

# National Trails System

## ANNUAL REPORT for FY 2008

submitted by the  
Federal Interagency Council on Trails, Washington, D.C.  
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National Historic Trails were honored on August 15, 2008, by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in St. Louis, Missouri with the ACHP Chairman's Award for Federal Achievement in Historic Preservation. Left to right, participants were Yenie L. Tran, Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; Steve Elkinton, National Trails System Program Leader, NPS; Linda Lawson, Director of the Office of Safety, Energy, and Environment, USDOT; Thomas G. Bell, Refuge Manager, Big Muddy National Refuge for the USFWS; Ross Marshall, President, Partnership for the National Trails System; Peter Mali, Acting Division Chief, National Landscape Conservation System, BLM; Mark Rey, Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, USDA; Matthew Blunt, Governor, Missouri; Lynn Scarlett, Deputy Secretary, Department of the Interior; Gary Werner, Executive Director, Partnership for the National Trails System; and, John L. Nau, III, Chairman, ACHP. Photo courtesy ACHP.

## **BACKGROUND**

The National Trails System Act was signed into law on October 2, 1968. By the start of FY 2009, the National Trails System has grown through Congressional actions to include eight national scenic trails (NSTs) and 18 national historic trails (NHTs). Together these 26 trails total over 54,000 miles in combined lengths. In addition, over 1,050 National Recreation Trails (NRTs) – recognized by the Secretary of the Interior (and in the USDA Forest Service by Regional Foresters) -- can be found in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Pending legislation promises to add four more national trails, including the first NSTs in over 25 years, adding 10% increase to the combined lengths of the Trails System.

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).

This past year, two publications were issued to highlight the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System. The National Park Service (NPS) published a 50-page public history called *The National Trails System: A Grand Experiment*. In addition, the Federal Interagency Council on Trails (the authors of this annual report) published *The National Trails System at 40*, a profile of current issues, statistics, and recommendations for the incoming Administration officials and members of Congress.

Many serious issues faced National Trails System partners in FY 2008. Among them were the expansion of the Nation's energy transmission grid and the possible prohibition of trail signs along Federally funded roads and highways. The U.S. Department of Energy's Westwide Energy Corridor PEIS (Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement) showed thousands of miles of proposed or enlarged routes for transmission lines and underground pipeline networks. Over 60 NST and NHT segments or sites may be adversely affected – perhaps the greatest single threat to the National Trails System since its creation in 1968. The sign issue may be resolved, if our agency suggestions are followed, when the next edition of the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices* is published. Instead of abolishing trail signs, our suggestions are to manage them as a system of wayfinding signs not unlike those used for National Scenic Byways.

This Report on the MOU for Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 reflects both accomplishments along individual trails and decisions that advance the Trails System as a whole. (To correlate the 24 specific tasks of the 2006 MOU to the data clustered by topic below, see Attachment A, Checklist of MOU Tasks.)

## **AGENCY RESULTS**

NA = not applicable

n/a = not available

unkn = unknown

ITDS = Interagency Trail Data Standards

FGDC = Federal Geographic Data Committee

BLM = USDOJ Bureau of Land Management

FHWA = USDOT Federal Highway Administration

FS = USDA Forest Service

FWS = USDOJ Fish & Wildlife Service

NPS = USDOJ National Park Service

USACE = USDOD Army Corps of Engineers

## Agency Involvement in the National Trails System

	<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	yes	yes	yes	yes	3
Agency has finalized agency-wide policy on National Trails System	no <sup>(3)</sup>	no <sup>(3)</sup>	no <sup>(3)</sup>	<sup>(2)</sup>	no	no
Number of trails that actively use FTDS/FGDC standards <sup>(1)</sup>	0	4	0	n/a	900	0
Agency's NRT entries in Registry are current and accurate.	unkn	unkn	no	n/a	no	unkn

- Notes: (1) These standards have not yet been finalized, but FWS used the draft standards for their updated trails database.
- (2) FHWA does not manage any trail facilities, but cooperates as a partner. National trails are referenced in several FHWA guidance documents.
- (3) All three agencies are drafting policy, with approval scheduled for FY 2009. BLM is producing a manual with three supporting handbooks. FS includes a section on NSTs and NHTs in their policy directives. And NPS has drafted Directors Order 45 for consideration by its leadership.

In addition, these agencies have collaborated in the support of various meetings, publications, and websites during FY 2008:

- All of these agencies helped to support and plan two workshops that were arranged by the Partnership for the National Trails System. The first occurred in Phoenix in May, 2008, with a concentration on historic trail issues. The other was held in Little Rock, AR, in November, on expanding outreach and youth involvement.
- Several of these 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.
- The USDA Forest Service prepared testimony supporting the designation of the Arizona and Pacific Northwest Trails as national scenic trails.
- The FWS has taken on responsibility for coordinating the weeklong training course, "Trails Management: Policies, Plans, and People." It was offered twice in 2008 and will be held three times in 2009.
- FHWA used Recreational Trails Program funds to help several initiatives benefiting the National Trails System, including:
  - Revision and reprinting of the *National Trails System Map and Guide*.
  - Updating the *National Recreation Trails* brochure.
  - A guide to transportation funding called *Conservation Corps and Transportation: Making the Connection*.
  - Support for the FS's Technology and Development program that assists State and Federal land-managing agencies, including many trail publications.
  - Convening an annual meeting of State Trail Administrators' meeting to encourage interaction on NST, NHT, and NRT issues.
  - Supports funding for NST and NHT projects through the Transportation Enhancement (TE) activities, as coordinated through the States.

