchase well improved farms, to invest their money here to great advantage.*

Sangamon County Journal, March 26, 1846



Alcove Springs, Blue Rapids, Kansas: Emigrants waited at Alcove Springs to cross the Big Blue River at Independence Crossing.



## Juan Bautista de Anza

The Juan Bautista de Anza NHT commemorates the 1800-mile route followed by Spanish commander in 1775-76 when he led a contingent of thirty soldiers and their families across vast stretches of desert to colonize northern California for Spain, founding a presidio and mission near San Francisco Bay.

**Supporting the Trail** The trail's advisory council was transformed to an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, capable of fundraising and serving as a long-term partner for the trail.

**International Links** In cooperation with Mexico, the trail's route south of the US-Mexico border across the top of Baja California was marked and documented.

*Thanks to the work of volunteers, thousands of people can now discover part of the Anza Trail every day. Whether they travel up the California coast listening to volunteers share the story of the trail or hike on rural trail segments in Maricopa County, they are experiencing the Anza Trail.*

David Smith, Interpretive Specialist, Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, National Park Service

**Trail Interpretation** "Trails and Rails" an innovative interpretive program on Amtrak's Coast Starlight train reached approximately 100 people per day during during the summer of 2005.



Expedition reenactment, Tubac Presidio State Park, Arizona



Expedition reenactment in Southern California



## Santa Fe

Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe NHT was primarily a commercial trade route for connecting Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. The legendary 900-mile trail was used by both Mexican and American traders. It became the route of the U.S. invasion of Mexico in 1846. Trail trade continued until the railroad reached Santa Fe in 1888.

**Trail Junction Park, Gardner, Kansas** In partnership with the Missouri River Outfitters Chapter (Santa Fe Trail Association), Oregon-California Trail Association, City of Gardner, Gardner Museum, Kansas Department of Transportation, Kansas State Historical Society, and Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, NPS is assisting in the development of interpretive and visitor facilities for Trail Junction Park, where three National Historic Trails – Santa Fe, California, and Oregon – split into separate corridors. Project funding is provided by trail organizations, the NPS Challenge Cost Share Program, and local supporters.

**Kansas City Greenway, Missouri** Construction work began on the first segment of the Kansas City Greenway which follows the general route of the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California National Historic Trails. The greenway has attracted more than \$2 million for construction, from several Federal Highway programs, and state, local, and private sources. NPS has assisted with interpretive planning and development along the proposed route, supported by \$75,000 in Challenge Cost Share Program funding. Key project partners include 3-Trails Village Community Improvement District, Avila University, and the City of Kansas City, Missouri.

*In Kansas City, the California, Oregon, and Santa Fe National Historic Trails are about more than history, they are the vital nexus between our goals for intermodal transportation, sustainable economic development and improving quality of life.*

Lou Austin, Chairman, 3-Trails Village Community Improvement District, Kansas City, Missouri



Above: Point of Rocks is ready for visitors, thanks to a partnership between NPS, New Mexico Scenic Byways, Santa Fe Trail Association, Boy Scout Troop 53 and Point of Rocks Ranch owner Faye Gaines.

Below: Sculpture by Mettje Swift and Ross Martin, assisted by Del Norte high school students. Funded by the Forest Service, National Endowment for the Arts, Colorado Council on the Arts and Rio Grande County Tourism.



## Old Spanish

The Old Spanish NHT was a pack mule trail linking New Mexico with coastal California. Mexican trader Antonio Armijo lead the first commercial caravan from Abiquiú, New Mexico, to Los Angeles late in 1829. Over the next 20 years, Mexican and American traders traveled variants of the route, frequently trading with Indian tribes along the way.

**Trail Administration** BLM and NPS jointly administer this historic trade route between Santa Fe and Los Angeles. Authorized in 2002, the two agencies are now in the early stages of developing the trail's Comprehensive Management Plan.

**Interpretive Planning** BLM and NPS staff participated in a multi-partner design workshop to generate site plan alternatives for the Taos Valley overlook view area. This project involves development of a trailhead for public access to the Old Spanish Trail and associated interpretive sites, multiple BLM trails, and a scenic overlook.

