

National Trails System

ANNUAL REPORT for FY 2011



At the biennial National Trails System Conference in Abingdon, Virginia, in May, 2011, 27 youth apprentices, largely sponsored by contributing Federal agencies, raise their hands in appreciation.

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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 Study Unit
CMP = Comprehensive Management Plan
FGDC = Federal Geographic Data Committee
FHWA = Federal Highway Administration

FS = USDA Forest Service
FTDS = Federal Trail Data Standards
FWS = U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
NHT = National Historic Trail
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, and about 1,150 national recreation trails (NRTs). 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 (16 U.S.C. 1241-1251).

Many serious issues faced National Trails System partners in Federal fiscal year (FY) 2011. Among them are the expansion of the Nation's energy transmission grid and a profusion of fast-track energy projects – some of which may significantly impact the trails. Also, many of the nonprofit trail organizations continue to be negatively impacted by the recession. Even after 43 years, the general public has little or no idea that the National Trails System exists and offers benefits that can enhance personal health, community economic opportunity, and educational transformation.

This FY 2011 Report by the MOU agencies reflects accomplishments along individual trails and actions that advance the Trails System as a whole. To correlate the 24 specific tasks of the 2006 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 year for the first time, the report is structured to highlight accomplishments which contribute to the goals and actions of AMERICA’S GREAT OUTDOORS.

CONNECTING TO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Agency Actions



National Recreation Trails (NRTs) Recognized -- In May, 2011, 41 new NRTs were recognized by Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. Six of these trails are located wholly or partially on Federal lands. They are:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>	<u>Length (in miles)</u>
Blue Marsh Lake Multi-Use Trail	PA	USACE	29.7
Froland Waterfowl Production Area Interpretive Trail	MN	USFWS	1.7
Old Post Mountain Bike Trail	AR	USACE	8.7
Quinebaug River Water Trail -- Thompson Section	CT	USACE	5.0
Sandtown Nature Trail	OK	USFWS	1.0
Spring Hill Mountain Bike Trail	AR	USACE	10.0

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

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Number of NRTs</u>	<u>Total lengths (in miles)</u>
USDA Forest Service	371	6,048
National Park Service	79	693
US Army Corps of Engineers	73	447
US Fish & Wildlife Service	64	387
Bureau of Land Management	31	498

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

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

The **Appalachian NST** is continuing with innovative outreach in three key areas:

- The **Trail to Every Classroom** (TTEC) program is now finishing its sixth year, with an additional 45 teachers participating in place-based service learning curriculum. In 2012, the regular workshop cycle will be replaced with opportunities for the 250 program alumni who have participated since 2005. More information is available at <http://www.nps.gov/appa/forteachers/index.htm>.
- NPS received funding for a '**Teacher-Ranger-Teacher**' (TRT) position, a TTEC alumna who spent eight weeks working in the White Mountain National Forest, based at a visitor center promoting the Appalachian NST. This is both the Trail's first TRT and the first in the NPS to be offered in partnership with the USDA Forest Service.
- The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has designated 14 "**Appalachian Trail Communities**" to engage local communities with trail stewardship and trail-related economic development.

A trailhead along the **Arizona NST** near Tucson in Pima County, Arizona, is being expanded and improved and will be dedicated to Gabe Zimmerman, one of the victims of the January 8, 2011, shooting tragedy in Tucson. Set against the backdrop of the scenic Rincon Mountains, the trailhead will memorialize Gabe and the other victims of the shooting. As U.S. Rep. Gabrielle

Gifford's aide, Gabe played a vital role in efforts to win passage of the 2009 legislation that designated the Arizona NST.

Also along the **Arizona NST**, a new campground and trailhead facility has been completed by the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office at the northern terminus of the Trail. This top-notch facility, at the Utah border on the edge of Vermillion Cliffs National Monument, is in one of the most scenic settings along the Trail, featuring bathrooms, campsites with shaded picnic tables, a fully accessible trail, and corrals for equestrian use.

For the **California NHT** in Idaho, NPS staff worked with the Idaho Department of Transportation and local partners to plan and fabricate Auto Tour Route and Local Tour Route signs for 412 miles of highway across southeastern Idaho.

Along the **California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express NHTs**:

- NPS staff completed and published the *Auto Tour Route Guide Across Utah*, the sixth in a series of state-by-state trail guides. Some 2,100 copies of the guide have already been distributed,
- Staff prepared plans for 12 wayside exhibits for the **California NHT** for sites in Utah, California, and Wyoming, and
- An historical study of African Americans on these trails is in review in preparation for release in 2012.

The NPS's Intermountain Region also held three tribal listening sessions in association with various trails:

<u>Associated Trail</u>	<u>Location</u>
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	Pojoaque, NM
Old Spanish NHT	Las Vegas, NV
Santa Fe NHT	Oklahoma City, OK

A variety of **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT** outreach projects and initiatives occurred during FY11, including:

- Publication of *Join the Adventure*, a 12 page introduction to the Trail, its recently completed CMP, and how to get involved in the Trail.
- The on-line "Boater's Guide to the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT," an interactive pdf on www.smithtrail.net that provides directions and information for boaters at a large number of itineraries along the trail.
- The Captain John Smith Geotrail, establishing geocache locations at more than 50 sites along the Trail and a passport system for collecting them.
- Standard orientation panels and kiosk designs for the Trail and fabrication on the first five installations.
- An updated map brochure for the trail.
- Interpretive signage along the Rappahannock River portion of the Trail in close working partnership with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Along the **Continental Divide NST** more than 20 Youth Corps members from the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, Southwest Conservation Corps, and Montana Conservation Corps worked in six locations across New Mexico, Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado, providing 350 work days of labor.

Along the **Florida NST** there is continued support for programs that focus on youth and environmental service including Student Conservation Association seasonal crews and one-time service projects, university Spring Break crews to foster positive land ethics in future generations and to reduce deferred maintenance, and -- through the efforts of the Florida Trail Association hosting a Charter School Florida Trail-a-thon -- a full spectrum curriculum including math, science, language and history projects along the Trail.