**Trail-Administering Agencies’ Involvement in the National Trails System**

	<u>BLM</u>	<u>FS</u>	<u>NPS</u>
Agency contact lists are up to date and available.	yes <sup>(1)</sup>	n/a	yes
At least one interagency annual meeting occurred in FY.	yes	yes	yes
Number of instances where other programs were consulted.	many	many	many

Notes: (1) Keeping these lists current is a challenge due to many recent retirements and position changes.

Our agencies carried out additional innovative nation wide partnership actions in FY 2008 that are not credited elsewhere in this report. They include:

- Most of our agencies continued to participate in the Federal Trails Data Standards process and the current review of those standards by the Federal Geographic Data Committee.
- Many of our agencies joined together to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Trails System Act on October 2. We provided hundreds of anniversary banners to our field offices.
- BLM, FS, and NPS provided comments and guidance for the Department of Energy’s Westwide Energy Corridor PEIS, one of the most comprehensive threats to components of the National Trails System in many years.
- Both FS and NPS are working with GIS staff to develop publically-accessible GIS layers showing all the NSTs, NHTs, and NRTs.
- BLM led a training needs assessment for National Trails System partners, hosting an expert review team in June. (The final assessment report is due out in 2009).
- BLM helped fund the California Historic Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, NV, and other high priority projects. It also updated project codes for each trail and seeks to establish sub-activity accounts to foster transparency and accountability.
- FWS now updates its list of NRTs and reports them as “heritage assets.”
- FS began discussions on a Youth Outreach Initiative for the 2009 National Scenic and Historic Trails Conference in Missoula, MT.
- NPS initiated the \$837,000 grants program called CONNECT TRAILS TO PARKS. In FY 2008, the 14 recipient projects enhanced visitor information services in or near a variety of NPS park areas.
- NPS submitted comments to incorporate National Trails System wayfinding markers along roads and highways to become officially incorporated into the *Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices*.



**National Recreation Trails Recognized**

Twenty five new NRTs were recognized by the Secretary of the Interior on June 3, 2008. Two additional NRTs were recognized by the USDA Forest Service. Nine of these trails are located wholly or partially on Federal lands, including:

<u>Trail</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>	<u>Length (in miles)</u>
Arrowwood Leg of the Fort Totten Trail	ND	FWS	9
Black Canyon Trail	AZ	BLM	62
Canyon Trail	NM	FWS	2
Chupadera Wilderness Trail	NM	FWS	10
Funk Peterson Wildlife Trail	NE	FWS	3
Mountains-to-Sea Trail	NC	FS	169
Ozark Trail	MO	FS	262
Rend Lake Bike Trail	IL	USACE	19
Sully's Hill Nature Trail	ND	FWS	2

### Training

To one degree or another, each of our agencies participates in the National Trails Training Partnership (NTTP), a coalition of seven Federal agencies and 13 national nonprofit organizations. It is coordinated by American Trails, based in Redding, California. NTTP's main service is a constantly updated website calendar currently listing dozens of training opportunities nationwide ([www.nttp.net](http://www.nttp.net)). Several of us help finance this partnership through cooperative agreements. In addition, over the past several years, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has hosted the weeklong interagency training class, "Basic Trail Management: People, Plans, and Policy," offered twice this past year. In FY 2008, funded by FHWA and conducted by BLM staff in Phoenix, a National Trails System Training Needs Assessment was conducted to highlight areas of training needed by our various agencies and partners.

### TRAIL STATISTICS

Many of the 6-agency National Trails System MOU's work elements only apply to trails where comprehensive management planning has been completed and on-the-ground accomplishments and partnerships are well underway. For FY 2008 some statistics may not be available for newly established trails that are currently in the planning phase: Old Spanish, El Camino Real de los Tejas, Captain John Smith Chesapeake, and Star Spangled Banner NHTs. For some tables, the California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express NHTs are listed together because they share resources and routes in many places. NA = not applicable, n/a = not available, unkn = unknown

<u>CHANGES IN TRAIL LENGTH</u>				
Trail	New miles of trail opened to the public in 07	Total miles of trail now open to the public and maintained	(NHTs only) miles of auto tour route signed in FY 07	(NHTs only) Total miles of auto tour route now signed
<u>National Scenic Trails</u>				
Appalachian NST	2	2,178		
Continental Divide NST	72	c. 1,800		
Florida NST	101	1,266		
Ice Age NST	8	565		
Natchez Trace NST	0	65		
North Country NST	22	1,850		
Pacific Crest NST	0	2,650		
Potomac Heritage NST		830		
<b>NST SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>205</b>	<b>c. 11,200</b>		

