

National Trails System

ANNUAL REPORT for FY 2013



A “Seeds of Stewardship” outing sponsored by the Arizona Trail Association in April, 2013. Miami, AZ, Junior High students participate in service learning and trail exploration in the Sonoran Desert. Funding provided by REI and the Freeport-McMoRan Copper and Gold Foundation. Photo courtesy USDA Forest Service.

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Abbreviations used in this report:

NA = not applicable

n/a = not available

unkn = unknown

BLM = Bureau of Land Management

CESU = Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

CMP = Comprehensive Management Plan

FGDC = Federal Geographic Data Committee

FHWA = Federal Highway Administration

FS = USDA Forest Service

FTDS = Federal Trail Data Standards

FWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MPO = Metropolitan Planning Organization

NHPA = National Historic Preservation Act

NHT = National Historic Trail

NOAA = Nat. Oceanic and Atmospheric Admin.

NPS = National Park Service

NRT = National Recreation Trail

NST = National Scenic Trail

SHPO = State Historic Preservation Office

USACE = U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

USDA = U.S. Department of Agriculture

INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

Many serious issues faced National Trails System partners in Federal fiscal year (FY) 2013, including recession-weakened partner groups, expanding energy projects and transmission grid, inconsistent mapping, and increasingly tight Federal agency budgets. And, many Americans are unaware of the National Trails System and its health, community, economic, and educational benefits.

This report by the MOU agencies for FY 2013 reflects accomplishments along individual trails and actions that advance the National Trails System as a whole. To correlate the 24 specific tasks of the MOU to the data topics below, see Attachment A, *Checklist of MOU Tasks*. To correlate the MOU tasks to the goals, objectives, and actions of “A Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018,” see Attachment B. And, this report is structured to list accomplishments according to the goals and actions of America’s Great Outdoors.

KEY MESSAGES FROM 2013

America's Great Outdoors – Components of the National Trails System contribute on many fronts to America's Great Outdoors (AGO), the current Federal interagency conservation initiative. Trails create new jobs (especially the new 21st Century Conservation Service Corps), enhance recreation access, provide transportation opportunities, preserve natural and cultural resources, raise awareness of the values and benefits of being outdoors, engage young people, enhance urban parks and urban outreach, access “living” rural landscapes, conserve Federal lands, protect rivers and other waters, and improve Federal performance as a conservation partner. In turn, the trails will indeed benefit if full funding for the Land & Water Conservation Fund is ever restored. AGO-related projects (Kohala Peninsula, Hawaii; the Leopold Shack connector trail in Wisconsin; and Collaborative Landscape Planning) also contribute (see page 32).

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

Policy – The BLM completed a comprehensive set of policies for National Trails in 2012 as Manuals 6250, *National Scenic and Historic Trail Administration*, 6280, *Management of National Scenic and Historic Trails and Trails Under Study or Recommended as Suitable for Congressional Designation*, and 8353, *Trail Management Areas, Secretarially Designated National Recreation, Water, and Connecting and Side Trails*. And in May 2013 NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis signed Director's Order 45 providing a policy platform for the National Trails System within the National Park Service.

The Quest for Consistent Mapping – One disadvantage to having the components of the National Trails System shared among several agencies is that mapping of the trails is inconsistent. Each agency has its own mapping traditions and standards. And in today's world of new technologies, electronic mapping, GIS, and web-based mapping change happens faster than agencies can respond. In some cases, trail partners are way ahead of Federal staff in this area. Many trail offices have GIS (Geospatial Information Systems) capabilities – but they vary widely (see Figures 7 and 8 on pages 27 and 28). As public demand for accurate and consistent mapping increases and as technological costs for developing good maps decreases, the National Trails System community is working hard to develop capacity, protocols, and standards for presenting the National Trails System accurately and consistently.

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

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

5-Year Summary, 2009-2013

2013 marks the midpoint of the Decade for the National Trails, 2008-2018. Our Federal agencies helped craft the goals, objectives, and key actions associated with the Decade (see page 35). Meanwhile, our agency field offices performed many actions each year which are summarized below that helped carry out the goals of the Decade, grouped by goal. Where steady trends are discernable from year to year over this five-year period, they are so noted.

Outreach, Youth, and Community Involvement

Number of website hits	26.4 million	(a shrinking trend)
Number of publications distributed	3.6 million	(a growing trend)
Number of trailwide partner meetings	1,417	(a growing trend)
New national recreation trails recognized	186	

Trail Protection and Completion

Acres of land protected by partners	35,224	
Acres of land protected by Federal agencies	8,175	
Compliance actions	3,320	
Miles of NHT auto routes marked	1,936	(all just in 2012 and 2013)
Miles of trail constructed or maintained	1,702	
New miles of NHTs opened to the public	1,305	(a growing trend)
New miles of NSTs built and opened	591	
Major structures installed	543	
NHT high potential sites and segments protected	474	(a shrinking trend)
Recreation facilities installed	293	
Trail sites and segments certified	132	

Capacity Building

Hours of officially recognized volunteer time	3.9 million	(peaked in 2011)
New partnership agreements	657	(a shrinking trend)

CONNECTING TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Agency Actions



National Recreation Trails (NRTs) – 30 new NRTs were recognized by Interior Secretaries Salazar and Jewell in FY 2013, including two as components of the National Water Trail System. Of these NRTs, 10 trails are wholly or partially located on Federal lands. They are:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>	<u>Length (in miles)</u>
General Dacey Trail	IL	US ACE	4
Hellcat Interpretive Trail	MA	US FWS	1
Mud Pond Trail	NH	US FWS	1
Nadeau Trail	CA	BLM	28
Pomme de Terre Multipurpose Trail	MO	US ACE	20
Running River Trail	MO	US ACE	3
Sierra Vista Trail	NM	BLM	29
Sugar Bottom Mtn. Biking Trail System	IA	US ACE	13
Timber Point Trail	ME	US FWS	1
Volksweg Trail	IA	US ACE	14

Altogether, since 1971, our various agencies have nominated and now protect and maintain for public use about half of the 1,250 National Recreation Trails.

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of NRTs</u>	<u>Total lengths (in miles)</u>
USDA Forest Service	371	6,048
National Park Service	79	693
US Army Corps of Engineers	83	572
US Fish & Wildlife Service	74	604
Bureau of Land Management	<u>33</u>	<u>555</u>
Totals	640	8,472

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

Connecting to the Great Outdoors – Innovative Actions, by Trail

Throughout the National Trails System, innovative projects and programs are helping fulfill the goals of America’s Great Outdoors. Here is a sampling from this past year of actions that help connect the public to the great outdoors along the national trails:

Staff of the **Ala Kahakai NHT** worked with partners who had obtained an America’s Best Ideas grant from the National Park Foundation to sponsor three Music and Talk Story events which were designed to celebrate places along the Trail by sharing indigenous music and stories. These occurred at Kailapa, Kaloko-Honokohau, and Honaunau. In addition, through a cooperative agreement with the Nakoa Foundation, a new program is underway to teach young people how to sail traditional Hawaiian fishing canoes. “Na Pe’a” (the Sails) is designed to immerse youth in fishing culture with a long-term goal to use traditional canoes for trail management. Related issues include food security, community resilience, revenue generation by selling fish, and providing transportation on water trails to shoreline trails.

The **Appalachian NST’s** A Trail to Every Classroom educational program, now in its seventh year, replaced the regular workshop cycle with opportunities for the 250 alumni who have gone through the program since 2005. More information is available at www.nps.gov/appa/forteachers/index.htm.

Along the **California NHT**, trail staff worked with the Lander Trail Foundation to create an interpretive kiosk at the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho. A separate project at this site involved the Shoshone-Bannock tribes to create a kiosk to discuss the relationship between Indians and emigrants on the Trail. Visitor facilities – including parking, trails, signs, and exhibits – have been designed for the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park. This area was funded by gas mitigation funds which were used to purchase land containing an important trail river crossing. Other new trail-related e-services include:

- A sign plan tool on the Trail’s website to enable partners to create NHT plans in their areas to highlight local communities and trail-related sites and segments,
 - A large-print version of the official Trail map and guide on the website to meet accessibility standards, and
 - A mobile app to interpret Trail-related sites in Echo, East, and Emigration Canyons as well as downtown Salt Lake City, Utah.
-

The **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT** continues to be a laboratory of innovative outreach and youth involvement, including:

- *Bay Journeys*, a quarterly publication with in-depth articles pertaining to recreation in the Chesapeake Bay Region,
- Launch of the Chesapeake Explorer app (in partnership with the **Potomac Heritage NST**),
- Development of 18 new public access sites along the Trail,
- Work with State, NGO and Federal partners to develop youth teams in support of:
- Anne Arundel County, Maryland’s award-winning All-sensory Trail,

- Three interns hosted by the James River Association, Parks and People, and Maryland's CJC in support of a network of youth corps programs and teams, and
 - Projects by the Virginia Youth Conservation Corps in various state parks.
 - A standard orientation panels and kiosk design which has been fabricated and installed at 10 state parks and five other locations in Virginia.
-

Along **El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT**, two wayside exhibits were completed in Nacogdoches, Texas in 2013. One is located in a demonstration garden at the Stone Fort Museum on the campus of Stephen F. Austin State University, and the other is now on display at the Nine Flags Museum.