*The Old Spanish Trail is a reminder that hundreds of people came this way before us. Their stories are part of the nation's historical fabric. The Old Spanish Trail restores them to life and offers to all Americans the chance to learn about who came this way, and how their stories weave into the American tapestry.*

Elizabeth von Till Warren, Ph.D., Past President, Old Spanish Trail Association



Restored Grist Mill, Mission San José

## El Camino Real de los Tejas

The El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT stretches more than 2500 miles from Eagle Pass, Texas on the Rio Grande, through San Antonio to Natchitoches, Louisiana. Spanish and French explorers blazed the trail, followed by missionaries and men such as Jim Bowie, Davy Crockett and Sam Houston. Planning for administration of the trail, authorized in 2004, is just getting underway.

**Trail Administration** The trail is administered by the NPS. The Texas legislature passed a bill designating the Texas Historical Commission as the lead state agency for this recently established trail.

**Tourism Symposium** A symposium on the El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT and related Texas tourism topics was hosted by the Milam County Historical Commission in April 2005. The two-day meeting included presentations by Senator

Kay Hutchinson, the NPS, the Texas Historical Commission, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas State Parks, Texas Department of Agriculture, and a representative from the governor's office. In October 2005, an academic colloquium was held at the University of Texas in San Antonio with presentations about the trail from scholars from Mexico and the United States.

*The El Camino Real de los Tejas provided an avenue for Spanish, Native-American, French, and African peoples to mix, interact, and eventually merge into a rich culture unique in the nation. The Camino Real symbolizes the very essence of Louisiana's multi-cultural heritage*

Raymond Berthelot, Chief of Interpretive Services  
Louisiana Office of State Parks



The Oaks House ruins, Mission Espada (San Antonio Missions National Historical Park)



## El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT (Royal Road to the Interior) recognizes the primary route between the colonial Spanish capital of Mexico City and provincial capitals at San Juan de Los Caballeros, San Gabriel, and Santa Fe. In the U.S., the designated trail extends 404 miles from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

**Trail Management** BLM and NPS completed a comprehensive management plan for this trail, the first jointly administered trail in the National Trails System. The planning helped initiate database development of trail resources and related site inventories, trail mapping, and formation of an interagency committee of federal, state, and local agencies.

**International Colloquium** BLM, NPS, and the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association cooperated with Mexican trail representatives to host the 10th International Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro, April 27-30, in Socorro, New Mexico. This biennial conference alternates between New Mexico and Mexico; the next colloquium will take place in Mexico City in two years.

**Trail Interpretation** The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association was awarded NPS Challenge Cost Share Program funding to support the design and production of way-side exhibits to be installed along a 10-mile section of the Rio Grande River Park and Trail System in El Paso, Texas. The way-sides will highlight the trail's role in the history of El Paso.

*The Camino Real, begun in 1598, is still vibrant, perhaps about to become more so. It is a living symbol of Old World life and New World adjustments. The old trail has contributed to our many cultures and permeated our lives in ways that we have not even imagined. The trail is an important piece to the large mosaic that is today's society.*

Thomas E. Chavez, *North from Mexico, Inland and Beyond: El Camino Real* (BLM Cultural Resources Series, No. 11, 1993) p. 35



Along the El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT: Opening the Rio Grande River Park and Trail, El Paso, Texas



## Overmountain Victory

The Overmountain Victory NHT commemorates the 1780 campaign leading to the Battle of Kings Mountain by following the Revolutionary War route of patriot militiamen from Virginia, eastern Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina to the battle site at Kings Mountain National Military Park in South Carolina. In 2005, the 225th Anniversary was celebrated with a trailwide series of commemorative events.

**Trail Protection** The City of Elkin, North Carolina, received an NPS Partner Award for its outstanding efforts to protect and interpret the 1780 mustering ground. Mr. E.H. Bowers, a private citizen in Abingdon, Virginia, donated 1/2 mile of the historic route for exclusive use as part of the Overmountain Victory NHT in perpetuity. The land was deeded to the town for trail use only, and will be maintained by them and local volunteer groups.