<u>National Historic Trails</u>				
California NHT				5,415
Iditarod NHT	15	2,227		
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		c. 250		486
Mormon Pioneer NHT				1,300
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	4	1,174		1,500
Oregon NHT				2,170
Overmountain Victory NHT	3	70		104
Pony Express NHT			10	1,200
Santa Fe NHT	n/a	n/a		1,202
Selma to Montgomery NHT	NA	54		54
Trail of Tears NHT	n/a	n/a		993
<b>NHT SUBTOTALS</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,775</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14,424</b>
<b>COMBINED TOTALS</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>c. 14,975</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14,424</b>

Note: In some cases auto tour routes are longer than the trail's designated length because two roads (perhaps on both sides of a river) are designated. Or, the auto tour may zigzag to approximate a much straighter historic route across the landscape. Along the Lewis & Clark NHT, state agencies are responsible for marking the auto tour routes.

Compared to FY 2007, the number of miles of NSTs open to the public increased 1%.

<u>CHANGES IN PROTECTION</u> Only trails reporting are listed.	Acres inventoried or surveyed in '07	Acres protected by Federal agencies in FY '07	Acres protected by non-Federal parties in FY '07
Trail			
Appalachian NST	0	116	10,440
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	19		
Florida NST	506	48	682
Ice Age NST			1,260
Iditarod NHT	16,340		16,340
Overmountain Victory NHT		100	100
Pacific Crest NST		0	unkn
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16,865</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>28,822</b>

Compared to FY 2007, there was a significant increase in the acreage protected by non-Federal partners to help protect these trails, increasing from 1,795 acres in 2007 to 28,822 acres in 2008. More than half this amount consists of 337 miles set aside by the State of Alaska with a 400-foot wide right-of-way to protect the Iditarod NHT on state lands. Sites of level-1 significance value, as identified in the Trail's CMP, are also included. This effort is jointly funded by BLM and the Recreational Trails Program.

<b>STATUS OF HIGH POTENTIAL SITES AND SEGMENTS ALONG NHTs</b>			
Only trails reporting are listed.			
Trail	Total number associated with the trail	Number protected in FY 07	Number experiencing threats in FY 07
California NHT	295	101	20
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	197	0	21
Iditarod NHT	62	34	4
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	119	n/a	3
Lewis and Clark NHT	524	3	45
Mormon Pioneer NHT	64	29	16
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	7 <sup>(1)</sup>		3
Old Spanish NHT	n/a	n/a	4
Oregon NHT	146	69	8
Overmountain Victory NHT	34	1	4
Pony Express NHT	295	100	6
Santa Fe NHT	225	unkn	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	7	1	0
Trail of Tears NHT	52	unkn	unkn
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2,027</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>134</b>

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

Compared to FY 2007, these statistics show a 40 % increase in NHT sites protected in FY 2008, and a 40 % decline in the number of sites reported as threatened.

<b>CHANGES IN DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATION</b>					
Only trails reporting data are listed.					
Trail	Miles of trail improved or constructed in FY 08	Number of structures <sup>(1)</sup> installed FY 08	Number of new certified sites and segments in FY 08	Acreage of certifications in FY 08	Miles of new certifications in FY 08
Appalachian NST	21	3			
California and Oregon NHTs			1		
Continental Divide NST	72	4			
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT		1			
Florida NST	41	10	3		67
Ice Age NST	22		8		173
Iditarod NHT	15				
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT			n/a		
Lewis and Clark NHT	3	2	0	0	0
Natchez Trace NST	54	c. 6			
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	80	7			
North Country NST	22	13	13		22
Oregon NHT			1	2	0.2

Overmountain Victory NHT	3	1	5	15	3
Pacific Crest NST	311	11			
Potomac Heritage NST <sup>(2)</sup>	6				310
Santa Fe NHT			1		0
Trail of Tears NHT			3		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>640</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>575.2</b>
% Change from FY 2007	+ 78 %	- 82 %	- 40 %	- 94 %	+ 650 %

- Notes: (1) Major structures include bridges, kiosks, trailheads, campgrounds, and similar investments.  
(2) This trail is authorized to carry out segment “designations,” not certifications.