To promote **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT**, BLM installed portal signs about La Jornada del Muerto at the Yost Escarpment trailhead, the Point of Rocks interpretive trailhead, and the Jornada del Muerto pullout. Meanwhile, NPS staff completed installation of two wayside exhibits about the historic *torreon* at El Rancho de las Golondrinas near Santa Fe. A \$1.4 million sign plan for the Trail in and around El Paso, Texas, was approved by the El Paso MPO (efforts are underway now to fund it with partnerships from various state and local funding sources). In Santa Fe County, NM, NPS has been working with County staff on construction of a pedestrian retracement trail following the NHT, with road and pedestrian signs plus interpretive exhibits. More than \$20 million is being invested by the County for this project.

The 30th anniversary of the **Florida NST** was celebrated in 2013 with a series of trail events. The first occurred on January 3rd at Big Cypress National Preserve with the unveiling of the Trail's new southern terminus monument. The last event was a reunion of former trail administrators and current land managers and volunteer stewards at the FNST Symposium in Sanford in September. With 1,000 miles (of a planned 1,300 mile trail) already on the ground and open to the public, and with a vibrant community of volunteer stewards to support this remarkable Trail, there was much to celebrate.

The newly updated Florida NST trail inventory is available for on-line use and on smartphones through ESRI and ArcGIS applications. Users are now able to navigate the Trail and see their geographic position relative to the map, locate trailheads and campsites, and determine what the trail class and type are. Next year, additional interactive applications will allow users to navigate trail resources and conditions for educational and trip planning purposes.

The successful **Ice Age NST Summer Saunters** program, which involved 333 students, staff, and parents in FY 2013, is being 'restructured' by the Ice Age Trail Alliance to create a more user-friendly model that schools can implement across the four seasons to engage students in service-learning, interpretation of glacial features and experiential education – all while using the Trail as a critical component to lifelong learning. New features include a field guide for students, staff development opportunities, and fresh marketing. With increasing childhood obesity rates and a record-setting achievement gap in academics found across Wisconsin, districts need the Saunters program more than ever.

Two innovative outreach projects are reported from the **Iditarod NHT**:

- A 100-minute documentary on the story of the heroic sled-dog transport of diphtheria toxin to Nome, Alaska, was completed by Icebound Documentary Productions and premiered at the 2012 International Documentary Film Festival in Berlin, Germany. Funded by the National Endowments for the Arts and the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (with technical support from BLM's Iditarod NHT Program), this documentary will ultimately be broadcast on PBS's American Experience. See <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Icebound/139729382798919> or <http://ankerproductions.com/iceboundfilm/>.
 - Cultural research contractors undertaking an inventory of cultural resources on the route of a proposed natural gas pipeline lying along the Trail re-discovered an extensive collection of historic photography and field notes documenting the location and structures along the Trail from 1914. This collection, held by the University of Washington, was undertaken by the Alaska Engineering Commission as part of a half-year expedition to assess the feasibility of building a railroad to the Iditarod goldfields. Detailed field notes and photography of historic roadhouses and sites along the trail enabled the contractors to relocate four historic structures in 2012. Based on their findings, the contractors published an article in *Historical Archaeology*. This collection can be seen at <http://content.lib.washington.edu/alaskawcanadaweb/trails.html>.
-

A variety of outreach initiatives occurred all along the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT**:

- The new Trail website (www.anzahistorictrail.org) hosting public data from the Anza Trail MapCollaborator for interactive mapping.
 - Two temporary exhibits about the Anza Expedition touring Trail sites in the both the U.S. and Mexico.
 - In Nogales, Arizona, the Anza Trail Ambassador Program (in partnership with the Santa Fe Ranch Foundation) by which high school youth connect with younger students and the public at various events in southern Arizona. (Several of these students also traveled to San Francisco to assist with events at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area celebrating the founding of San Francisco.)
 - Digital publication in color of the NPS quarterly newsletter, *Noticias de Anza*.
 - Various interns working in both NPS and BLM offices.
 - In Los Angeles, "The Anza Trail in Griffith Park" brochure in partnership with the Friends of Griffith Park and Griffith State Park.
 - A seasonal interpretive ranger in partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to support Trail events and connect more deeply with the public and partners.
-

Lewis and Clark NHT staff hosted 45 video-assisted meetings this year to bring together parties along the entire spectrum of customers, partners, stakeholders, and agencies. In addition they held the two-day Omaha Lewis and Clark Youth Paddle in partnership with the Lewis and Clark Trust, providing urban youth with the opportunity to actively experience the outdoors and learn about history. They also hosted a successful speaker's series called "Third Thursdays" and launched a new summer outdoor music and lecture series called "Bridge Beats" in partnership with the City of Omaha and a local broadcast company.

Lewis and Clark NHT tribal outreach included a variety of activities:

- A collaboration with the University of Oregon to assemble a team of curriculum designers to develop trail-wide classroom curricula models that integrate Honoring Tribal Legacies, including the impact of the Lewis and Clark Expedition on tribes, while aligning to new Common Core Standards and Career Readiness recommendations.
 - Continuation of the Tribal Colleges and Universities Interpretation Project.
 - Presentations and disbursement of the *Canoe Journey* book to tribes and educational and historical institutions.
 - Partnering with State and American Indian education organizations such as the National Congress of American Indians, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, and the Columbia River Indian Fish Commission. Other partners included Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, the Columbia Riverkeeper, and the Necanicum Watershed Council focused on regional river and Trail issues.
-

Two innovative outreach media projects have been created to showcase the **Mormon Pioneer NHT**:

- A large-print version of the Trail’s map and guide posted to the Trail website in compliance with accessibility standards, and
 - A mobile app to interpret Trail sites in Echo, East, and Emigration Canyons – as well as downtown Salt Lake City, Utah.
-

Natchez Trace NST – This year, Natchez Trace Parkway staff began to use a web-based site to make park and trail information more available to the public.

A variety of projects occurred along the **New England NST** in FY 2013, including:

- The “Trails to Every Classroom” program in Connecticut which produced a [video narrative of Rattlesnake Mountain](#).
 - An [exhibition blog and artist video profile](#) for the Trail’s Artist-in-Residence, Barbara Bosworth.
 - A trail-related photo exhibit called [“To Be at the Farther Edge”](#) installed at nine venues, including four museums (see [Boston Globe](#) write-up here), with related photo exhibition catalog.
 - A folk music troupe who hiked and performed nine concerts along the Trail (see [Mass Walking Tour \(video\)](#)).
 - A newly launched Facebook page ([NET Facebook](#)) with hundreds of “likes” already posted.
 - Outreach to college outing clubs (Amherst, Smith, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke) to spark student interest in the Trail.
 - A Summer Ridgerunner program funded by \$5,000 from Smith College.
-

Social media to promote the **Nez Perce NHT** now involves Flickr, Twitter, YouTube videos, webcams, and the collaboration with partners to post information about the Trail on Facebook. In addition, two

passport stamps were developed at two new locations where youth and adults enjoy alike collecting them. Also a poster and four postcards capitalized on talented Nez Perce artists to tell the Trail story.

Near the center point of the **North Country NST** in Lowell, Michigan, a local arts organization, LowellArts!, came to NPS trail staff with a proposal to create an outdoor mural about the Trail, led by a professional muralist who then trained and directed ten Lowell High School artists in designing, gaining approval for, and producing a mural which now hangs on the exterior wall of the North Country Trail Association office in Lowell. NPS provided half of the needed \$6,500 – and the other half was raised by Lowell Arts! This hugely successful project was unveiled at a large ceremony in July by Luke Jordan, the fourth-ever through-hiker for the Trail who happened to be passing through when the ceremony was held. (The Lowell city manager was especially pleased since the mural faces his window in City Hall.)