**Trail Access** Cherokee County, South Carolina assisted in funding trailhead parking for the Overmountain Victory NHT, located on the east boundary of Cowpens National Battlefield. The project cost \$110,000, most of it coming from county accommodation tax revenue or grants obtained by the county's Overmountain Victory Trail Committee.

*The Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail is vitally dependent on partnerships. Currently we have over 100 organizations along the 330 mile route that assist with trail building, development of interpretive displays, maintenance and promotion, and special events. The Trail continues to grow and thrive because of these valued relationships.*

Paul Carson, Superintendent, Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, National Park Service



Trail dedication in Pisgah National Forest



Allen Ray leads the Marchers into Choate's Ford – *Overmountain Victory Trail Association*



## Selma to Montgomery

The Selma to Montgomery NHT commemorates the route taken by marchers during the March 21 through March 25, 1965 Voting Rights March. The march was a watershed event in the modern Civil Rights movement, leading to passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the transformation of the political landscape in the American South and the nation.

**Telling the Story** In a partnership between Alabama Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration and NPS, the trail's Comprehensive Interpretive Plan and Wayside Exhibit Plan were completed and a "Parks as Classrooms" grant was received from the National Park Foundation for early implementation. The trail's first Interpretive Center was built in Lowndes County, supported by \$3 million in visitor exhibits and interpretive waysides. Alabama Department of Transportation has also recently purchased the site for the second Interpretive Center in Selma. In early 2006, an additional \$528,000 was secured from Scenic Byway Funds for pre-design work for the Selma location.

*Let us march on ballot boxes until all over Alabama God's children will be able to walk the earth indecency and honor.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., March 25, 1965 at the Alabama State Capitol



NPS Superintendent Catherine Light and trail visitors celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Voting Rights March of 1965 with a recreation of the march



## Appalachian

The Appalachian NST began as a vision of forester Benton MacKaye in 1921, was initially completed by volunteers in 1937, and designated America's first national scenic trail in 1968. The 2,175 mile footpath, stretching across 14 states from Maine to Georgia, provides outstanding hiking opportunities through the protection of the natural and cultural resources of the publicly-owned greenway along the crests and valleys of the Appalachian Mountain chain.

**Trail Management** A draft trailwide resource management plan was completed, integrating data from all 14 states. Long-standing partnerships agreements with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (formerly Appalachian Trail Conference)

for the next 10 years were also renewed. Comprehensive chainsaw safety training and certification program was developed and deployed to volunteers trailwide. NPS and the Forest Service continue interagency cooperation to protect and operate this trail, including Forest Service field staff duty-stationed at the NPS trail office.

**Strategic Planning** An expansive new strategic plan was developed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and

*The Appalachian Trail is a way...for travel on foot through the wild, scenic, wooded, pastoral, and culturally significant lands of the Appalachian Mountains....The body of the Trail is provided by the lands it traverse, and its soul is the living stewardship of the volunteers and workers of the Appalachian Trail community.*

from the Appalachian Trail Management Principles

the Appalachian Trail Park Office focusing on the next phase of the trail's protection and management: community outreach, civic engagement, and environmental monitoring of key natural resource indicators along the length of the Appalachian Mountains.



With support from the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and NPS, a new bridge is installed over Cascade Brook in New Hampshire by an AMC trail crew – *Appalachian Mountain Club*



Ridgerunners at work in Maine – *Appalachian Trail Conservancy*



## Pacific Crest

The Pacific Crest NST spans 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada through three western states, revealing the beauty of the desert, the Sierra Nevada, and the Cascade Range. The trail also passes through historic mining sites and evidence of human's endless quest for natural resources.

**Engaging Youth** Numerous trail improvement projects engaged youth in California, Oregon and Washington involving the Northwest Youth Corps, Student Conservation Association, and the California Conservation Corps.

**Trail Corridor Protection** In partnership with NPS, the Forest Service has led an active land acquisition program that has protected over 8,000 acres of trail corridor and related viewshed lands and nearly 16 miles of trail with funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Almost 7% of the trail remains on private land currently protected by easements.