<u>DATA MANAGEMENT</u>				
Y = yes, N = no, unkn = unknown				
Trail	Trail has full-time or part-time data steward	Data sets are updated and accessible to public	Website hits during FY 07 (in 1000s)	Publications distributed in FY 07 (in 1000s)
Ala Kahakai NHT	Y	N	n/a	c. 2.5
Appalachian NST	Y	Y	212	10
California NHT	Y		140	276
Continental Divide NST	Y	some	few	0
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	Y	N	21	0.7
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	Y	Y	17	0.5
Florida NST	Y	Y	5,213	78.5
Ice Age NST	Y	Y	55	n/a
Iditarod NHT	N	Y		22
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	N	some	38	26
Lewis and Clark NHT	Y	Y	252	27.5
Mormon Pioneer NHT	Y	N	77	68
Natchez Trace NST	Y	n/a	n/a	0
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	N	Y	120	c. 50
North Country NST	Y	Y	58	50
Old Spanish NHT	Y	Y	33	0.2
Oregon NHT	Y	N	110	83
Overmountain Victory NHT	Y	N		10
Pacific Crest NST	Y	Y	unkn	45
Pony Express NHT	Y	N	104	60.5
Santa Fe NHT	N	N	71	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	Y	N	n/a	c. 10
Trail of Tears NHT	N	N	262	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>18 Y, 5N</b>	<b>9 Y, 9 N</b>	<b>c. 6.8 mill.</b>	<b>c. 820 k</b>

These figures are similar to data from FY 2007, with a steady increase in website hits (5 %) and publications (25 %) made available to the public.

Note: The NPS Lewis and Clark office in Omaha has developed a project tracking system for monitoring projects and issues the length of the trail. As many as 50 projects a month are reviewed and entered and many distributed to staff for their expert review. In 2008, over 45 projects were reviewed and comments formally submitted to the initiating agencies. Among these have been 20 management plans by BLM, FS, FWS, USACE, and the Bureau of Reclamation. They have also moved to an enterprise GIS system. About 70% of the desired information sets have been acquired, amounting to 2.5 terabytes.

<u>MAPPING</u> Only trails reporting data are listed.	Level of GIS/GPS activity	Frequency that trail is shown on national and state maps
Trail		
Ala Kahakai NHT	often	never
Appalachian NST	full	always
Continental Divide NST	little or none	sometimes
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	some	unkn
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	often	sometimes
Florida NST	full	often
Ice Age NST	often	sometimes
Iditarod NHT	often	often
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	little or none	sometimes
Lewis and Clark NHT	full	often
Mormon Pioneer NHT	some	often
Natchez Trace NST	little or none	sometimes
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	some	often
North Country NST	often	sometimes
Old Spanish NHT	often	sometimes
Oregon NHT	some	often
Overmountain Victory NHT	often	sometimes
Pacific Crest NST	often	often
Pony Express NHT	some	often
Santa Fe NHT	some	sometimes
Selma to Montgomery NHT	some	never
Trail of Tears NHT	little or none	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 appears on national and state maps seems to be a function of their age – the ones established first being the best known.

Unified tracking system – In FY 2008 work in this area has occurred on two fronts:

- 1) Collection of key indicator data showing system-wide accomplishments (this report), and
- 2) Development of the Federal Trail Data Standards (FTDS) now being embedded in agency and departmental enterprise data architecture.

The FTDS includes detailed attributes for accessibility, administrative identity, location characteristics, maintenance and development costs, uses (both designated and actual), significance, National Register status, planning status, site status, condition and management classes, and associated visitor facilities. Work on Phase I (attribute definition) is complete. Phase II, field testing in the Greater Yellowstone area, illustrated how variable each agency's current data structures are. Phase III is now underway with the submission of the ITDS to the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to undergo the process that creates Federal data standards. Concurrently, the Department of the Interior's Enterprise Geospatial Information Management (EGIM) task force is using the complexity of trails data to help configure complex multi-agency data systems.

<u>UNMET NEEDS</u> Only trails reporting data are listed.	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		c. 20
Continental Divide NHT	600-1200		(2)
Florida NST	300		unkn
Ice Age NST	600 +		
Natchez Trace NST			
North Country NST	c. 2,700		
Pacific Crest NST	0		unkn
Potomac Heritage NST	240		
<u>National Historic Trails</u>			
Ala Kahakai NHT		250	many
California NHT		3,600	194
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT		entire trail	unkn
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	0	404	21
Iditarod NHT (1)			unkn
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		c. 300	unkn
Mormon Pioneer NHT			35
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT		0	many
Old Spanish NHT	0	2,700	192
Oregon NHT		600	77
Overmountain Victory NHT	260	201	
Pony Express NHT		800	194
Santa Fe NHT		0	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT		0	45
Trail of Tears NHT		0	unkn
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>c. 5,000</b>	<b>9,800 +</b>	<b>c. 800 +</b>

Notes: (1) 300 miles of Trail, in 100 different segments, still need to be inventoried and surveyed.  
(2) 2,000 miles of the CDNST have inadequate regulatory protective authorities.

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. The number of miles of auto tour route still to be signed has risen markedly due to the addition of new trails in recent years.