For the **Old Spanish NHT**, jointly-administered by BLM and NPS, a variety of new trailwide and site-specific projects help bring the Trail to public attention:

- A new rack card to promote the Trail in local visitor centers and businesses,
 - BLM's Old Spanish Trail Adventure program in Utah, in partnership with FS, Utah State Parks, the Old Spanish Trail Association, and private land permittees,
 - A BLM kiosk and wayside exhibit at Koosharem Reservoir in Utah, again in partnership with the Paiute Nation of Utah, the Forest Service, and NPS,
 - A NPS-hosted planning and mapping workshop with the Old Spanish Trail Association and other partners.
-

For the **Oregon NHT**, sign plan templates are now available on the Trail's website so that partners can create their own maps and develop plans for placing directional signs to highlight local communities and sites. This website also includes a large-print version of the official Trail map and guide to meet accessibility standards.

For the **Overmountain Victory NHT** and in partnership with the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, NPS staff:

- For the second year in a row funded a storytelling graduate assistant from East Tennessee State University to help expand year-round interpretation.
 - Worked with the Town of Abingdon in co-sponsoring the 2013 biennial Trail Conference.
 - Helped produce educational and interpretive programming in conjunction with the annual march in the fall – more than 10,000 people were contacted.
-

For the **Pacific Northwest NST**, FS staff (in partnership with the Pacific Northwest Trail Association, or PNTA) established the [PNNST Facebook page](#). Also with the PNTA (and the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest and Washington State Parks) three weeklong youth environmental education camps were

held (with plans for more in FY14). In addition, in preparation for the Trail's comprehensive management plan, staff created trail-wide Google Earth files for public use.

Several outreach actions for the **Pony Express NHT** reached fruition this year, including:

- A web-based sign plan template to enable community partners to create their own maps and develop plans for placing directional signs that highlight their communities and sites along the Trail.
 - A large print version of the official Trail map and guide posted to the Trail website to meet accessibility standards, and
 - A mobile app for interpreting Trail sites in Echo Canyon and downtown Salt Lake City, Utah.
-

A wide variety of outreach and youth involvement activities to showcase the **Santa Fe NHT** include:

- Development and printing of new rack cards,
 - Completion of two Junior Wagon Master booklets and an implementation program for it to be used at sites and events along the Trail,
 - A mapping workshop with Santa Fe Trail Association members in Larned, Kansas,
 - Completion and installation of 23 new or redesigned wayside exhibits at sites along the Trail,
 - Development of a Trail media tour (funded by Connect Trails to Parks, see page 24),
 - Completion of site development at Bent's New Fort near Lamar, Colorado, with archeology mitigation, trail development, and wayside exhibit production and installation in partnership with a private landowner, the Santa Fe Trail Association, and Bent's Old Fort NHS staff,
 - A survey of trail-related resources in Colorado in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Forest Service, the Santa Fe Trail Association, and Colorado SHPO,
 - A partnership with Philmont Boy Scout Ranch to construct 4 miles of Trail from the village of Cimarron to the Ranch, and
 - A byway grant funds to mark the Trail with signs across four 4 counties in Colorado.
-

Inspiring outreach is occurring along the **Selma to Montgomery NHT** in preparation for the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights March there in March and April, 2015:

- Eastern National Association published *A March for All: Selma's Voting Rights Movement*, a comprehensive history of the Voting Rights March 1965. The publication tells the story of the protesters who walked 54 miles from Selma to the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery to demonstrate that all American citizens should have the fundamental right to participate in the Nation's electoral process.
- NPS staff met with representatives from Lincoln High School in Marion, Alabama, to explore ways to commemorate the lives and legacy of Jimmie Lee Jackson and Albert Turner, two leading figures in the Selma to Montgomery protest marches. One possibility is to formally link the Marion story to the Trail.
- The City of Montgomery has offered to design and place a series of commemorative signs along the Montgomery segment of the Trail as part of the 50th Anniversary.

- Two radio antennae have been installed for the Traveler’s Information Station along the Trail. This system allows travelers to tune into 1650 AM to receive a brief history of the march and general trail information.
 - At Trenholm State College in Montgomery, a “Legacy Garden” has been dedicated. Funded in part by NPS Challenge Cost Share funds, it serves as a collaborative effort between NPS and the Montgomery County Friends of the Selma to Montgomery NHT to pay tribute to those who devoted their lives to the Civil Rights Movement.
-

Along the **Trail of Tears NHT**, new outreach developments include:

- A new prototype statewide map and guide for Tennessee and Georgia,
 - Completion and installation of two wayside exhibits at Cave Spring, Georgia, and two at the Trail of Tears State Park in Missouri, and
 - First place award for the Trail of Tears Unigrd Map and Guide from the National Association for Interpretation.
-

New York is the first state along the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT** to develop a wayside exhibit plan. Through a highway enhancement grant and services by the NPS Harpers Ferry Center, 15 Hudson Valley historic sites relating to the Trail have been selected. Each will have two wayside exhibits: one site-specific panel detailing a local event or theme that reflects the site’s importance as part of the Trail story, and the second panel an orientation to tell the broader story of the Trail. Since New York is the first state to develop NPS-assisted wayside exhibits for the Trail, this project sets the precedent for the other eight trail states and Washington D.C. These New York exhibits are scheduled to be completed and installed in 2014.

Also related to this Trail, a partnership with the W3R Inc. Pennsylvania Chapter is creating a teacher training program at the Independence Park Institute in Philadelphia. The goal is to develop a Washington-Rochambeau NHT unit to be used in the Common Core Curriculum in city schools. This training program will serve as model to expand educational initiatives to other states along the Trail. One Philadelphia teacher is also participating in the NPS Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program initiating youth programs on the American Revolutionary War theme.

CONSERVING AND RESTORING

Statistics by Trail

Table 1				
<u>CHANGES IN TRAIL LENGTH</u>				
NA = not applicable, n/a = not available, unkn = unknown				
Trail	New miles of trail opened to the public in FY 13	Total miles of trail now open to the public and maintained	(NHT's only) miles of auto tour route signed in FY 13	(NHT's only) Total miles of auto tour route now signed
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>				
Appalachian NST ¹	1.0	2,185		
Arizona NST ¹	0	819		
Continental Divide NST	35.0	783 +		
Florida NST	20.0	1,036		
Ice Age NST	8.9	643		
Natchez Trace NST ¹	0.0	150		
New England NST	5.0	215		
North Country NST	26.7	2,723		
Pacific Crest NST ¹	0	2,650		
Pacific Northwest NST ¹	0	c. 1,206		
Potomac Heritage NST	1.0	694		
NST SUBTOTALS	97.6	c. 13,104		
<u>National Historic Trails</u>				
Ala Kahakai NHT		c. 20		
California NHT		5,839	400	3,274
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	75.0	2,028		195
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	0	5	40	80
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	6.5	10	8	25
Iditarod NHT	4.0	2,000		
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	0	250		900
Lewis and Clark NHT				7,000 +
Mormon Pioneer NHT		1,495	80	1,495
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		1,182	0	
Oregon NHT		2,130	400	2,130
Overmountain Victory NHT	2.0	84		
Pony Express NHT		2,005	398	1,776
Santa Fe NHT	4.5	30	230	1,202
Selma to Montgomery NHT ¹		54		54
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	560.0	560	88	150
Trail of Tears NHT			100	993
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT		680 +		
NHT SUBTOTALS	652.0	c. 18,372	1,744	19,274 +
COMBINED TOTALS	749.6	c. 31,476		

Notes: 1) These trails are essentially complete in length, so few or no additional miles may be added.

Compared to FY 2012, new mileage of NSTs dropped by 30% -- even the total number of NST miles open to the public is slightly lower. Data for NHTs varies widely year to year, indicating that reporting standards are not well defined. This year new miles of NHTs increased 3%, while the mileage of newly signed NHT auto tour route segments jumped almost 10 fold, bringing that total up by 2.3 %.

<p>Table 2 <u>CHANGES IN PROTECTION</u></p> <p>Only the trails reporting are listed.</p> <p>“Protected” generally means acquired and now subject to the full protection of the agencies and organizations who purchased the property.</p> <p>Trail</p>	Acres inventoried or surveyed in FY 13	Acres protected by Federal agencies in FY 13	Acres protected by non-Federal parties in FY 13	Number of energy projects impacting the trail in FY 13
Ala Kahakai NHT	50			1
Appalachian NST	0	0	12,046	7
Arizona NST			478	6
California NHT				18
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	0	0		1
Continental Divide NST				6
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT				1
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	0	0		3
Florida NST	0	0	0	0
Ice Age NST	974	0	1,153	0
Iditarod NHT			69	4
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	50			2
Lewis and Clark NHT				15
Mormon Pioneer NHT	0			5
New England NST			288 ¹	1
North Country NST		0	80	2
Old Spanish NHT	367 (miles)			11
Oregon NHT	0			13
Overmountain Victory NHT				1
Pacific Crest NST		652		many
Pacific Northwest NST	25,000			3
Pony Express NHT				6
Potomac Heritage NST	12		10	
Santa Fe NHT				6
Trail of Tears NHT				2
TOTALS	26,086 +	652	14,124	114 +

1) These protection projects occurred in partnership with the Forest Legacy Program, the Massachusetts Audubon Society, the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, and the Guilford Land Trust through 10 grants totaling \$1.6 M.