**Mapping the Trail** A public education and outreach program geared to connect with day users and section hikers is being implemented through a series of 10 maps that will cover the entire 2,650-mile PCT. The first map is already in stores now with two more set for release soon. The mapping program is a public-private partnership between the Forest Service, Pacific Crest Trail Association, graphic design companies and outdoor equipment vendors.

**Celebrating Partnership** An annual trip along the Pacific Crest NST takes place each August with numerous partners, such as: Student Conservation Association, California Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Americorps, Backcountry Horsemen of California, American Hiking Society and federal agency partners. The trip coincides with meeting thru-hikers and youth trail crews completing maintenance and construction projects.

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*I went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out until sundown,  
for going out I found I was really going in.*

John Muir



Pacific Crest Trail, Goat Rocks Wilderness, with Mt. Rainier in background – Pacific Crest Trail Association



## North Country

Threading its way across a landscape of diversity whose beauty is accentuated by its distinctly changing seasons, the North Country NST links outstanding scenic, natural, recreational, historic, and cultural areas. From the grandeur of the Adirondack Mountains in New York, it meanders westward through the hardwood forests of Pennsylvania, along historic canals in Ohio, through the rolling farmlands of southern Michigan, along the shores of the Great Lakes, and through the glacier-carved forests, lakes, and streams of northern Wisconsin and Minnesota. Its western terminus lies in the vast plains of North Dakota.

**New Routes** NPS and partners conducted a route assessment in northeast Minnesota to consider incorporating the routes of three existing trails. The assessment recommended making this change, shown on the map with a dashed line. Pending formal approval by Congress, the change would add 300 miles of trails between Duluth and Grand Rapids, Minnesota and three trail maintaining affiliates to the North Country Trail Association.

**Protecting the Trail** Between 2001 and 2006, The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources acquired 585.5 acres of land in fee and 47.8 acres of easement for the trail using matching grants from a special Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriation for the trail. Almost 150 miles of certified trail were also added and seven new volunteer chapters were added to the North Country Trail Association.

*Every year, the North Country National Scenic Trail gets longer and better, as more links are forged between communities, outstanding scenic and historic areas and pristine backcountry. The trail itself stands as a wonderful tribute to the hard work of hundreds of dedicated trail volunteers and their local, state, and federal partners. Their passion for the trail will be handed down to the next generations, who will celebrate the completion of our nation's longest trail.*

U.S. Senator Carl Levin, Michigan



Scott Tichy, Ranger, US Army Corps of Engineer and award-winning trail supporter



Autumn along the Superior Hiking Trail – Rob Corbett, North Country Trail Association



## Ice Age

The Ice Age NST preserves, interprets and celebrates the scenic beauty of Wisconsin's distinctive glacial landscape, an impressive array of fascinating landforms: moraines, drumlins, kames, kettles, eskers, outwash plains, erratics, meltwater channels, potholes, driftless (unglaciaded) topography, glacial lake beds and islands, and more. It links cities and towns to Wisconsin's remote backcountry.

**Land Protection** Using matching grants from a series of special Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, and other partners have acquired nearly 4,000 acres of trail lands in fee or easement.

**Engaging Volunteers** The Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation's Mobile Skills Crew, funded with NPS Challenge Cost Share funds, has constructed high quality trail all along its route and trained hundreds of volunteers in trailbuilding.

**Trail Planning** Route planning by federal, state, local, and private partners has increased awareness of the trail, institutionalized it in local open space and comprehensive plans, and generated interest from landowners and developers for including the trail on their lands.

*In 2005, the Mobile Skills Crew's "Northwoods Tour" returned to Lincoln County and built 5600 feet of sustainable tread, rerouting the Ice Age Trail from logging roads to incorporate classic glacial features that define the Ice Age Trail experience.*

Tim Malzhan – Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation



Trail volunteers at Devil's Lake State Park



Hikers on a newly-built trail segment – Andrew Hanson



Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin with private landowner Lee Swanson on the grand opening hike of an easement acquired by the Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation in 2005. – Don Ferber, Ice Age Park & Trail Foundation



## Florida

First blazed near Clearwater Lake in the Ocala National Forest in 1966, the Florida NST has grown to a 1,400-mile corridor stretching from Big Cypress National Preserve near Miami to Gulf Islands National Seashore at Pensacola Beach. Nearly three-quarters of the Florida Trail is built and protected; long-distance hikers “connect the dots” between completed sections by using blazed roadwalks.