## **PARTNERSHIPS AND PLANNING**

<b><u>PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES</u></b>					
Trail	Number of compliance actions and reviews during FY 07	Number of trailwide partner meetings	Number of new partner agreements in FY 07	Number of officially recognized volunteer hours contributed	Number of consultations and involvement with other programs
Ala Kahakai NHT		c. 25	2	8,500	lots
Appalachian NST	65	12	2	202,260	c. 35
California NHT	111	10	15	1,630	c. 200
Continental Divide NST	1	2	<sup>(1)</sup>	18,600	some
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	0	3		unkn	0
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	7	2	1	2,269	7
Florida NST	2	1	1	68,341	111
Ice Age NST	10	8		42,290	5
Iditarod NHT	c. 8	c. 15	1	unkn	c. 25
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT		1	3	10,723	many
Lewis and Clark NHT <sup>(2)</sup>	660	1	5	56,200	35
Mormon Pioneer NHT	90	0	0		20
Natchez Trace NST	0	0	0		2-3
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	c. 25	2	c. 17	16,231	a lot
North Country NST	c. 15	4	22	49,290	
Old Spanish NHT	2	2	2	420	8
Oregon NHT	90	2	13	500	100
Overmountain Victory NHT	3	2	3	3,000	90
Pacific Crest NST	c. 10	3	4	67,994	c. 250
Pony Express NHT	21	6	4	1,130	104
Potomac Heritage NST	4		6		
Santa Fe NHT	0	2	4	unkn	unkn
Selma to Montgomery NHT	0	1	1	4,682	a few
Trail of Tears NHT	1	2	5	unkn	numerous
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>c. 1,130</b>	<b>c. 105</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>554,060 +</b>	<b>c. 1,520 +</b>

Notes: (1) This year the Forest Service significantly increased the cooperative agreement scope and financial assistance to one of its major partners, the Continental Divide Trail Alliance.

(2) The Lewis & Clark NHT staff count 121 active partnerships of which 63 are formally documented. They also note that this year they have aggressively connected with some new information systems to help monitor and track resource threats. These include ER2000 (an NPS environmental review protocol), FWS's State Ecological Services, a news clipping service, USACE mailing lists, FS Standard Operating Procedures Administration, and various state agencies, tribal contact lists, and nonprofit networks.

Several trends seem to be going one at once in this arena to trail activity. Compared to FY 2007, compliance actions have mushroomed (+ 288 % increase) , trailwide meetings have diminished (- 40 % decrease), new agreements have grown (+ 62 % increase), formally recognized volunteer hours have dropped (- 15 % decline), while consultations have mushroomed (+ 300 % increase).

<u>PLANNING ACTIVITIES</u>				
Trail	Participation in statewide, metropolitan, and local planning	No. of local trail corridor plans	No. of partners involved in trail planning	No. of interagency projects
Ala Kahakai NHT	frequent	2	c. 10	3
Appalachian NST	very frequent	0	390	c. 40
California NHT	little or none		3	33
Continental Divide NST		12 +	many	2
El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT	little or none	0	numerous	0
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT	occasional	2	numerous	11
Florida NST	very frequent	2	64	5
Ice Age NST	frequent	9	11	
Iditarod NHT	occasional	1	4	c. 10
Juan Bautista de Anza NHT	occasional	1	25 +	3 +
Lewis and Clark NHT		15	14	15
Mormon Pioneer NHT	little or none	0	4	20
Natchez Trace NST	little or none		1	0
Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) NHT	very frequent	2	20 +	6 +
North Country NST	occasional	1	23	
Old Spanish NHT	occasional	unkn	numerous	
Oregon NHT	little or none		4	25
Overmountain Victory NHT	very frequent	4	40	3
Pacific Crest NST	occasional	6	many	3
Pony Express NHT	occasional	2	6	25
Potomac Heritage NST	frequent	1		
Santa Fe NHT	occasional	n/a	numerous	0
Selma to Montgomery NHT	little or none	unkn	n/a	3
Trail of Tears NHT	occasional	n/a	numerous	0
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>60 +</b>	<b>600 +</b>	<b>200 +</b>

All of these statistics are up compared to FY 2007. The number of local trail corridor plans has almost doubled, the number of planning partners is way up, and the number of interagency projects is up slightly.

### INNOVATIVE ACTIONS

A wide variety of innovative actions in FY 2008 reflects the diversity of the national trails and the cooperative spirit of this interagency MOU:

### Ala Kahakai NHT

- The University of Hawaii's Department of Urban and Regional Planning serves as this trail's GIS research center, scanning historic maps. This data is then processed at Redlands University near ESRI headquarters in California. Redlands University is also building the Trail's geospatial database.
- The comprehensive management plan (CMP) was finally completed (after eight years' work) and submitted to Congress. This planning process successfully merged traditional Hawaiian values and planning with the requirements of the National Trails System Act and contemporary planning techniques.
- NPS helped strengthen the 9-member Ala Kahakai Trail Association board. They meet monthly to keep the Trail's vision current and fresh as the CMP now becomes implemented.