Compared to FY 2012, a huge increase of acreage being inventoried occurred, but Federal action to protect trail corridors fell 68% and only benefited one trail this year. However, acreage protected by non-Federal parties swelled 3 ½ times. And the number of impacting energy projects rose 40 %.

Table 3 <u>HIGH POTENTIAL SITES AND SEGMENTS ALONG NHTs</u> (Only the trails reporting data are listed.) Trail	Total number associated with the trail	Number protected in FY 13	Number experiencing threats in FY 13
Ala Kahakai NHT	40	1	10
California NHT	277	0	c. 30
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	68	0	0
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	109		unkn
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	197	0	79
Iditarod NHT	60		2
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	136		2
Lewis and Clark NHT	524		
Mormon Pioneer NHT	65	0	0
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	317	2	12
Old Spanish NHT	unkn	0	5
Oregon NHT	146		c. 22
Overmountain Victory NHT	34		2
Pony Express NHT	69	0	2
Santa Fe NHT	225	unkn	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	66	0	0
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	102	0	n/a
Trail of Tears NHT	52	unkn	unkn
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	n/a	0	3
TOTALS	c. 2,487	3	c. 169

Compared to FY 2012, the total number of high potential sites and segments has remained the same. The number of sites and segments protected dropped from 5 to 3, and the number of trail sites and segments experiencing threats dropped slightly from 176 to about 170.

Table 4 <u>CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION</u>							
Only trails reporting data are listed.							
Trail	Miles of trail constructed, improved or re-constructed in FY 13	Miles of trail with deferred maintenance now brought up to standard during FY 13	Number of recreation facilities constructed, altered, or expanded in FY 13	Number of trail structures installed in FY 13 ¹	Number of new certified sites and segments in FY 13	Acreage of certifications in FY 13	Miles of new certifications in FY 13
Ala Kahakai NHT	0.5	0		1	0	0	0
Appalachian NST ²	0.6	20	7	18			
Arizona NST	24.0	107	3				
California NHT	0	0	5	2	0	0	0
Continental Divide NST	18.0	35	0				
El Cam. Real de los Tejas NHT					5	unkn	
El Cam. Real de Tierra Adentro	6.0		10	1	1		
Florida NST	20.0	43	1	2	0	0	0
Ice Age NST	9.6	44	1	19	4		1
Iditarod NHT	4.0	355	2	2	0	0	0
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	4.0	50	0	5	0	0	0
Natchez Trace NST	65.0	65	7				
New England NST	5.0	18	1	10			
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	3.5	62	2	1	0	0	
North Country NST	26.7	168		1	0		
Oregon NHT					1	2	1
Overmountain Victory NHT	2.0			1	2	25	2
Pacific Crest NST	41.5	1,153	0	41			
Pacific Northwest NST	65.0	65	0	22			
Pony Express NHT					3	3	1
Potomac Heritage NST	3.0			1	2		
Santa Fe NHT	4.0		50	3	0		
Star-Spangled Banner NHT			2	0	0	0	0
Trail of Tears NHT	3.5		5		5	unkn	0
Washington-Rochambeau RRNHT	0.0	0	n/a	n/a	0	0	0
TOTALS	305.9	2,185	96	130	23	30	5
% Change from FY 2012	- 44	+ 10	+ 88	- 7	----	+150	-66%

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

Compared to FY 2012, the mileage of built or improved trail decreased 44 %, the mileage of trails brought up to standard increased 10 %, the number of recreation structures associated with the trails (especially along the Santa Fe NHT) almost doubled, while certification activity has stayed steady.

Conserving and Restoring – Innovative Actions, by Trail

Two major conservation projects are underway along the **Ala Kahakai NHT** in Hawaii:

- At the behest of the community of North Kohala, the Ala Kahakai Trail Association applied for and received \$1.4 million from Hawaii’s Legacy Land Program to acquire, manage, and protect a 35-acre shoreline parcel at Kaiholena. Now these organizations are raising an additional \$150,000 to close the deal.
 - A Conservation Action Plan for South Kohala (emphasizing the protection of coral reefs and fisheries) has been developed in partnership with the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, the State’s Division of Aquatic Resources, NOAA, other conservation nonprofits, and community groups and individuals. The Plan builds on the Trail’s CMP strategy for community-based management.
-

Energy development and other types of infrastructure continue to be major issues for the **Appalachian NST**. The direct and cumulative impacts of these projects may currently be the single greatest threat to the overall Trail experience. Regional electric companies have formally announced their intent to construct or reconstruct five major transmission lines affecting the Trail.

- The final Record of Decision for the Susquehanna to Roseland project was signed in 2012, and then NPS selected the utility companies’ proposal as the agency’s preferred alternative. Compensatory mitigation for unavoidable adverse impacts was set at more than \$60 million. Construction began in October 2013, including a relocation of the Trail.
- The Northern Pass project to deliver Canadian hydropower to U.S. markets is under review by the White Mountain National Forest.
- Natural gas companies are seeking to expand their pipeline crossings of the Trail. Columbia Gas recently completed its Eastern Market Expansion project that crosses the Trail in northern Virginia, and the Tennessee Gas Northeast Upgrade project – crossing the Trail within New Jersey’s High Point State Park – is in review. Continued extraction of shale gas in the Allegheny Plateau may accelerate the need for such projects in the future.
- Several wind farms are also being proposed, such as the Highland Wind Farm in Maine and the Deerfield Wind Farm in Vermont. The first is temporarily on hold, and the second is being appealed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.
- Berks County, Pennsylvania, wants to deploy a system of EMS towers. Two of them will be located on the Kittatinny Ridge and would adversely affect the Trail corridor. Mitigation was received for both towers, due to NPS staff involvement and intervention by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Other resource management innovations along the “AT” include:

- Updating natural resource priority zones (from 2012 field observations). Google Earth layers have been incorporated into the Trail Assessment data to help trail maintainers identify areas of ecological sensitivity in relation to trail construction and maintenance projects.
- An inventory of invasive plant species along the trail continues. In 2012, over 1,780 locations of invasive plants were recorded along 200 miles of Trail. This information was used to prioritize control projects in 2013.

- Rare plant monitoring and phenology monitoring workshops were held in all Trail regions in 2013.
 - Trail staff continue to work with the NPS Climate Change Response Program to support the next generation of stewards and citizen scientists by establishing a collaborative phenology monitoring network with other NPS units and agency partners.
 - Trail staff are moving forward with a National Register Multiple Property Documentation process for the entire Trail corridor. A draft document was submitted to the NPS for internal review and should be available for partner review by January 2014.
 - The 2013 Trail Assessment data have been processed and distributed to maintainer clubs. The assessment data were incorporated into a Google Earth project and spreadsheet to allow local trail clubs and partners to view the identified problems on a map that also displays the Trail alignment, local trail features, and adjoining trail lands. Over five years, 1,864.5 miles (c. 85 % of the Trail) have been assessed.
-

A half mile of the **Arizona NST** corridor has recently been protected with a \$4.8 million acquisition by the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County (with funding from a voter-approved Open Space bond and a Growing Smarter Grant). This 47-acre parcel in Picture Canyon northeast of Flagstaff serves as critical riparian habitat, a popular recreation corridor, and home to significant cultural and archaeological resources, combining ecological, geological, archaeological, and recreation values.

Along the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT**,

- A progress report was released on the state of developing the trail along the James River, with progress made on 31 action items identified in the James River Segment Concept Plan;
 - A planning process is underway with the Potomac and Chesapeake Conservancies and dozens of partners along the tidewater Potomac River to complete a 2-3 year action plan aligning this Trail's conservation and development priorities with those of the **Potomac Heritage NST** and the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT**;
 - The "Rivers of the Chesapeake Collaborative LWCF Proposal" aligns Federal, State, and nonprofit partners around land conservation opportunities on five river corridors along the Trail with 21,000 acres of conservation opportunities over the next three years; and
 - The Indigenous Cultural Landscape initiative was expanded in the Susquehanna River area with a bibliography and mapping of landscapes and archaeological sites to inform interpretation and land conservation efforts.
-

For **El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT**, a Multiple Property Documentation Form and three National Register of Historic Places nominations were completed and accepted by the Texas Historical Commission Board.