The **Ice Age NST** is one of the few national trails specifically highlighted in America's Great Outdoors (AGO). This project will be a "model trail segment" overlaying a landscape conservation effort between the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains in Dane County and the Aldo Leopold Shack in northern Sauk County, a distance of about 50 miles. It will be carried out as a long-term multifaceted initiative with a variety of public and private organizations. Key activities are planning, land acquisition, trail and support facilities design and construction, volunteer activities, restoration management, and access for urban dwellers.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance (the primary support organization for the **Iditarod NHT**) used both Federal funds and a grant from the Alaska State Historical Commission to publish the first-ever book about the history of the Trail. The Alliance also received a \$20,000 grant to support a nearly-completed PBS documentary on the 1925 Nome Serum Run, an important event in the evolution of the Trail in later years.

For the **Iditarod NHT**, Forest Service staff are coordinating iTREC! (Iditarod Trail to Every Classroom), a multi-agency sponsored professional teacher training program. This highly successful program, now in its second year, currently includes 28 trained and creative teachers that are reaching over 2,000 K-12 students through sustained place-based service learning in schools and communities along the entire Trail.

Over 3,000 Anchorage spectators learned about the history of the **Iditarod NHT** at the ceremonial start of the 2011 Iditarod Sled Dog Race while enjoying cookies, hot drinks, and a close up look at racers at BLM's Campbell Tract Facility. Other interagency outreach efforts included an extended interview on a statewide talk radio show, and a partner/interagency staffed booth at the two-week long Alaska State Fair, highlighting the Trail's Centennial.

The staff of the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT** collaborated with Chico State University students to develop and test a Trail Certification Toolkit that would be used to inventory and certify existing trail segments.

Additional outreach efforts for the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT** include:

- A public website with GreenInfo Network to provide a GIS interface that will enable users to locate the historic trail corridor, the Auto Tour Route, and recreational trail segments,
 - A related online GIS application, MapCollaborator, which will facilitate planning and documentation of existing recreational trail segments and allow partners to upload trail data (consistent with FTDS data standards) for review and approval by trail staff,
 - A film (produced as an NPS Challenge Cost Share with the Arizona Department of Transportation) which premiered at the Tubac Presidio State Historic Park in Arizona, and
 - Two new bilingual traveling exhibits about the Anza Expedition which are touring sites in the U.S. and Mexico.
-

For the **Lewis & Clark NHT**, a new web site has been launched -- the “Tribal Legacy Project” -- highlighting 1,400 video presentations of American Indian presenters taken during the Bicentennial. Also, an education specialist from the University of Oregon designed a framework for an American Indian education curriculum and secured funds for continuing the framework project into FY2013 to develop and host teacher workshops across four regions.

Trail staff also developed criteria for assessing interpretive assets the length of the Trail, to be integrated into a sign assessment project. They worked with many communities and partners on ways to replace their Lewis and Clark-related signs and waysides now that Bicentennial funding is no longer available.

Along the **New England NST** three new art and youth initiatives are under way:

- Trailside public art,
 - A “Trail to Every Classroom” educational program in Connecticut, and
 - Work with Cub Scouts to install and monitor tree identification labels and bat houses.
-

For the **Nez Perce NHT**, creation of Google Earth interactive maps for auto tour routes allows the public to experience the Trail virtually.

The **Overmountain Victory NHT** was the recipient of an Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation. These funds were used to present on-trail programming about the American Revolutionary history associated with the Trail to thousands of schoolchildren along its 330 mile route. Most events occurred during the annual march by the Overmountain Victory Trail Association in late September and early October. Programming also featured Jennifer Pharr Davis, the current record-holder for fastest assisted hike on the **Appalachian NST**. She spoke about recreational opportunities along the Overmountain Victory NHT and led short hikes for children at selected sites during the two week march.

Pacific Crest NST partners involve youth on several fronts, including:

- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) agreements with the Student Conservation Association, AmeriCorps, and the Pacific Crest Trail Association have doubled the annual trail maintenance accomplished. Record snow levels presented significant challenges for field work and required all partners to work together closely to maximize opportunities in safe locations.
- The Northern Sierra Region completed its 2nd Trail Skills College, training 44 participants who included new volunteers, returning PCTA volunteers, Tahoe Rim Trail Association volunteers, and Forest Service staff.
- Using various funding sources, the Warm Springs Tribal Youth Corps PCT Crew was able to successfully complete its second year, including a ‘Huckleberry Mitigation Project’ with the Mount Hood National Forest and a joint trail project with Americorp’s Northwest Service Academy.
- Diversity outreach continues with supporting youth programs such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Rites of Passage, Warm Springs Tribal PCT Crew (both in Oregon), and trail work from charter high schools in the greater Los Angeles area.

The **Pacific Northwest NST SKY** (Skills and Knowledge for Youth) Program continues with many active youth work units across the northern tier of Idaho, Montana, and Washington.

For the **Santa Fe NHT**, NPS staff have issued an on-line sign plan to help trail partners better mark the Trail. See www.nps.gov/SAFE/parkmgmt/how-to-create-your-own-sign-plan.htm.

For the **Selma to Montgomery NHT**, two additional Travel Information Station antennae (for a total of four) are being placed along the Trail to reach a wider broadcast audience.

Along the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT** staff are deeply involved in the comprehensive management planning (CMP) process, which will result in a joint plan for both the Trail and Maryland’s Star-Spangled Banner Scenic Byway, enabling the state to seek National Scenic Byway designation for this route. Maryland continues to be a partner for education and interpretive media projects to develop the Trail as well as the Byway. In FY11 the NPS completed a graphic standards and sign placement plan for the Chesapeake Bay Office that will be used along several national trails throughout the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

Also along the **Star-Spangled Banner NHT** other outreach activities included:

- A series of eight public and stakeholder workshops to identify the places, stories, and visitor experiences to include in the CMP,
- Eight more workshops to discuss and receive public input on alternatives,

- A water trails plan by Maryland agency partners improving access to and interpretation of the Trail which identifies short-term infrastructure and interpretation investments for the Maryland War of 1812 Commission and its partners,
- A Geotrail featuring 37 unique hiding places at War of 1812 sites (it receives glowing feedback from users and site managers with more than 4000 visits in FY 2011), and
- An e-newsletter about the Trail and related Bicentennial activities was begun last spring and is now distributed quarterly to almost 2000 addresses.