### Appalachian NST

- The Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program conducted workshops in North Carolina, West Virginia, and Maine. It recruited 50 teachers for the 2008 program, held four local workshops in the spring and a third successful week-long Summer Institute at FWS's National Conservation Training Center in July. In three years, TTEC has trained 125 teachers and community partners and engaged approximately 3,000 students. NPS also conducted a two-day facilitated strategic planning meeting with partners to examine options for the continued roll-out and expansion of the TTEC program.
- NPS worked with the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller NHS and other partners to secure a \$60,000 Connect Trails to Parks (CTTP) grant for planning and design of a 1.5 mile trail to connect the "AT" to this park. Staff also worked with NPS's RTCA program on another \$100,000 CTTP grant for a nationwide partnership with the YMCA promoting both the National Trails System and the National Park System, featuring the Appalachian and Selma to Montgomery Trails.
- NPS staffer Pam Underhill gave the keynote talk on the "AT" at a long distance trail workshop in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Brazil is now seeking "sister park" status with the Trail.
- After conducting two successful gateway community pilot programs in 2006-07 to gauge community interest and gain feedback for developing a trail-wide program, staff moved forward with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy's regional committee and Stewardship Council structure to develop a community engagement and recognition program. This footpath enters or lies within five miles of 104 local towns. Great Barrington, Massachusetts has been selected as an early pilot town, with support from the Coca Cola Corporation through the National Park Foundation.
- The Appalachian National Scenic Trail Resource Management Plan has been completed after many years of effort.
- Staff published the Appalachian Trail MEGA-Transect report and also prepared and submitted all necessary documentation for the "A.T. MEGA-Transect" to be selected as one of the NPS 2008 Centennial Challenge projects.
- Staff held advanced discussions with Pennsylvania's State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and others regarding the eligibility of the Trail in Pennsylvania for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

### California National Historic Trail

- NPS has recently been awarded a \$499,000 Transportation Enhancements grant by CalTrans to provide highway signs along the auto tour routes of the California and Pony Express NHTs. This is the culmination of months of negotiations and may affect as many as 3,000 miles of roadway just in California. Implementation will take several phases (5-6 years) and involve volunteers from both the Oregon-California Trails Association and the National Pony Express Association.

### Continental Divide NST

- For a new Forest Service (FS) management policy directive for the Trail, staff have reviewed 8,000 public comments getting ready to prepare the draft which will clarify management policies and amend the Trail's CMP, addressing long-term trail use management.
- FS delegated more responsibilities for CDTA through an upgraded cooperative agreement – fostering higher levels of stewardship in response to CDTA's increasing growth and decentralization.
- Trail staff increased involvement with the various trail states, especially New Mexico, on such issues as land access, financial grants for partners, and links to FS lands.

### El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT

- NPS staff developed and distributed for free the DVD *On the Road to Partnerships* to encourage partners to join the Trail effort.
- Staff presented a paper, "Traversing the Wildness: El Camino Real in Eastern Texas" at the Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. It touched on how transportation corridors can be used to teach America's heritage and also what might be some practical guidelines for mapping NHTs.

### El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro NHT

- The New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer has begun field work for identifying and nominating eligible portions of the Trail to the National register of Historic Places.
- In partnership with an archeological research firm and the Camino Real Trail Association, NPS and BLM helped carry out a metal-detector survey of high visitor impact areas along *La Jornada del Muerto* section of the Trail in anticipation of two new trailheads, a side trail, and a retracement trail with interpretation.
- Along the *Jornada del Muerto*, BLM obtained an easement of 6.1 miles from the New Mexico State Lands Office.

### Florida NST

- Recent visitor count studies by the University of Florida document 500,000 trail visitors per year, only a few of whom are through-hikers. Most users are local and average 4 hours or less per trip. This will be incorporated in later phases for marketing studies to help build the visibility of the Trail and document changes in use patterns.
- A corridor condition assessment inventoried 1,177 miles of trail, 22,057 linear feet of boardwalk, 152 bridges, 46 trailside kiosks, and 89 campsites.
- One Florida Trail Association staffer completed the necessary coursework to become a Red Cross First Aid instructor to teach more than 120 certified volunteer sawyers working along the trail.
- At the St. Marks National Wildlife refuge, FS and FWS completed remodeling an interagency volunteer housing compound along the Trail. Since completion, the facility has become home base for Alternative Spring Break, Americorps, Student Conservation Association, and F-Troop trail crews.

### Ice Age NST

- This year, in close cooperation with the NPS Midwest Region, Dane County, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, staff launched the General Management Plan for the 1600-acre Cross Plains multi-ownership parcel. After many meetings, a Foundation Statement was agreed to, interpretive themes were developed, and three alternatives were proposed. In 2009, the Environmental Impact Statement will be inaugurated.

### Iditarod NHT

- The Centennial of the Alaska Gold Rush started last year with many events all around the state and a series of gubernatorial proclamations. It extends through 2012. Staff worked in the BLM booth at the Alaska Sportsmen's Show and contacted over 20,000 participants. Also, they arranged a display about the Trail's history and uses at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art where 90,000 people attended.
- A 282-acre historic site easement has been established by the State of Alaska for the entire town site of Iditarod village.
- BLM has digitized 5,500 historic maps, field notes, and photos to preserve their contents and make them more accessible. These documents are currently kept on a BLM server.
- An application for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (as a discontinuous thematic district) for 25 roadhouses sites along the Trail was accepted by the Alaska State Historic Advisory Council.
- A partnership with the Bering Straits School District provides live teleconferencing during the Iditarod Race each March. 100 schools nationwide tuned in last year. Student announcers filled in down time with historic profiles.
- The BLM trail office won the 2008 National Archeology Month poster of which 2000 were distributed nationwide.