Along **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT** in New Mexico, BLM staff held a workshop in Socorro addressing the potential effects of the proposed SunZia Transmission Project in the context of the new

BLM Manuals 6280 and 6250. The workshop was conducted by a contractor, along with BLM and NPS staff and the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association. It provided BLM with information from these parties, and the resulting analysis appeared in an appendix of the final SunZia EIS.

This year, **Florida NST** partners undertook a statewide inventory of existing bridges, with the goal of providing replacement, maintenance, and recommendation plans for each structure to the land manager/owner and local volunteer stewards. About one third of the infrastructure inventory is now complete, with the remainder to be completed next year. Inspections are being treated as on-the-job training opportunities for partners and volunteers to refresh their knowledge of bridge construction, maintenance, and inspection standards.

The **Ice Age NST** Mobile Skills Crew for 2013 welcomed volunteers from across the Nation to 10 events involving 1,206 volunteers who donated 22,527 hours opening seven new miles of Trail and upgrading another 16.3 miles. Forty-nine trail structures – totaling 900 linear feet – were constructed with native rock, timber, and dimensional lumber. One highlight was the completion of the epic Plover River Segment, a 5.5 mile project four years in the making.

To help protect the **Iditarod NHT**, this year for the first time, the Alaska State Legislature provided \$140,000 to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to continue the successful Iditarod Easements Project. Over the first five years of the project, this project has established 1,889 miles of public easements for the Trail, enabling the development of trail facilities such as shelter cabins and trail marking. Another 300 miles of legally complex easements have been identified for adjudication. This year, the Easements Group worked extensively on an interagency basis for the establishment of trail easements in national forests and is also defending public access on a historic segment of the Trail from a legal challenge by a private landowner (among other numerous projects). For more information, see <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/iditarod/index.cfm>.

Resource stewardship along the **Lewis and Clark NHT** occurred on many fronts this year, including:

- Planning and development associated with the proposed Lower Columbia River National Water Trail for future designation by the Secretary of Interior.
- Developing a GIS database to assist management in describing Trail resources from various perspectives, such as high potential historic sites and route segments, cultural landscapes, visual resources, a water and land recreation opportunity assessment, and trail condition.
- The identification, mapping and ranking of lands to be recommended for acquisition under the FY 15 Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Collaborative Landscape Planning (see page 32). If such properties are acquired, they will be managed by other Federal Agencies.
- Developing and enhancing several water trails on the Missouri and Columbia Rivers.

- Completing the State of the Trail Report for the Sioux City to Pickstown, South Dakota, segment. This report assesses the status of the trail and building web-mapping capacity to facilitate partners' needs.
 - Making available to the public the Trail's "Park Atlas."
 - Contributing staff to the NPS "Scenery Conservation Program," based on trailwide examples and challenges. Also facilitated visual resource assessment training and inventory for NPS park areas in Nebraska.
 - Refining the Trail's list of high potential sites and segments to a list of 104 areas after developing criteria, considering many possible sites, and engaging more than 30 local experts.
-

Two initiatives are helping protect and enhance the **Overmountain Victory NHT**:

- A \$40,000 American Battlefield Protection Program grant awarded to the Foothills Conservancy for the accurate identification and delineation of the core boundaries of the Cane Creek Battlefield in North Carolina. That site lies along the Trail and is eligible for trail certification.
 - Cooperative Agreements with three counties to develop master plans for the Trail corridor in those communities and develop action plans for implementation and pathway development.
-

To protect the **Pacific Crest NST** in southern California, trail partners continue in planning and negotiations with the Tejon Ranch and Tejon Ranch Conservancy to relocate 37 miles of the Trail from the desert floor onto the Sierra Crest.

Along the **Pony Express NHT** in Utah, NPS staff worked with Eagle Mountain City to help protect, interpret, and mark an original route segment of the Trail as the city builds out its master plan (rapid residential and municipal construction and infrastructure development across and around the trail corridor are major potential threats). This included four new waysides to interpret the original route on a local pathway as well as a sign plan to mark the route from the main interstate highway into the town and along the Trail corridor.

One pivotal site along the **Selma to Montgomery NHT** is the Edmund Pettus Bridge where U.S. 80 crosses the Alabama River on the east side of Selma. When voting rights marchers crossed this bridge in March, 1965, they met brutal retaliation. Today that event is commemorated as Bloody Sunday. The bridge was recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark in March. It is the second historic structure (the other being, Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma) to receive this recognition as a tribute to the historical significance of the Voting Rights March of 1965 and the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

WORKING TOGETHER

<u>Agency Actions</u>	<u>BLM</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>NPS</u>	<u>FHWA</u>	<u>FWS</u>	<u>USACE</u>
Agency attended all sessions of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails	yes	yes	yes	4	yes	no
Agency has finalized agency-wide policy on National Trails System	yes	no	yes	(NA) ¹	no	yes
Number of trails that actively use FTDS/FGDC standards	now required	all	unkn	(NA) ¹	2,167	73
Agency's NRT entries in Registry are current and accurate.	unkn	mostly	yes	(NA) ¹	yes	yes

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

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

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

- Reports from visiting field staff
- A purpose and needs statement for the Council
- Outreach to other interagency working groups including the Federal Interagency Council on Outdoor Recreation (FICOR), the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (IVUMC), and the Federal Interagency Task Force on Volunteerism (FITV)
- Coping with energy projects
- Defining trail corridors
- Accessibility requirements soon to be issued by the Access Board
- Trails and tourism
- Training and the National Trails Training Partnership
- Embedding National Trails into agency planning rules and guidance.

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

- The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**, through an assistance agreement with the Partnership for the National Trails System and 6-Agency MOU (signed in 2006), supports meetings, workshops, and conferences. There are nine National Trails Posters in production. And the BLM maintains a National Landscape Conservation Website (at www.blm.gov) which includes national scenic and historic trails. BLM's National Operations Center in Denver is also finalizing the Seven-State NHT Inventory funded by the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) to make it available to other agencies – and eventually the public.

The BLM policy manuals listed on page 4 are available at <http://web.blm.gov/internal/wo-500/directives/dir-manu/manu-dir.html>.

An online informational presentation is publically available at

<http://www.ntc.blm.gov/krc/resource.php?type=byProgramArea&programAreaId=193>.

Formal training development is underway at the BLM's National Training Center, and will be completed in 2014.

With the release of the manuals last year, the BLM conducted a mobile workshop for the 14th Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Tucson, AZ. Team preparation focused on securing Catalina State Park as a base of operations, and identifying crew members and preparing methodologies for identifying, inventorying, and assessing the scenic, historic, natural, cultural, and recreation landscape elements found along Congressionally-designated NSTs and NHTs.

- The **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** does not administer National Trails, but Federal-aid highway programs helped several initiatives benefiting the National Trails System. Federal-aid highway program funds provided to the States may be used for activities eligible under several funding categories. Some States give extra credit to projects located on National Trails when they rate, rank, and select project applications. The Federal-aid highway program is a federally-assisted, State-administered program, and FHWA does not collect information on individual NST or NHT projects selected by the States.

The *Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act* (MAP-21), effective as of October 1, 2012, changed the eligibility for some programs that had benefited National Trails. MAP-21 retained broad eligibility for pedestrian and bicycle transportation projects, retained the option for States to continue the Recreational Trails Program, and expanded potential eligibility for recreational trail projects. However, MAP-21 eliminated funding for National Scenic Byways and replaced the Transportation Enhancement activities with the Transportation Alternatives Program. MAP-21 eliminated eligibility for scenic and historic highway programs and visitor centers, but retained eligibility for turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas. (See MAP-21 information at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/map21/>.) At a national level, in FY 2013:

- FHWA used Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds to support the Forest Service's Technology and Development program. This program assists Federal and State land-managing agencies, and develops trail technical assistance publications.