Along the **Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT** a number of outreach efforts connect the public to this trail’s diverse resources, including:

- Distribution of banners to mark the Trail in cities and towns along the corridor,
- Recording the auto tour route with Google Maps,
- A walking route highlighted by the participation of the youth marchers,
- A biking route connecting to the East Coast Greenway and nearby recreation sites, and
- A water trail route explored by two separate boat trips on the Chesapeake Bay with the aim to connect overlapping segments with the Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT and the Star-Spangled Banner NHT.

Project Profile: Teacher-Ranger Teacher at the White Mountain National Forest

A heavily used and difficult section of the **Appalachian NST** is the 100-mile stretch through the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire. It offered an ideal opportunity for a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher position with a highly motivated and experienced New Hampshire teacher in a national forest which sought assistance for improved visitor services.

"I would like to thank the National Park Service for this tremendous opportunity to have a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher educating visitors about the Appalachian NST and the resources it travels through," said Clare Long, conservation education specialist for the White Mountain National Forest. "It has been a huge success, and the leadership on the district and the forest see this collaborative effort as a model for future efforts between the two agencies."

Jennifer Molton, a third grade teacher from New Boston Elementary School was selected for the position. Jen is an AT thru-hiker and alum of the successful "Trail to Every Classroom" professional development program where she created curriculum to engage students on the Trail. As a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, she quickly became a vital part of the visitor services and conservation education programs for the Appalachian NST on the White Mountain National Forest. Her ability to connect with visitors and to understand visitor needs and her commitment to trying to provide the best possible experience without compromising personal safety or the health of the resource were outstanding.

The White Mountain National Forest receives over 6 million visitors a year and Jen's presence highlighting the Appalachian Trail, hiking and trails, and awareness of the resources was vital to visitor and agency success last year. Jen was featured on local television talking about the Appalachian Trail and local residents responded how they hadn't ever really known that the Appalachian Trail went through "their" backyard.

CONSERVING AND RESTORING

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

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 11	Total miles of trail now open to the public and maintained	(NHT's only) miles of auto tour route signed in FY 11	(NHT's only) Total miles of auto tour route now signed
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>				
Appalachian NST ¹	2.0	2,181		
Arizona NST ¹	20.0	812		
Continental Divide NST		784		
Florida NST	0	1,291		
Ice Age NST	25.0	635		
Natchez Trace NST ¹		65		
New England NST	15.0	200		
North Country NST	16.9	1,903		
Pacific Crest NST ¹	0	2,650		
Potomac Heritage NST	8.0	764		
NST SUBTOTALS	86.9	11,285		
<u>National Historic Trails</u>				
Ala Kahakai NHT		15		
California NHT		unkn		3,709
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	0	205		195
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	0	4	0	0
Iditarod NHT ¹	4.0	1,242	0	0
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	0	250		900
Lewis and Clark NHT	unkn	unkn	unkn	c. 7,000
Mormon Pioneer NHT				1,415
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		1,182	0	1,500
Oregon NHT				2,130
Overmountain Victory NHT	4.0	80	0	104
Pony Express NHT		2,005		1,378
Santa Fe NHT			0	1,202
Selma to Montgomery NHT ¹		54		
Trail of Tears NHT			0	993
NHT SUBTOTALS	8.0	5,037	0	c. 20,526
COMBINED TOTALS	94.9	16,322		

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

Compared to FY 2010, the number of new miles of NSTs almost doubled, while the new NHT segments dropped. Data for NHTs varies widely year to year, indicating that reporting standards are not well defined.

Table 2 <u>CHANGES IN PROTECTION</u>				
Only trails reporting are listed.				
Trail	Acres inventoried or surveyed in FY 11	Acres protected by Federal agencies in FY 11	Acres protected by non-Federal parties in FY 11	Number of energy projects impacting the Trail in FY 11
Appalachian NST	0	1,549	172	10
Arizona NST	n/a	n/a	n/a	6
California NHT	0			15
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT				1
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT				6
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	170	25		1
Florida NST	173	20	54	
Ice Age NST	912	0	547	5
Iditarod NHT	3,840		2	2
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	c. 50 miles			3
Lewis and Clark NHT		unkn	unkn	15
Mormon Pioneer NHT				3
New England NST			377	3
Nez Perce NHT	275	0	0	
North Country NST	0	0	0	2
Old Spanish NHT				4
Oregon NHT		(¹)		16
Overmountain Victory NHT			706	0
Pacific Crest NST	0	0	0	
Pony Express NHT				7
Potomac Heritage NST	12		17	1
Trail of Tears NHT				5
TOTALS	c. 5,430	1,594	3,469	105

Notes: 1) Protection actions along the California NHT also benefitted the overlapping Oregon NHT.

Compared to FY 2010 the acreage inventoried more than doubled and Federal action to protect the trail soared seven times (from 198 acres to 1,594 acres). However acreage protected by non-Federal parties dropped 37%, while the number of threatening energy projects stayed about the same.

<p>Table 3 <u>HIGH POTENTIAL SITES AND SEGMENTS ALONG NHTs</u> (Only trails reporting are listed.) Trail</p>	<p>Total number associated with the trail</p>	<p>Number protected in FY 11</p>	<p>Number experiencing threats in FY 11</p>
California NHT	277	0	35
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	11	14
Iditarod NHT	60		3
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	119		2
Lewis and Clark NHT	524	n/a	n/a
Mormon Pioneer NHT	65	0	8
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	212 ¹	1	10
Old Spanish NHT	unkn	0	4
Oregon NHT	146	0	16
Pony Express NHT	213		11
Santa Fe NHT	225	unkn	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	66	0	0
Trail of Tears NHT	52 ²	unkn	unkn
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	n/a	0	3
TOTALS	2,333	12	106

Notes: 1) The 3 high potential segments along this trail equal 317 miles in combined lengths.