### Juan Bautista de Anza NHT

- Started up the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program for the Trail. One at a state park in San Juan Bautista, CA, and the other at Santa Monica Mountains NRA outside LA. Teacher, serving as NPS seasonal employees in the summer, create curricula to take about the trails for 3-4<sup>th</sup> graders and HS levels and take them back to their schools. See [www.nps.gov/JUBA](http://www.nps.gov/JUBA) website "for teachers."
- The Trail's first film is in production by the Environmental Exchange in Tucson, AZ.
- The first permanent interpretive exhibit about the trail is being designed to be installed in the Martinez Adobe on the grounds of the John Muir National Historical Site in Martinez, CA. This facility is due to be open Spring 2010.
- "Native People, the Anza Expedition, and the Settlement of California" was published this fall as an insert in the quarterly magazine, *Native Californian*. Written by Mickey Ellinger, published by Heyday Books, and funded through the NPS Challenge Cost-Share program, this booklet examines the Anza Expedition from the perspective of today's Native American populations.

### Lewis and Clark NHT

- NPS introduced the Trail's new Resources Stewardship program to the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) for the 11 states along the Trail, soliciting state documentation about Lewis and Clark-related resources.
- NPS staff met with tribal councils and tribal resource officers for 14 tribes, providing information about the Trail's preservation mission and offering collaboration.
- NPS is developed a GIS-based recreational data set for both Trail-related water trails and the Lewis and Clark bike route. The trail office in Omaha has also built new resource-related partnerships with the FS in Montana, the Omaha USACE District, the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, The Nature Conservancy, the University of Missouri Geographic Resources Center, the NPS Midwest Archeology Center, and the NPS GIS Technical Support Center.

- Following the recent Bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, staff are reformulating the Trail's major interpretive themes and sharing them with partners as new projects and services develop.
- This office is the only NPS trail that operates a visitor center. In FY 2008 it served 17,800 people, coordinated 594 on-site or web-based Junior Rangers, and connected with 16,000 people along the Trail. In addition, staff participated in numerous special events such as the Nebraska State Fair.
- The Trail's tribal liaison, stationed at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park at the mouth of the Columbia River coordinated a "Day of Discovery" for 4<sup>th</sup> grade students with "Destination the Pacific Tribal Guide" for teachers and visitor center staff.
- NPS has launched a new cooperative agreement with the University of Montana and others to document the Bicentennial Legacy, capitalizing on the Tent of Many Voices presentations. Work is also underway on a Corps II administrative and interpretive history.

#### Nez Perce NHT

- In partnership with the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, FS replaced and updated interpretive signs and an information kiosk on US 12 near Lolo Pass.
- FS conducted archaeological investigations at Camas Meadows and White Bird Battlefield with NPS and BLM.
- FS staff Helped sponsor the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Preparation for Academic Excellence (PACE) math and science camp at Lewis-Clark State College for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### North Country NST

- Supported by NPS Connect Trails to Parks funds, Dayton-area residents could learn backpacking skills at Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, with a skills trip to Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. The program was coordinated by 5 River MetroParks.

#### Old Spanish NHT

- In various states, the BLM, the NPS, and the SHPOs' offices are developing a Multiple Properties Nomination Form and historic context statement, as well as site and segment-specific National Register nominations with support from a BLM NLCS Science grant, NPS funds, and in-kind contributions from the SHPOs.

#### Oregon National Historic Trail

- The NPS Salt Lake City staff researched, wrote, and published the auto tour route guide to the national historic trails of Idaho. It is also available on the trail website as an e-download for tech-savvy travelers.
- Staff also completed a series of 14 wayside exhibits in Soda Springs, Idaho.

#### Overmountain Victory NHT

- With funding from the new NPS Connect-Trails-To-Parks program, trail staff and staff at Cowpens National Battlefield and Kings Mountain National Military Park produced and distributed medals to reward young people who walk portions of the trail at these sites.

#### Pacific Crest NST

- In partnership with the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), FS has produced a Land Acquisition Strategy to identify and prioritize needed parcels. The Pacific Crest Trail Association was assisted by foundation funding for data collection, map creation, and landscape architectural services.

- PCTA has a variety of successful programs designed to recruit diverse youth populations. In 2008, a college-aged Alternative Spring Break program was launched with Utah State University and Georgia Institute of Technology producing 675 hours of volunteer trail maintenance. The Trailblazing Program at the William S. Hart Union High School offers unique work opportunities for its underserved student population, giving them experience in forestry and trail maintenances, as well as workforce preparation. In 2008, the crew contributed more than 1,000 hours of PCT maintenance.