**Mapping the Trail** With the help of volunteers, a five-year GPS trailwide survey was completed.

**Post-Hurricane Cleanup** Developed a GIS model to track emergency trail repairs after the 2004 hurricanes. In partnership with the Forest Service, coordinated hurricane recovery efforts through training and distribution of tools and safety equipment to volunteers. Participated in related Traditional Tools Timbering demonstrations showcasing tools used in wilderness areas at the Florida Folk Festival and the Perry Forest Festival.

*The Florida Trail has seen great progress since its inception. In 2006, we entered our 40th year of trail building. Working with our partners, we continue to carry the message that the Florida Trail – Florida's Footpath Forever – is a national treasure that merits continued support to complete and protect the entire corridor.*

Deborah Stewart-Kent, Executive Director, Florida Trail Association



Hiking through palm hammocks in St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge  
– Mariann Fugitt, Florida Trail Association



Migrating monarch butterflies along the trail in St. Mark's National Wildlife Refuge  
– Bart Smith, Florida Trail Association



## Continental Divide

The vision for the Continental Divide NST is a 3,100-mile primitive and challenging backcountry trail from Canada to Mexico along the backbone of America. Mile for mile it is among America's wildest and highest national trails, crossing Gray's Peak in Colorado, elevation 14,210 feet.

**Building Partnerships** The Continental Divide NST Leadership Council was formally established, consisting of all affected federal jurisdictions and the five states crossed by the trail. Over \$4 million in state and private sector financial support was secured.

**Engaging Volunteers** The Continental Divide Trail Alliance has hosted over 7,000 volunteers contributing more than \$3.5 million in labor and the CDTA Youth Corp program engaged young people for nearly 50,000 hours.

**Trail Management** Two border to border trail surveys were completed using volunteers which resulted in the documentation of over 300 nationally significant features.

*Ten years ago no one knew how many miles of the Trail were complete. Today we have a cohesive vision and passionate people taking the lead to finish it.*

Paula Ward, Executive Director, Continental Divide Trail Alliance



Volunteers on the Herman Gulch Trail in Colorado, a 2005 National Trails Day project – *Continental Divide Trail Alliance*



Volunteers and federal agency partners, Herman Gulch Trail



## Natchez Trace

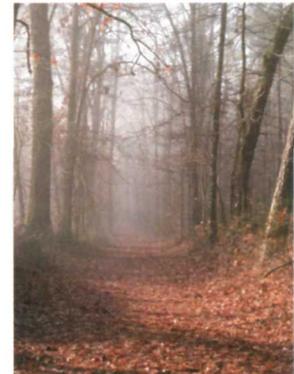
The 444-mile Natchez Trace NST is an ancient trail connecting southern portions of the Mississippi River to salt licks in today's central Tennessee. From 1785 to 1820, the *Kaintuck* boatmen floated the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to markets in Natchez and New Orleans.

**Engaging Youth** An extensive series of NPS Challenge Cost Share Program youth-based projects involving Student Conservation Association and Boy Scouts of America were completed.

**Trail Development** As of 2005, four high use trail segments have been constructed in the areas of Natchez, Jackson, and Tupelo, Mississippi and Hohenwald, Tennessee.

*The most serious challenge facing the Natchez Trace NST is recovering from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina in August 2005. Over 500 trees have fallen across the trail, blocking access and causing damage to bridges and boardwalks.*

Marty Huseman, Assistant Chief Ranger, Natchez Trace Parkway National, Park Service



Winter on the Natchez Trace NST



Along the Natchez Trace NST



## Potomac Heritage

The Potomac Heritage NST is a broad-based partnership to develop and sustain an evolving network of braided trails for recreation, transportation, health, and education, anchored in a continuous route connecting the Chesapeake Bay through the nation's capital to the Laurel Highlands of Pennsylvania.