2) This number of high potential sites and segments will expand once the newly added trail mileage under PL 111-11 is fully incorporated into the trail.

Table 4 CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION Only trails reporting data are listed.							
Trail	Miles of trail constructed, improved or re-constructed in FY 11	Miles of trail with deferred maintenance now brought up to standard during FY 11	Number of recreation structures constructed, altered, or expanded in FY 11	Number of major trail structures installed in FY 11 ¹	Number of new certified sites and segments in FY 11	Acreage of certifications in FY 11	Miles of new certifications in FY 11
Appalachian NST ²	8.0	47	6	3			
Arizona NST	38.5	35 ³	1				
Continental Divide NST	70.0	40					
El Cam. Real de los Tejas NHT					1		
El Cam. Real Tierra Ad. NHT					12		
Florida NST	17.0	8	0	10			
Ice Age NST	21.5	7.4	0	43	10		15.7
Iditarod NHT	91	124	5	12	0	0	0
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT				17	1		8
Natchez Trace NST				4			
New England NST	15.0		12	10			
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	1.5	62.5	4	4	0		
North Country NST		2	12	20	5		16.5
Overmountain Victory NHT	4.0	c. 15		5	2		4.5
Pacific Crest NST	73.0	1,027	0	6			
Potomac Heritage NST	5.0		5	4			
Santa Fe NHT					1		
Selma to Montgomery NHT	25.0		2				
Star-Spangled Banner NHT					0	0	0
Trail of Tears NHT					1		
TOTALS	369.5	c. 1,367.9	47	138	33	0	44.7
% Change from FY 2010	+ 84%	+ 160%	-+17%	+20%	+37%		+55%

- 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.
 3) For the Arizona NST, 203 miles still need basic maintenance.

Compared to FY 2010, the mileage of built or improved trail has almost doubled, the mileage of trails brought up to standard almost tripled, and most of the other activities reported here increased impressively.

Conserving and Restoring -- Innovative Actions, by Trail

Appalachian NST staff are establishing a natural resource priority zoning map using natural heritage or rare plant data to delineate areas of high sensitivity. The Google Earth layer and hard copy maps will help trail maintainers identify areas where sensitive species are located within their section and how these resources may be affected by trail construction or routine maintenance. Appalachian State University is developing an open areas data layer and an invasive species model for the entire trail.

Along the **Arizona NST** in the Tonto National Forest, volunteers and youth corps crews from the Arizona Trail Association and Prescott College, with support from Recreational Equipment Incorporated (REI), cleared over 17 miles of heavy deadfall that had resulted from the Willow Fire in the Mazatzal Wilderness. The work was done with hand tools only. While much remains to be done to rehabilitate the 60 miles of trail affected, this volunteer work reopened a section made impassible by the fire.

Last spring, NPS staff completed the scoping phase for a feasibility study concerning dozens of possible new routes to the **California, Oregon, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer NHTs**. Planners now are finalizing the scoping report for release to the public in FY12. Five alternative actions are being considered, and a consulting firm has begun drafting parts of the report.

For the **California NHT**, NPS staff have entered into partnerships with two state historic preservation offices to produce National Register of Historic Places nomination packages for Trail sites and segments.

BLM and its contractor, AECOM, using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, completed a \$2.2 million 7-state National Historic Trails Inventory project. It addresses cultural resource conditions, settings, and viewsheds for 400 miles of the **Old Spanish NHT** and 22 miles of **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT's** high potential route segments. Reports are due from the contractor March 12, 2012.

As follow-up, NPS contracted through the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office for a Multiple Properties Nomination Form and Historic Context and 11 National Register nominations. An additional 13 more National Register nominations are being prepared for state review.

At La Bajada, southwest of Santa Fe along **El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT**, NPS has conducted an archeological survey of 56.5 acres of trail alignments and surrounding area. This volcanic escarpment was a formidable geologic obstacle for travelers. One result will be a cultural landscape report. Both the survey and the cultural landscape report are taking place through a CESU with the University of New Mexico.

With ARRA funding a contractor widened the heavily used 25-mile wooded segment of the **Iditarod NHT** between Kaltag and Unalakleet. In the past two decades, vegetation has narrowed this pathway to only four feet, increasing the potential for head-on collisions for dog mushers, snowmachiners, and other winter users. To meet ARRA deadlines, project work was undertaken in December, 2010, during a period when temperatures stayed below -20F.

A 27-mile segment of the **Iditarod NHT** was effectively closed by a 100,000-acre fire in 2010 and was reopened the next winter by a local community using funding provided by the Department of the Interior's FY 11 Burned Area Emergency Stabilization Program. Working through mid-winter temperatures of -30F, the Nikolai, Alaska based crew expressed appreciation for paid work during a period that otherwise offers few employment opportunities in rural Alaska.

As part of its National Register listing initiative for the **Mormon Pioneer NHT**, NPS is negotiating with the Utah State Historic Preservation Office and a non-profit research facility to produce a Multiple Property Documentation Form for the entire Trail. Similarly NPS has entered partnerships with three SHPOs to produce multiple property documentation forms and National Register of Historic Places listings for sites and segments on the **Oregon and Pony Express NHTs**.

ARRA funds were used along the **Nez Perce NHT** to address deferred maintenance, relocate the Musselshell Bridge, and replace 390 feet of puncheon at Weitas. This afforded young Nez Perce Tribal members the opportunity to learn a number of skills including trail maintenance and bridge building, use of equipment, first aid, CPR, 4-wheel training, and chainsaw training.