#### Pony Express National Historic Trail

- In a NPS/BLM partnership, 11 wayside exhibits are being installed in Utah's West Desert, with strong involvement by the National Pony Express Association and the White Buffalo Nation.
- NPS, as trail administrator, and BLM, as the district land manager, are working with Eureka Moly LLC to minimize adverse impacts of molybdenum mining along the Trail near Eureka, Nevada. Although the trail corridor itself may remain largely preserved, landmark Mount Hope may end up being entirely removed.

#### Potomac Heritage NST

- NPS staff completed a wayside exhibit plan for the Piedmont section of the Trail in Virginia, implementing the recent trailwide graphic guidelines.
- The Trail was incorporated into the *Virginia Outdoors Plan* as one of Virginia's six trunkline trails.
- The Great Allegheny Passage portion of the trail was included to complete gaps in the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, area, as part of that city's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

#### Santa Fe NHT

- Staff developed a web-based database of the "Rediscovery Trip" in 2007 to assess trail development.

#### Selma to Montgomery NHT

- The three county-based Friends of the Trail groups are developing a network of support and working together to support trail-wide initiatives.
- The Hall Family Farm pond, at campsite #1, was re-created last summer and became the site of a stirring educational program for underprivileged kids from the three counties along the Trail.
- Two travelers information broadcast stations were installed to provide information about the trail at 1650 AM. Alabama's Department of Transportation provided the signs.
- The 2008 Bloody Sunday Anniversary – a Week of Jubilee – featured reminiscences of life in Tent City, 1965-68.

#### Trail of Tears NHT

- NPS has signed an agreement with The Nature Conservancy to develop a visitor walking trail with interpretation at Mantle Rock, Kentucky.

## **CONCLUSION**

FY 2008 was a year of anniversaries, awards, and new challenges for the National Trails System. Not only have many of the trail base budgets increased significantly in recent years, but a new dedicated grant program – called Connect-Trails-to-Parks -- became available within the National Park Service. October 2 marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of passage of the National Trails System Act. That day all of our agencies participated in an event at the Smithsonian Institution featuring photographer Bart Smith.

In addition, two awards honored the Trails System as a whole. On August 15, Chairman John Nau of the U.S. Advisory Council on Historic Preservation recognized the efforts of the departments of the Interior and Agriculture (along with the Partnership for the National Trails System) in fostering historic preservation along national historic trails. A month later, both the Partnership for the National Trails System and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy received Kodak Greenways Awards at the National Geographic Society.

The anniversary period started back in February 2008 when the Partnership for the National Trails System launched “A Decade for the National Trails,” 2008-2018 and held meetings to formulate goals and objectives to enable all participants in the System to work together in a coordinated way. That work was celebrated, also in February, with a gala banquet held jointly with the Natural Resources Council of America.

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 their international visitors. Happily, trail resources seem to be receiving increasing protection. And underlying all these efforts is an unwavering, impressive, and ever growing cadre of citizen volunteers.

Still, major threats face these trails. An aging workforce and changing technologies threaten current high numbers of volunteers. The faltering economy makes fundraising more difficult. 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. Vandalism, neglect, erosion, and development continue to take their toll at the local level on resources associated with these trails.

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## 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>Page</u>
1	Attend Trails Council, issue report	<i>Agency Results</i>	3
2	Develop policy	<i>Agency Results</i>	3
3	Participate widely in planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Planning Activities</i>	11-12
4	Coordinate trail plans with others	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11-12
5	Prepare and implement plans	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11-12
6	Conduct NEPA and NHPA compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning, Planning Activities</i>	11
7	Foster interagency training	<i>Agency Results</i>	3
8	Support meetings, publications, etc.	<i>Agency Results (narrative)</i>	3
9	(USACE only) Protect trail resources	(data not available for FY 2008)	
10	Develop data and mapping standards	<i>Trail Statistics, Data Management</i>	8-10
11	Collect and manage data and mapping	<i>Trail Statistics, Data Management + Mapping</i>	8-10
12	Update NRT listings	<i>Agency Results</i>	3
13	Formulate unified policies	<i>Agency Results</i>	3
14	Establish a contact list	<i>Agency Results</i>	4
15	Hold annual meeting	<i>Agency Results</i>	4
16	Execute supplemental agreements	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11
17	Cooperate in planning and compliance	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11
18	Encourage regular schedule of meetings	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11
19	Take full advantage of agency programs	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11
20	Coordinate for effectiveness	<i>Agency results</i>	3-4
21	Conduct collaborative planning	<i>Partnerships and Planning</i>	11-12
22	Enhance administration and management		(throughout)
23	Encourage innovation	<i>Innovative Actions</i>	12-17
24	Develop/use a unified tracking system	<i>Trail Statistics, Data Management + Mapping</i>	9-10



Covered wagon at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Wyoming. Restoration funded by the new NPS Connect Trails to Parks grants program.