**Trail Management** A management plan for public lands along the Potomac River in Virginia was developed in partnership with the Northern Virginia Regional Commission.

**Trail Interpretation** NPS secured a "Parks as Classrooms" grant to research and describe opportunities for teachers to develop lesson plans based on the Potomac River Sojourn and the Fort Circle Parks Trail. Partnerships with the American Hiking Society and Adventure Cycling Association will produce two new guides for hikers and cyclists for the entire trail.



Paddling the Middle Potomac River

*Beyond the geographic connections that the Trail is making amongst different lands, waters, and peoples, it is also bringing together communities across different layers of time, connecting us with our many pasts as well as new possibilities for the future of our watershed.*

Steve Coleman, Executive Director, Washington Parks and People

## National Trails System: System Overview

The National Trails System Act of 1968, as amended, calls for establishing trails in urban and rural settings for persons of all ages, interests, skills and physical abilities. The fundamental goal of the act is to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of trails while encouraging greater public access. The act also establishes four types of trails, national scenic trails, national historic trails, national recreation trails, and side or connecting trails. The first two trail types – scenic and historic – are the focus of this report. National scenic trails, such as the Appalachian and Continental Divide are continuous, extended routes of outdoor recreation within protected corridors. National historic trails, such as the Lewis and Clark and the newly-established Ala Kahakai, recognize past routes of exploration, migration, and military actions. The most recent additions to the national historic trails are the El Camino Real de los Tejas and the Old Spanish Trail, established in 2004 and 2002, respectively. There are currently eight scenic and 16 historic trails authorized within the National Trails System, totaling approximately 42,000 miles in combined lengths, located in 47 states.

## Federal Highway Administration and National Trails

Through direct project funding, technical assistance, publications, and a variety of partnership initiatives, the Federal Highway Administration is a major supporter of National Historic and Scenic Trails. Many National Historic and Scenic Trail projects use Federal-aid Highway Program funds, primarily through Transportation Enhancement Activities, and the Recreational Trails, Federal Lands Highways and National Scenic Byways programs. In fact, many National Scenic Byways follow the routes of National Scenic and Historic Trails. FHWA encourages States to give special attention to National Scenic and Historic Trails when selecting projects under the Recreational Trails Program and under Transportation Enhancements. FHWA partners with the USDA Forest Service Technology and Development program to develop and distribute trail-related technology and information to promote sustainable trails and effective trail construction and maintenance.

National Historic Trails	Year Established
Ala Kahakai	2000
California	1992
El Camino Real de los Tejas	2004
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro	2000
Iditarod	1978
Juan Bautista de Anza	1990
Lewis and Clark	1978
Mormon Pioneer	1978
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo)	1986
Old Spanish	2002
Oregon	1978
Overmountain Victory	1980
Pony Express	1992
Santa Fe	1987
Selma to Montgomery	1996
Trail of Tears	1987
National Scenic Trails	
Appalachian	1968
Continental Divide	1978
Florida	1983
Ice Age	1980
Natchez Trace	1983
North Country	1980
Pacific Crest	1968
Potomac Heritage	1983

## National Trails Training Partnership

One outstanding interagency achievement over the past five years is the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP). This educational partnership has been formed to ensure broad participation and access for trail professionals and volunteers to the full range of trail development skills, training opportunities, and resource information. The goal is to assist trail groups, communities, tribal governments, and State and Federal agencies plan, design, enhance, build, interpret, protect, and maintain trails and greenways for all Americans. NTTP is supported by all major federal land management agencies, state and regional agencies, and includes all state trails programs along with the full range of non-profit organizations in the trails, greenways, and outdoor recreation fields. Its main service is a constantly updated website calendar currently listing numerous training opportunities nationwide ([www.nttp.net](http://www.nttp.net)).

### National Trails MOU Partners 2001-2006

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)  
Forest Service (FS)  
National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)  
National Park Service (NPS)



Along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Denning Hill, New York