- FHWA cosponsored several trail conferences in FY 2013 (at reduced levels compared to previous years) including the National Scenic Trails workshop, the International Trails Symposium, and conferences related to other trail uses. Many States supported State-level trail conferences using Federal RTP funds.
- The **National Park Service (NPS)** approved (for the first time) this past year a comprehensive policy statement guiding National Trails System activities within the agency: Director’s Order 45 – National Trails System. The elements of this policy statement have been collected since the early 1990s to help guide the operations of national trails within the agency and clarify the relationship of the trails to national park areas and programs.
- NPS also continues with a funding source called Connect-Trails-to-Parks. In FY 2013 this program distributed \$878,000 for 15 projects. (Details are found in Attachment C at the end of this report.) Among the more innovative of these projects are:
 - A web-based interactive map for the Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT,
 - A Community Ambassadors program along the Appalachian NST,
 - A Boaters Guide to the Star-Spangled Banner NHT in the Chesapeake Bay, and
 - A Mobile Web Tour of the entire Santa Fe NHT.

NPS also collects and processes all applications for National Recreation Trails (NRTs) other than those in national forests. In FY 2013 NPS coordinated the paperwork and field reviews for 28 NRTs (see page 4). NPS maintains a complete file record of NRTs, while its partner organization, American Trails, maintains the on-line database of all NRTs.

- The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)**
The National Wildlife Refuge System Assistant Director and Deputy met with National Trails System staff and trail nonprofit groups during “Hike the Hill” in February, 2013. The FWS hosted the June 2013 meeting of the Federal Interagency Council on Trails. It also supplies funding to support *Pathways Across America*, PNTS biennial meeting planning, and the PNTS website. On National Trails Day the national level Trails Coordinator attended the opening ceremony of the North Country NST in the Tamarac NWR. The FWS Trails Coordinator was the trails program lead on developing the FY 2015 Collaborative Landscape Program LWCF submission for the President’s budget.
- The **U.S. Forest Service (FS)** is developing new directives that will implement the Forest Service Planning Rule. They will be published for public comments in early 2014. In addition, FS has developed a new Volunteer Database for tracking volunteer hours by activity.

Partnerships and Planning Statistics

Table 5 <u>PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES</u> Trail	Number of compliance actions and reviews during FY13	Number of trailwide partner meetings	Number of new partner agreements in FY 13	Number of officially recognized volunteer hours contributed
Ala Kahakai NHT	4	30 +	1	7,761
Appalachian NST	48	13	13	242,146
Arizona NST		2	2	25,480
California NHT	26	5	1	119
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	3	2	10	0
Continental Divide NST	unkn	1	0	21,680
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	2	6	2	
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	9	9	2	
Florida NST	1	8	4	16,848 ¹
Ice Age NST	21	67		71,278
Iditarod NHT	c. 45	10	2	1,400
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	12	30	6	22,500
Lewis and Clark NHT	78	29	1	151,062
Mormon Pioneer NHT	7	1	0	
Natchez Trace NST	3	0	0	1,152
New England NST	2	3	2	9,000
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	52	53	8	0
North Country NST	2	1	1	77,241
Old Spanish NHT	17	10	3	unkn
Oregon NHT	c. 30	7	1	119
Overmountain Victory NHT	3	53	7	4,200
Pacific Crest NST	54	4	1	68,626
Pacific Northwest NST		10	3	32,300
Pony Express NHT	40	4	1	619
Potomac Heritage NST	5	1	6	0
Santa Fe NHT	12	6	2	
Selma to Montgomery NHT		0	0	1,100
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	5	4	5	0
Trail of Tears NHT	5	7	4	
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	6	1	1	c. 1,600
TOTALS	c. 492	c. 377	89	c. 756,231

Note: 1) The number of volunteer hours is significantly less than previous years due to new on-line reporting system.

Several trends seem to be going on at once in this arena of trail activity. Compared to FY 2012, compliance actions are significantly less by 30%. Trailwide meetings have increased slightly by 7%. The

number of new agreements is less by 17%. And the formally recognized volunteer hours have decreased by 6.6% (both years only 21 trail offices, out of 30, tracked volunteer hours).

Table 6 PLANNING ACTIVITIES			
Trail	Participation in statewide, metropolitan, and local planning	No. of local trail corridor plans	No. of Federal interagency projects
Ala Kahakai NHT	very frequent	3	1
Appalachian NST	frequent	NA	16
Arizona NST	frequent	3	3
California NHT	little or none	0	28
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	frequent	2	2
Continental Divide NST	frequent	0	
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	little or none	unkn	0
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	little or none		2
Florida NST	occasional	3	2
Ice Age NST	very frequent		1
Iditarod NHT	frequent		3
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	occasional	4	4
Lewis and Clark NHT	occasional	2	8
Mormon Pioneer NHT	little or none	0	7
Natchez Trace NST	little or none	NA	0
New England NST	frequent	6	1
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	very frequent	8	45
North Country NST	frequent	8	6
Old Spanish NHT	little or none	unkn	3
Oregon NHT	little or none		c. 35
Overmountain Victory NHT	frequent	3	
Pacific Crest NST	frequent	3	10
Pacific Northwest NST	frequent	c. 5	5
Pony Express NHT	little or none		15
Potomac Heritage NST	very frequent	5	4
Santa Fe NHT	frequent		0
Selma to Montgomery NHT	little or none		
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	frequent	1	1
Trail of Tears NHT	little or none	unkn	0
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	frequent	20	3
TOTALS		76	205
Compared to FY 2012		+15%	+21%

Compared to FY 2012, the number of trails “frequently” or “very frequently” involved in planning is roughly the same, but with all 30 trails now reporting for the first time, several of those rated “occasional” have dropped to “little or none.” Even so, the number of trail corridor plans and interagency plans has risen significantly.

Data Management

Trail	Trail has full-time or part-time data steward	Data sets are updated and accessible to public	Website hits during FY 13	Publications distributed in FY 13
Table 7				
<u>DATA MANAGEMENT</u>				
Y = yes, N = no, unkn = unknown				
Ala Kahakai NHT	Y	N	26,092	0
Appalachian NST	Y	Y	401,088	10,000
Arizona NST	Y	Y ¹		
California NHT	Y	Y	124,426	38,531
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	Y	Y	57,742	10,000
Continental Divide NST	N	N	n/a	0
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	Y	Y	32,500	19
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	Y	Y	41,974	3,024
Florida NST	N	Y	unkn	1
Ice Age NST			81,806	
Iditarod NHT	Y	Y	unkn	c. 3,000
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	Y	Y	75,000	60,000
Lewis and Clark NHT	Y	51 sets	280,583	10,175
Mormon Pioneer NHT	Y	Y	123,914	43,797
Natchez Trace NST	Y	Y	60,547	0
New England NST	Y	Y/N	80,000	3
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	Y	soon	52,000	350,000
North Country NST	Y	Y		
Old Spanish NHT	Y	Y	36,119	12,533
Oregon NHT	Y	Y	263,026	78,661
Pacific Crest NST	Y	Y	670,869	52,025
Pacific Northwest NST	N	N		2
Pony Express NHT	Y	Y	158,599	42,936
Potomac Heritage NST	Y	Y	7,281	8,000
Santa Fe NHT	Y	Y	116,195	21,110
Selma to Montgomery NHT	Y			
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	Y	Y	16,817	20,000
Trail of Tears NHT	Y	Y	484,071	20,000
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	N	N		c. 6,000
TOTALS	Y = 24 (80%)	Y = 20 (67%)	3.2 million	c. 789,817

Note: 1) Provided by the Arizona Trail Association for trail users. It is not FTDS-compliant and not considered the authoritative data source -- but still used extensively for agency and other mapping.

As in FY 2012, most of the trails have data stewards, and two-thirds provide at least some data to the public (with that percentage increasing slightly from 64 % to 67 %). The number of website hits increased by 10 %, but publications distributed declined 9 %.

Mapping

Table 8 <u>MAPPING</u> Only trails reporting data are listed. Trail	Level of GIS/GPS activity	Frequency that trail is shown on national and state maps
Ala Kahakai NHT	high	never
Appalachian NST	high	always
Arizona NST	medium	sometimes
California NHT	medium	often
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	medium	sometimes
Continental Divide NST	none	(unkn)
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	medium	sometimes
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	medium	often
Florida NST	medium	sometimes
Ice Age NST	medium	often
Iditarod NHT	high	sometimes
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	medium	sometimes
Lewis and Clark NHT	high	often
Mormon Pioneer NHT	low	often
New England NST	high	often
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	high	always
North Country NST	high	often
Old Spanish NHT	high	often
Oregon NHT	medium	often
Overmountain Victory NHT	medium	sometimes
Pacific Crest NST	medium	often
Pacific Northwest NST	high	sometimes
Pony Express NHT	low	often
Potomac Heritage NST	low	sometimes
Santa Fe NHT	medium	sometimes
Selma to Montgomery NHT		
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	medium	sometimes
Trail of Tears NHT	medium	sometimes
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	medium	sometimes

The level of e-mapping varies from year to year and trail to trail. Only a few trail offices operate at full performance, and several are just getting involved. Similarly, the degree to which these trails appear on national and state maps seems to be a function of the trail’s age – the ones established decades ago are the best known. Compared to FY 2012, the level of GIS activity is very similar (although one trail dropped from “high” to “none”). As for the frequency shown on maps, more trails were listed as “never” or “unknown” than last year.