Potomac Heritage NST staff, using Connect Trails to Parks funds, engaged the American Hiking Society to assist with stakeholder outreach prior to completing compliance for a Civil War Defenses of Washington Trail.

Pacific Crest NST partners are engaged in a number of actions to protect and enhance that trail:

- Continued planning and discussions with the Tejon Ranch to relocate 37 miles of the Trail from the desert floor onto the Sierra Crest,
- An interagency law enforcement team to address OHV trespass in Kern County involving the Kern County Sheriff's office, California State Parks, BLM, and USDA Forest Service law enforcement resources, and
- Glacier Peak Wilderness WA – Trail relocation completed after seven years of epic work to replace 8 trail bridges in a 45-mile section of the PCT after flood damage.

Special Profile: Energy Projects Along the Appalachian NST

Energy development, both traditional and alternative, continues to be a major issue for the Appalachian NST (“AT”). The direct and the cumulative impacts of these projects currently compose the single greatest threat to the overall AT experience. Regional electric companies have formally announced their intent to construct or reconstruct four major transmission lines in the mid-Atlantic region and one in the New England region. The Potomac-Appalachian Transmission Highline (PATH) project is currently on hold. The PPL Susquehanna to Roseland project is very active and advancing through the review process -- a final decision on the project is scheduled for October, 2012. Review and assessment of Dominion Power’s rebuilding of the Mount Storm to Doubs line and its upgrade of the Dooms to Bremono line are also underway. Environmental Assessments (EAs) are being assembled for each.

The Northern Pass project that would deliver Canadian hydropower to US markets is currently being reviewed by the USDA Forest Service. Natural Gas transmission companies are likewise seeking to expand their pipeline crossings of the AT, especially in the Mid-Atlantic region. Columbia Gas recently completed its Eastern Market Expansion project that crossed the AT in Northern Virginia, and the Tennessee Gas Northeast Upgrade project that crosses the AT within New Jersey High Point State Park is currently being reviewed.

The continued exploration and extraction of shale gas in the Allegheny Plateau is expected to continue and accelerate the need for these types of projects. Multiple wind energy farms are also being proposed, mostly in the Northeast, such as the Highland Wind farm in Maine and the Deerfield Wind farm in Vermont. The proponents of the Highland project withdrew their pending application -- however it is expected that they will re-file in the future. The Deerfield Wind project is under review and NPS staff submitted comments on the Forest Service draft EIS in March and a final decision is expected soon.

WORKING TOGETHER

<u>Agency Actions</u> ¹	<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	5 of 6	yes	yes	yes	5 of 6	4
Agency has finalized agency-wide policy on National Trails System ²	no	no	no	(NA)	no	yes
Number of trails that actively use FTDS/FGDC standards	unkn	yes	0	(NA)	900	73
Agency's NRT entries in Registry are current and accurate.	yes	yes	yes	(NA)	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.

2) All three agencies are drafting policy, with approval scheduled for FY 2012. BLM is producing a manual series. FS includes a section on NSTs and NHTs in its policy directives. And NPS has drafted Director's Order 45 for consideration by its leadership.

Most of our agencies (BLM, FS, NPS, FHWA, and FWS) have assistance agreements or cooperative agreements with American Trails, American Hiking Society, and the Partnership for the National Trails System to help develop and enhance various aspects of the National Trails System. Products include the quarterly magazine, *Pathways Across America*, implementation of A Decade for the National Trails System – 2008 to 2018, various youth initiatives, National Trails Day, Volunteer Vacations, National Scenic and Historic Trail workshops, the 13th National Conference on National Scenic and Historic Trails in Abingdon, VA, and the National Trails Training Partnership.

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

- America's Great Outdoors -- Initiative and Actions
- Engaging Youth
- The Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Urban Pathways Initiative
- Surface Transportation Funding Reauthorization
- National Trails Day
- Metrics, How to Measure Accomplishments
- Making the Health Connection
- Effective Outreach to Communities of Color and Low-Income Communities

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

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

- The **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)** continues to support National Trails System meetings, events, publications, and websites. This year, the BLM developed an internal National Trails SharePoint Site to support the field in conducting business and in support of manual development. The BLM's "Trail Treasures" poster series is underway, conducted with the support of several trail partners to raise awareness, showcase BLM landscapes, and support youth programs.
- In addition, BLM initiated policy development in 2008 as provided in the 2006 BLM *National Scenic and Historic Trails Strategy and Work Plan*. The first draft manual is poised for formal agency field review, which will include a review by designated agency representatives. The second manual is under construction, with a review cycle in mid-2012. Both manuals will be finalized in 2012.
- The **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)** offered Recreational Trails Program (RTP) funds to help several initiatives benefiting the National Trails System, including:
 - A new interagency agreement to support the FS's Technology and Development program. This program assists Federal and State land-managing agencies, and developed several trail publications.
 - A new cooperative agreement with American Trails to support the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), which helps provide training resources for all kinds of trails. The NTTP reaches out to State agencies.
 - Co-sponsorship of several trail conferences, including the NST workshop and the National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference. In addition, many States supported State-level trail conferences using RTP funds.
 - The annual State Trail Administrators Meeting in September with a session to encourage interaction on NST, NHT, and NRT issues.
- The **National Park Service (NPS)** continues with a funding source called Connect-Trails-to-Parks. In FY 2011 this program distributed \$957,000 for 15 projects. Among the more innovative of these projects are mobile websites, community partnership programs, and a water trail. A full list of projects is found in Attachment C below.
- NPS also collects and processes all applications for national recreation trails (NRTs) other than those in national forests. In FY 2011 NPS coordinated the paperwork and field reviews for 41 NRTs. NPS maintains a complete file record of NRTs, while its partner organization, American Trails, maintains the on-line database of all NRTs.
- The **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)** renewed its contract with the Partnership for the National Trails System for publication of *Pathways* and the PNTS website, as well as training for FWS staff and National Trails System volunteers.
- The **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)** disseminates trail information of all kinds through an agency-internal website accessible to all USACE employees. The

USACE annually promotes field level application to achieve NRT status (currently operating 73) and leverages partnerships with many local organizations in the establishment and maintenance of trails. To support trail creation and maintenance, the USACE volunteer program logs thousands of hours annually for projects related to trails. The 2011 volunteer program (all activities combined) involved over 55,000 volunteers who worked over 1.3 million hours with a contributed value exceeding \$29 million.

- The **U.S. Forest Service (FS)** continues to increase opportunities to work with youth and underserved populations in the management and protection of trails. The agency is working with the Partnership for the National Trails System to expand the Youth Apprentice Program. The Forest Service has full time administrators for all six Forest Service-administered NSTs and NHTs.

Statistics by Trail

Partnerships and Planning

Trail	Number of compliance actions and reviews during FY11	Number of trailwide partner meetings	Number of new partner agreements in FY 11	Number of officially recognized volunteer hours contributed
Appalachian NST	29	13	12	230,575
Arizona NST	6	0	1	19,348
California NHT	80	3	3	
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	0	5	3	0
Continental Divide NST				21,296
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	3	2	4	
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	5	4	2	
Florida NST	2	5	3	56,700
Ice Age NST	15	36		65,895
Iditarod NHT	c. 45	10	8	1,206
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	20	4	11	21,576
Lewis and Clark NHT	300	1	9	143,398
Mormon Pioneer NHT	8	0	0	
Natchez Trace NST	0	5	5	14,409
New England NST	0	4	2	9,124
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	54	68	10	75,200
North Country NST	3	3	10	68,505
Old Spanish NHT		5	4	1,511
Oregon NHT	86	3	5	
Overmountain Victory NHT	2	c. 80	7	
Pacific Crest NST	0	10	1	99,343
Pacific Northwest NST				24,925
Pony Express NHT	13	3	2	

Potomac Heritage NST	6	2	7	n/a
Santa Fe NHT	4	3	1	
Selma to Montgomery NHT	35	1	1	1,537
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	0	16	1	0
Trail of Tears NHT	16	2	1	
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	0	4	0	c. 1,600
TOTALS	c. 732	292	113	c. 856,148

Several trends seem to be going on at once in this arena of trail activity. Compared to FY 2010, compliance actions have declined by 22 %, trailwide meetings have increased 13%, the level of new agreements is down 26 %, while formally recognized volunteer hours have increased modestly by 6%.

Trail	Participation in statewide, metropolitan, and local planning	No. of local trail corridor plans	No. of Federal interagency projects
Appalachian NST	very frequent	NA	16
Arizona NST	occasional	3	1
California NHT	little or none	1	18
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	frequent	1	1
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	occasional	unkn	
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	occasional		5
Florida NST	frequent	8	2
Ice Age NST	very frequent	5	1
Iditarod NHT	very frequent		3
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	occasional	3	5
Lewis and Clark NHT	frequent	11	3
Mormon Pioneer NHT	little or none	0	4
Natchez Trace NST	little or none	0	0
New England NST	frequent		
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	very frequent	6	78
North Country NST	occasional	3	
Old Spanish NHT	occasional		2
Oregon NHT	little or none	2	7
Overmountain Victory NHT	very frequent	4	1
Pacific Crest NST	frequent	4	8
Pony Express NHT	little or none	1	15
Potomac Heritage NST	frequent	3	8
Santa Fe NHT	frequent		0
Selma to Montgomery NHT	little or none	1	3
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	frequent	6	1
Trail of Tears NHT	occasional	unkn	0
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	frequent	20	2
TOTALS		82	184

Compared to FY 2010, most of these figures are modest increases.

Data Management

Trail	Trail has full-time or part-time data steward	Data sets are updated and accessible to public	Website hits during FY 11	Publications distributed in FY 11
Table 7 DATA MANAGEMENT Y = yes, N = no, unkn = unknown				
Appalachian NST	Y	Y	64,000	10,000
Arizona NST	Y	N	n/a	0
California NHT	Y	Y	105,255	33,197
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	Y	Y	106,051	10,000
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	Y	Y	20,949	0
El Camino Real/Tierra Adentro NHT	N	Y	20,836	4,300
Florida NST	N	Y	1.5 million	30,000
Ice Age NST	Y		100,595	
Iditarod NHT	Y	Y	unkn	c. 3,000
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT			4,274	6,578
Lewis and Clark NHT	Y	somewhat	117,775	16,500
Mormon Pioneer NHT	Y	Y	84,238	36,220
Natchez Trace NST	Y	Y	0	0
New England NST	Y	Y/N		500
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	Y	soon	360,000	270,000
North Country NST	Y	Y	450,000	12,500
Old Spanish NHT	N	Y	25,900	0
Oregon NHT	Y	Y	137,134	46,845
Overmountain Victory NHT	Y		n/a	c. 10,000
Pacific Crest NST	Y	Y	471,067	13,365
Pony Express NHT	Y	Y	106,906	35,114
Potomac Heritage NST	N	somewhat	7,642	36,900
Santa Fe NHT	Y		79,190	7,000
Selma to Montgomery NHT	Y	N	n/a	12,000
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	Y	Y	24,583	10,000
Trail of Tears NHT	Y	Y	268,896	10,450
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	Y	some		
TOTALS	Y = 22 (81%)	Y = 16 (59%)	4.1 million	c. 614,469

As in FY 2010, most of the trails have data stewards, and many provide at least some data to the public (with that percentage almost doubling from 33 to 59%). The number of website hits has dropped by 50% because of a change in analytics for one trail. Distribution of publications also dropped, but just by 11%.