Working Together – Innovative Actions, by Trail

The **Appalachian NST's** Community Ambassador Program (funded by Connect Trails to Parks – see page 24) and the [Appalachian Trail Community™ program](#) is designed to recognize communities that promote and protect the Trail. Towns, counties, and communities along the Trail corridor are considered assets by hikers, and many of these towns act as good friends and neighbors to the Trail. The program serves to assist communities with local initiatives such as sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving and protecting the Trails. The 31st community was recently designated.

Also along the “AT,” NPS, FS, and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy are developing a balanced policy for appropriate group uses and special events. In the past, Trail policy prohibited such events as marathons, fund-raising hikes, and commercially-led backpacking trips. These requests are increasing. The new policy will be resource-based to better accommodate contemporary “Special Park Uses.”

A variety of innovative partnership projects are underway along the **Arizona NST**, including:

- Upgrading the Trail in Picture Canyon. This highly eroded equestrian section was realigned to a sustainable location and three miles of parallel social trails were obliterated. In addition, a trailhead and junction signage were installed. This was made possible by \$33,000 of NPS Connect Trails to Parks funding at Walnut Canyon National Monument, in coordination with the City of Flagstaff and Coconino County. Work was carried out by American Conservation Experience crews.
- A BLM assistance agreement that will enable the Forest Service to aid the Arizona Trail Association in their Seeds of Stewardship Program. Two grants from Recreational Equipment, Inc. and Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation kicked off this project to encourage youth participation in the Trail through experience, education, and stewardship, seeking to empower the next generation to take an active role in the enjoyment, development, and protection of the Trail and other parks, trails, and public lands.
- Reconstruction of the Four Peaks Passage, a remote, severely eroded and brushed-over 13 mile section of the Trail on the Tonto National Forest. This monumental project was partially funded by Arizona State Parks (with \$42,000 in Recreational Trails Program funds), the Coconino Rural Environment Corps (providing 5,120 hours of donated crew time), the American Conservation Experience (offering 1,840 hours of crew time), Southwest Conservation Corp donated time, Arizona Trail Association volunteers, and the local hotshot crew and packers (who transported water and supplies to the trail crews). The transformed trail segment became a featured hike during the International Trails Symposium in April, 2013.
- Improving 11 miles of overgrown trail in Saguaro National Park. Half a mile of severely trenched tread was relocated and the abandoned tread rehabilitated. New trail signs were installed. 363 volunteer hours contributed to the successful completion of this project.
- Reconstruction of 3.5 miles of the Highline NRT (also part of the Arizona NST) by American Conservation Experience crews, including a half mile re-route and armoring drainages and expanding water diversions to address severe erosion problems.

Staff associated with the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT** conducted an analysis of the Chesapeake Large Landscape Conservation Partnership under two summer consultants provided by the NPS Business Management Group. The report includes best practices, interview data and analysis, and a matrix of options for enhancing the effectiveness of this partnership.

For the **Ice Age NST** this year, NPS staff initiated a Long Range Interpretive Plan for the three-county AGO project area. Many stakeholders were involved – including the Wisconsin DNR, the Ice Age Trail Alliance, other Federal and State agencies, local units of government, local non-profit groups, and the general public. Field trips and scoping meetings were held to obtain public feedback and identify important resources. Then the core team identified themes, took photos, created maps, and drafted a plan for review. This plan may serve as a prototype for the entire trail.

For the **Iditarod NHT**, the first-ever system of waymark signs was installed on a 260-mile segment between the Alaska Range and the Yukon River. This included 285 mileage signs, place name signs, and directional arrows. Four community partner groups and BLM staff installed the signs at remote, pre-identified locations after traveling hundreds of miles by snowmachine to the installation locations. The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance provided \$8,400 for acquisition and shipping and an additional \$22,000 in grants to local groups and governments for fuel and supplies.

The **New England NST** received five grants totaling \$60,000 to support design of the Trail’s Southern Gateway in Guilford, Connecticut.

A variety of partnerships are helping protect and sustain the **Pacific Crest NST**, including:

- A Master Title Plat review with the BLM, beginning with a pilot project from at the Mexican border going north.
 - A Memorandum of Agreement between the BLM and the FS on management and maintenance of the Trail to better define responsibilities and replace existing MOUs.
 - Planning efforts for the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Okanogan-Wenatchee, Inyo, Sierra, and Sequoia NFs, Sequoia-Kings Canyon Wilderness, and Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plans to ensure that the Trail’s corridor is defined and trail resource values protected.
 - Seven “Trails Skills College” training sessions for volunteers and agency partners.
 - A collaborative partnership between the Backcountry Horseman of California, Oregon, and Washington, Oregon Equestrian Trails, Pacific Crest Trail Association, BLM, and the FS which continues to grow in strength and depth. Two centers of excellence were created to support traditional skills, including packing.
-

To increase the profile of the **Potomac Heritage NST**, a formal partnership with the American Hiking Society was established to publish a guide to the trail highlighting the Civil War Defenses of Washington, demonstrating the potential for a continuous Trail route in the Nation’s Capital. Also, to recognize common interests and reduce sign clutter, trail staff and the NPS Chesapeake Bay Gateways Program executed an agreement with the Potomac Conservancy and Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium

to draft a common interpretive plan for this trail, the **Captain John Smith Chesapeake** and **Star-Spangled Banner NHTs**, as well as the Religious Freedom National Scenic Byway.

Also, recognizing a gradual shift along the **Potomac Heritage NST** from an emphasis on planning to long-term operations, the NPS National Capital Region planned and completed a “transition management assistance program” process involving myriad partners.

Implementing the Star-Spangled Banner NHT Plan

Since the Comprehensive Management Plan for the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT** was just completed in 2012, implementation actions are now capitalizing on the growing public and partner interest in the War of 1812 Bicentennial (in 2014) with a grant program and tourism marketing campaign. These partnership actions include:

- Maryland Chesapeake Campaign events at Fort McHenry, Havre de Grace, North Point, and the Eastern Shore of Maryland.
- The Chesapeake Explorer app (see page 7). Geico Insurance supported this app, and WJZ-TV Baltimore hosted a series of vignettes announcing the app and encouraging exploration along the Trail. This dramatically increased visibility and downloads.
- Completion of marking of the auto tour route in Maryland.
- Completion of a travelling exhibit and travelling trunk with the Southern Maryland Heritage Area Consortium to travel to libraries, schools, and community centers in a three-county area.
- Support for trail-related interpretive media including map guides, banners, and interpretive signage in various Maryland counties.
- Teacher training in Prince George’s and Baltimore Counties, plus continuing teacher training in partnership with Center for the Constitution in Virginia.
- Design, fabrication, installation of interpretive signage (using Scenic Byways funding) for 102 signs plus signs at two Maryland Welcome Centers along Interstate 95. In Virginia and the District of Columbia, an additional 16 interpretive waysides and a regional map guide will be completed in 2014.
- Design and construction documentation in Charles County, MD, for waterfront revitalization at the British Landing Site in Benedict, and for the North Point State Battlefield, two high potential sites.
- Signed MOUs with over two dozen site partners and organizations.
- Continued distribution and installation of trail markers at trail sites and water access points.
- A Trail Stewards Program at Patterson Park School in Baltimore with 25 4th-graders.
- Two Teacher-Ranger-Teacher positions to complete a teacher’s guide for implementing the Trail Stewards Program in the classroom.

New Partnerships Along the Florida NST

In 2010 the Forest Service engaged the Florida Trail Association in a strategic positioning process to strengthen their partnership. One conclusion of this process was the need to broaden the existing bilateral partnership model to a multi-lateral one – to more fully engage land managers and other public interests along the Trail.

In 2012 a partner coalition was convened of agency, community, and company leaders who own or manage the land across which the Trail passes. It formed the “FNST Coalition” which is dedicated to ensuring the development, maintenance, and promotion of the Trail as an optimal recreation experience for the public. The Coalition brings a diversity of perspectives, interests, and expertise – thus ensuring that the Trail is a truly public asset that is accessible and enjoyed by diverse constituents. It has proven that engaging land management partners in a collaborative approach increases resource leveraging which creates capacity for meeting new challenges.