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	medium	sometimes
Appalachian NST	high	always
Arizona NST	medium	often
California NHT	high	often
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	medium	often
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	medium	sometimes
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	medium	often
Florida NST	medium	often
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	high	often
Natchez Trace NST	low	always
New England NST	medium	sometimes
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	high	always
North Country NST	medium	sometimes
Old Spanish NHT	high	often
Oregon NHT	high	often
Overmountain Victory NHT	high	sometimes
Pacific Crest NST	medium	often
Pony Express NHT	high	often
Potomac Heritage NST	medium	sometimes
Santa Fe NHT	medium	sometimes
Selma to Montgomery NHT	medium	always
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	medium	often
Trail of Tears NHT	medium	sometimes
Washington-Rochambeau R R NHT	high	sometimes

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

Working Together -- Innovative Actions, by Trail

Along the **Arizona NST**, progress continues on a multi-use Greenway trail linking Grand Canyon National Park with the gateway town of Tusayan. The 8-mile Greenway III trail, which is also the Arizona NST, extends from the Grand Canyon Visitors Center to the Kaibab National Forest, ending at the town of Tusayan. The trail is being completed in partnership with the USDA Forest Service. The trail is being constructed by the national park's trail crew to comply with accessibility guidelines for outdoor developed areas. Funding for this project was made possible through a grant received from the FHWA's Public Lands Highways Program.

At Saguaro National Park along the **Arizona NST** a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April opened the 5.5 mile "Quilter Trail." Located in remote and rough terrain, this segment of the Arizona NST completed its route through the Park. Planning and construction spanned two winters and involved the efforts of many volunteers and park service personnel. The trail is named in memory of Jake Quilter, a former park trail crew worker who passed away while working in the vicinity of the new trail.

For projects elsewhere along the **Arizona NST**, the Arizona Trail Association secured \$185,600 of Title II Secure Rural Schools Act funds for construction and maintenance projects.

The **Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT** CMP was completed and approved during FY11. Implementation projects include:

- Working with stakeholders along the 95 mile James River segment to detail how the trail will develop in this area, producing the "Concept Plan for the James River Segment" and a detailed action agenda,
- A Land Protection Plan to guide land conservation along the Trail. The plan is slated for completion in early 2012, and
- An Indigenous Cultural Landscape initiative which aims to document these evocative Trail-related landscapes and use the information to inform interpretation and land conservation efforts.

Benefitting several of the **Chesapeake Bay NHTs**, the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network continues to award grants for such projects as the Chesapeake Bay Gateways in Havre de Grace and Baltimore's Fells Point, the Baltimore National Heritage Area, and the Friends of Fort McHenry, for education, planning, and interpretation projects that will build awareness of the Trail and improve virtual and physical visits by Trail users.

The one year-old **Florida NST** Coalition has drafted a Five-Year Florida NST Strategic Plan to complete the objectives as outlined in the 1986 CMP to accomplish the following four goals:

- Complete the Trail: Add 100 new scenic and designated miles of Florida NST towards completion of a high quality trail experience.
- Standards: 100% of existing Trail meets the trail standards within its resource classification category of 1 - 5.

- Partnerships: Each of the Florida NST land managers proactively contributes to trail completion, protection, management and promotion of their segment as part of a larger whole.
- Promotion: 100% of Trail recreationists know they are on the Trail, know the significance of the Trail, and know how their experience is part of the larger whole.

In addition, the **Florida NST** Coalition is revisiting and refining the planning corridor as envisioned in the Trail's original Comprehensive Plan. By refining the original 20-mile wide planning corridor it will be able to focus shared resources towards the completion of a single, continuous corridor the length of the state and mark the northern and southern termini with appropriate public access and resources.

A local **Iditarod NHT** trail partner, the Takotna Community Association, received a National Trails "7(h) partner" grant to help the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance and BLM field staff to install 60 miles of trail safety markers during mid-winter on one of the Trail's most remote segments which is the only overland link between communities (served by the same school district) in the upper Kuskokwim River valley and communities in the lower middle Yukon River valley (a distance of 175 air miles). A key part was the installation of wooden tripods every 500 feet over 32 miles of treeless tundra. Local partners donated the equivalent of \$16,300 of personal equipment used for the project and drove over 5,000 miles by snowmobile to install the markers. Of the 1,200 hours expended on project operations, over 900 hours were contributed by the local partner. Of the 10 member local crew, eight were young people, while the project was led in the field by an 85 year-old resident.

The **Lewis and Clark NHT** staff developed a new publicly-accessible Federal financial assistance program known as the "Partnership Support Program" (PSP). And they provided administrative training for all PSP staff so they could be empowered to make independent decisions regarding projects.

One NPS-funded special event enabled the Discovery Expedition of St. Charles (Missouri) to present a living history encampment of Lewis and Clark in the greater Omaha area. The encampment lasted five days and included multiple public presentations which brought interest and fun to hundreds of children and adults. The encampment was also linked to the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation annual meeting in Omaha.

At the Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge along the **North Country NST** -- in close collaboration among NPS, FWS, the North Country Trail Association, and a private contractor -- a series of archaeological surveys was completed. Where cultural resources were found, the groups worked together to plan reroutes and survey them (in a short time frame).

For the **Pacific Crest NST**, an interagency law enforcement team has been assembled to address Off-Highway Vehicle trespass in Kern County, California. Key members are the Kern County Sheriff's office, California State Parks, BLM, and FS law enforcement personnel.

Potomac Heritage NST staff completed a "foundation document" for planning, administration, management, interpretation and coordination. It provides for a later CMP through plans adopted at the local, regional, and state scales.

Even though the comprehensive management plan for **El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT** was completed after the end of the fiscal year, two partnership items stand out for the year:

- An on-line sign plan for the use by trail partners, and
 - A photographic exhibit which traveled to 12 major locations in Texas and Louisiana.
-

Along the **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT**, 14 interpretive panels were installed at 10 park sites and trailheads within California's East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD, the Nation's largest regional park district). In addition, EBRPD prepared and distributed its own brochures about the Anza Trail at each of the park sites.

BLM's Yuma Field Office, in partnership with Arizona State University, is conducting a **Juan Bautista de Anza NHT** Recreation Trail Planning study which will recommend feasible routes for the recreational trail along the Gila River in Yuma County, Arizona.