The FNST Coalition’s first major accomplishment was the release of a Five-Year Strategic Implementation Plan in 2011. This plan focuses on four goals, including 100 more miles of designated Trail, standardizing signs and conditions along the entire Trail, proactively engaging land managers in the maintenance and promotion of their Trail segment, and clearly branding and promoting the Trail and its significance.

“The FNST Strategic Plan is a concise and excellent document that will serve as an effective guide for advancing the Florida NST,” said Jim Wood, former Chief of the Florida Office of Greenways and Trails. “We are very pleased to be a part of the Coalition effort led by the Forest Service which has brought together a team to reach its first critical milestone with completion of this plan.”

Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP)

Building on meetings organized by the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) in 2012 and the experience of successfully submitting a comprehensive package last year, four of our agencies submitted another Collaborative Landscape Planning (CLP) proposal for FY 2015 Land and Water Conservation funds. As in FY 2012, the pre-proposal was chosen in early summer as one of 15 finalists to submit a full proposal. Once again, our agencies were being collectively asked, “What are the land protection needs of the National Trails System?”

This year’s full proposal, submitted in August, included \$57.7 million for 43 parcels totaling 31,984 acres along 15 of the 30 national trails. Parcels vary in size from 2 to 9,445 acres. Some come in bundles, completing gaps along certain trails. Some would help protect fragile cultural resources.

The impressive interagency collaboration and public/private cooperation involved in this application could only have happened thanks to the trust and collaboration developed the year before. Hopefully, this second year will lead to a multi-year, strategic, comprehensive land protection program for the entire National Trails System.

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

UNMET NEEDS AND CONCLUSION

Table 9 <u>UNMET NEEDS</u> Only trails reporting data are listed. Trail	Miles of trail still to be built	(NHTs only) Miles of auto tour route still to be signed or marked	Number of key natural and cultural resource sites still to be protected
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>			
Appalachian NST	0		unkn
Arizona NST	10 ¹		
Continental Divide NST	500-800		
Florida NST	336		
Ice Age NST	c. 600		
New England NST	20		
North Country NST	1,900		
Pacific Crest NST	0		2
Pacific Northwest NST	c. 300		many
Potomac Heritage NST	334		
NST Total	c. 4,300		2
<u>National Historic Trails</u>			
Ala Kahakai NHT	0	100 +	many
California NHT		5,000	
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT			68
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	600	750	100 +
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	800	entire trail	unkn
Iditarod NHT	66	300	
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		399	
Lewis and Clark NHT	unkn	unkn	unkn
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	n/a	n/a	n/a
Old Spanish NHT	c. 2,000	2,700	c. 200
Oregon NHT	1,000		
Overmountain Victory NHT	246	220	15
Pony Express NHT	2,000	359	
Selma to Montgomery NHT			45 ²
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	560	30	
Trail of Tears NHT	800	unkn	
Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	some	all	many
NHT Total	c. 8,072	9,858 +	c. 428
TOTALS	c. 12,372		c. 430

Note: 1) Where co-located on major roads. 2) Of these, 8 are still to be certified. Because most of these numbers are rough estimates, it is hard to compare them year to year. All have increased since last year. For many of the trails, it is difficult to ascertain how many miles of corridor or trail tread still need to be completed because exact route locations are not yet known.

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

Trails with CMPs Currently Underway

Arizona NST
New England NST
Old Spanish NHT
Pacific Northwest NST
Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT

Trail CMPs Being Revised

Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Other Trails Where CMPs Should be Revised or Amended

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

CONCLUSION

America's Great Outdoors – Launched in 2010, with strong White House support, “AGO” has become a wide-ranging action plan spanning many Federal departments and agencies (including all six involved with this report). In a few places in the AGO report specific NSTs and NHTs are mentioned – especially in the list of 101 top priority State projects. Therefore the format of this annual report is shaped to suggest ways that the operations of the National Trails System help accomplish many of the goals and tasks of AGO.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Data Management and Sharing – There have been several attempts on an interagency basis to improve data management. In 2011 the Federal Trail Data Standards were approved for interagency use. However, this was just one small step in setting standards, developing data sharing protocols, and agreeing to graphic and attribute standards that become universal. A new interagency work group on this topic is being organized.

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

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

Challenges – Major challenges continue to face these trails. An aging workforce and changing technologies will clearly affect the number of volunteers in the future. The depressed economy makes fundraising difficult for nonprofit partners. Level or even reduced Federal budgets over the next few years will be a challenge to all the trails. Vandalism, neglect, erosion, and development continue to take their toll locally on resources associated with these trails. Energy independence and the wish to upgrade and add utility corridors – as well as install thousands of acres of wind farms and solar arrays – may severely damage the visual quality of many of these trails.

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

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

ATTACHMENT A

CHECKLIST OF MOU TASKS

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

<u>No.</u>	<u>Task</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Pages</u>
1	Attend Trails Council, issue report	<i>Working Together, Agency Actions</i>	22
2	Develop policy	<i>Working Together, Agency Actions</i>	23, 24
3	Participate widely in planning	Table 6: <i>Planning Activities</i>	26
4	Coordinate trail plans with others	Table 6: <i>Planning Activities</i>	26
5	Prepare and implement plans	Table 6: <i>Planning Activities</i>	26
6	Conduct NEPA and NHPA compliance	Table 5: <i>Partnership Activities</i>	25
7	Foster interagency training	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	22-24
8	Support meetings, publications, etc.	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	22-24
9	(USACE) Protect trail resources	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	(n/a)
10	Develop data and mapping standards	Table 7: <i>Data Management</i>	27
11	Collect and manage data and mapping	Tables 7-8: <i>Data Mgmt. and Mapping</i>	27, 28
12	Update NRT listings	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	6. 22
13	Formulate unified policies	<i>Working Together</i>	23, 24
14	Establish a contact list		
15	Hold annual meetings	Table 5: <i>Partnerships Activities</i>	25
16	Execute supplemental agreements	Table 5: <i>Partnerships Activities</i>	25
17	Cooperate in planning and compliance	Tables 5-6: <i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	25, 26
18	Encourage regular schedule of meetings	Table 5: <i>Partnership Activities</i>	25
19	Take full advantage of agency programs	Table 6: <i>Planning Activities</i>	26
20	Coordinate for effectiveness	(Monthly conference calls)	
21	Conduct collaborative planning	Table 6: <i>Planning Activities</i>	26
22	Enhance administration and mgmt..	(<i>See innovative actions</i>)	7-13, 18-21, 29-32
23	Encourage innovation	(<i>See innovative actions</i>)	7-13, 18-21, 29-32
24	Develop/use a unified tracking system	<i>This report</i>	

ATTACHMENT B

MOU TASKS AND DECADE ACTIONS

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

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

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

ATTACHMENT C

2013 CONNECT-TRAILS-TO-PARKS PROJECTS

(ranked by size of award)

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Trail(s)</u>	<u>Park or Other Federal Area</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Funded Amount</u>
Civil War Defenses of Washington Planning and Compliance	Potomac Heritage NST	Rock Creek Park	Washington, DC	100,875
AGO Project, 4 Federal Anchors	Ice Age NST	Ice Age Reserve Units	Wisconsin	99,800
Web-based Interactive Map	Washington-Rochambeau Rev. Route NHT	many	East Coast	94,715
Improve Arizona NST	Arizona NST	Saguaro Nat. Park	Tucson, AZ	92,983
AT Community Ambassador Prog.	Appalachian NST	many	Appalachian Mtns.	63,000
Mammoth Adventures in Education	Ice Age NST	Ice Age Reserve Units	Wisconsin	60,700
Build Community Partners, phase 1	New England NST	Marsh-Billings-Rockef. NHS	Woodstock, VT	53,628
Interp. Plan + Archeol Site Mgmt.	El Camino Real TA NHT	Bosque del Apache NWR	Socorro, NM	52,399
Interactive Map for 9 NHTs (part)	9 NHTs	many	Southwest US	51,480
Connect to James River Assets (part)	Capt. John Smith CNHT	several	Central Virginia	50,607
Trail to Every Classroom, Phase 1	New England NST	several	New England	41,184
Expand Distance Learning, Phase 2	Lewis & Clark NHT	Ft. Union & Knife River	North Dakota	35,401
Maintain Arizona NST	Arizona NST	Walnut Canyon Nat. Mon.	Flagstaff, AZ	32,744
Boaters Guide for Trail Users	Star-Spangled Banner NHT	several	Chesapeake Bay	27,000
Mobile Web Tour	Santa Fe NHT	several	Southwest US	7,713
			Total	864,229