In May, **Overmountain Victory NHT** partners, in conjunction with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, hosted the Partnership for National Trails System's 13th biennial conference in Abingdon, Virginia. This picturesque city is the site of the Trail's northern trailhead, the "Muster Ground," recently acquired by the City of Abingdon. The conference began at the nearby Damascus, VA, Trail Fest and continued with an entire day at the Muster Ground where hands- one and in-depth educational programs were presented. The Overmountain Victory Trail Association and the City of Abingdon served as splendid hosts for the entire conference. Well over 200 people attended.

For the **Trail of Tears NHT** at Tuscumbia Landing, AL, an Alabama Development Concept Plan was derived during a planning charrette with many partners, including the City of Tuscumbia, state agencies, city leaders, and Trail of Tears Association members.

UNMET NEEDS AND CONCLUSION

Table 9 <u>UNMET NEEDS</u> Only trails reporting data are listed. Trail	Miles of trail still to be built	(NHT's only) Miles of auto tour route still to be signed or marked	Number of key natural and cultural resource sites still to be protected
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>			
Appalachian NST	0		unkn
Arizona NST	12		unkn
Florida NST	267		42
New England NST	20		
North Country NST	c. 2,700		
Pacific Crest NST	0		
Potomac Heritage NST	492		
NST Total	c. 3,491		42
<u>National Historic Trails</u>			
California NHT		3,000	
Captain John Smith Chesapeake NHT	3,000		68
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT		entire trail	unkn
Iditarod NHT	c. 700	300	
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		300	
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		0	15
Old Spanish NHT		2,700	c. 200
Overmountain Victory NHT	250	201	c. 20
Pony Express NHT		627	
Santa Fe NHT		0	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	0	0	1
Star-Spangled Banner NHT	290	106	
NHT Total	c. 4,240	c. 7,234 +	c. 304
TOTALS	c. 7,731		c. 346

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

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

Trails With CMPs Currently Underway

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

Trails Revising CMPs

- Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT

Other Trails Hoping to Revise or Amend the CMP

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

CONCLUSION

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

Among the many tasks associated with AGO, the National Trails can contribute 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, is 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.

As with AGO, many of the Federal agency accomplishments outlined in this report help carry out various aspects of these goals and actions.

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

Summary -- The impressive accomplishments documented throughout this report indicate that the National Trails System is as strong as ever, providing an ever-expanding diversity of travel and adventure experiences for Americans and their 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 us as a Nation. And, essential to all these efforts is an unwavering, impressive, and ever growing cadre of volunteers.

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>	17
2	Develop policy	<i>Working Together, Agency Actions</i>	17
3	Participate widely in planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	20
4	Coordinate trail plans with others	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	20
5	Prepare and implement plans	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	20
6	Conduct NEPA and NHPA compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	19-20
7	Foster interagency training	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	17
8	Support meetings, publications, etc.	<i>Working Together narrative</i>	17
9	(USACE) Protect trail resources	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	4
10	Develop data and mapping standards	<i>Data Management, Table 7</i>	21
11	Collect and manage data and mapping	<i>Data Management, Tables 7-8</i>	21-22
12	Update NRT listings	<i>Connecting to the Great Outdoors</i>	3-4
13	Formulate unified policies	<i>Working Together</i>	17
14	Establish a contact list		
15	Hold annual meeting	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	19
16	Execute supplemental agreements	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	19
17	Cooperate in planning and compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Tables 5-6</i>	19-20
18	Encourage regular schedule of meetings	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 5</i>	19
19	Take full advantage of agency programs	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	20
20	Coordinate for effectiveness	(Monthly conference calls)	
21	Conduct collaborative planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Table 6</i>	20
22	Enhance administration and management	(See innovative actions)	
23	Encourage innovation	<i>Actions by trail</i>	4-9, 14-16, 23-25
24	Develop/use a unified tracking system	<i>This report</i>	all

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

2011 CONNECT-TRAILS-TO-PARKS PROJECTS

<u>Project Title</u>	<u>Trail(s)</u>	<u>Park or Other Federal Area</u>	<u>Location(s)</u>	<u>Award Formulated</u>
Byron Bridge Study	Appalachian & Pot. Heritage NSTs	Harpers Ferry NHP	Harpers Ferry, WV	\$ 55,000
Chesapeake Bay Mobile Website	Captain John Smith CNHT Star-Spangled Banner NHT Washington-Rochambeau RRNHT Potomac Heritage NST	Several	On-line	\$ 43,000
Community Partnerships	Appalachian NST	Several	Trailwide	\$100,000
Dug Bar Renovation	Nez Perce NHT	Nez Perce NHP	Dug Bar, OR	\$ 85,820
Feasibility Study	El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	San Antonio Missions	San Antonio, TX	\$100,000
Interactive Map	Potomac Heritage NST	Several	Trailwide	\$ 85,000
Interactive Map for Chesapeake Bay Trails	Captain John Smith CNHT Star-Spangled Banner NHT Washington-Rochambeau RRNHT Potomac Heritage NST	Several	On-line	\$ 63,680
Kerr Scott Dam Access	Overmountain Victory NHT	Kerr Scott Reservoir	Wilkesboro, NC	\$ 52,800
MNRR Water Trail	Lewis & Clark NHT	Missouri NRR	Yankton, SD	\$ 39,300
Natchez Trace Education Phase II	Natchez Trace NST	Natchez Trace Parkway	Parkwide	\$100,000
Unigrid Brochure	New England NST	Several	Trailwide	\$ 31,000
Trailwide Website	New England NST	Several	Trailwide	\$ 80,000
Rock Creek Park Public Involvement	Potomac Heritage NST	Rock Creek Park	Washington, DC	\$ 37,000
South Kohala Gateway	Ala Kahakai NHT	Pu'ukohola Heiau NHS	Kawaihae, HI	\$ 59,500
VIP-based Interpretation	Nez Perce NHT	Nez Perce NHP	Parkwide	<u>\$ 4,500</u>
			Total	\$936, 600