

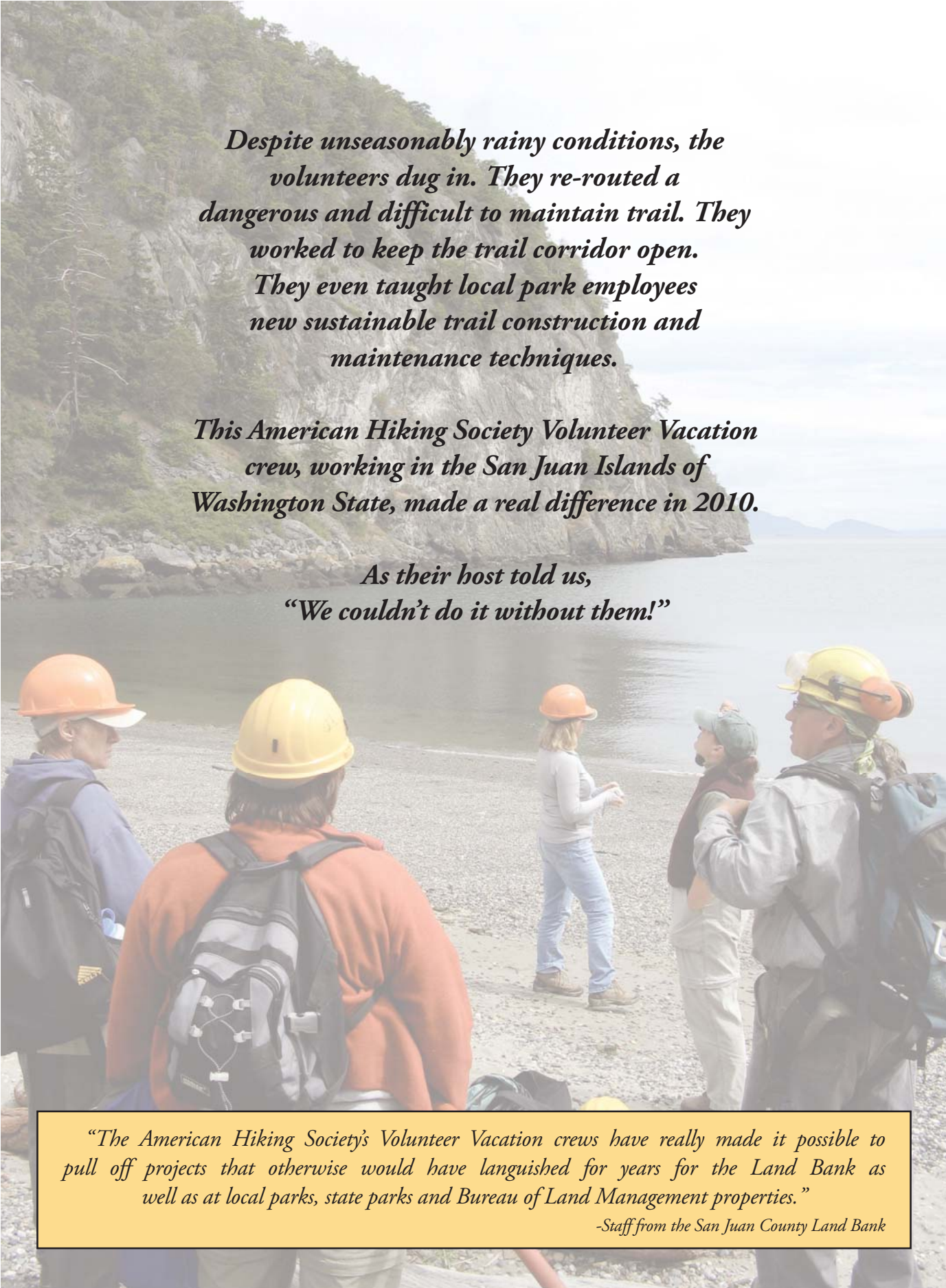


2010 *Annual Report*



Photo by: Gary Myers

American Hiking Society is the only national organization that promotes and protects hiking trails, their surrounding natural areas and the hiking experience itself.



Despite unseasonably rainy conditions, the volunteers dug in. They re-routed a dangerous and difficult to maintain trail. They worked to keep the trail corridor open. They even taught local park employees new sustainable trail construction and maintenance techniques.

This American Hiking Society Volunteer Vacation crew, working in the San Juan Islands of Washington State, made a real difference in 2010.

*As their host told us,
“We couldn’t do it without them!”*

“The American Hiking Society’s Volunteer Vacation crews have really made it possible to pull off projects that otherwise would have languished for years for the Land Bank as well as at local parks, state parks and Bureau of Land Management properties.”

-Staff from the San Juan County Land Bank



From the President and Chair

Dear Supporters:

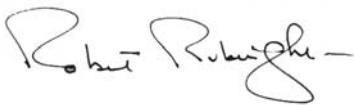
This past year, American Hiking Society experienced unprecedented growth in our signature trails and volunteer stewardship programs and our Alliance of Hiking Organizations membership has now grown to over 300 organizations. We enhanced our national partnerships with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, YMCA of the USA, Outdoor Nation and the First Lady's Let's Move Outside! campaign to activate and energize a new generation of hikers and trail stewards. We represented the more than 40 million hikers in America on critical outdoor recreation and conservation issues for sustained funding for trails and public lands, to protect the hiking experience from off-road vehicles, and to increase wilderness protection and volunteer stewardship.

In 2010, our National Trails Day®, Volunteer Vacations and National Trails Fund stewardship programs marshaled nearly 39,000 trail volunteers working on 909 trail projects across all fifty states and Puerto Rico—a 25% increase in trail projects over 2009. Under American Hiking Society's banner, these volunteers gave 209,000 hours of their time and sweat equity—service valued at more than \$4.2 million, to build or maintain 3,600 miles of hiking trail which represented a 64% increase from 2009. American Hiking-supported trail volunteers stepped up to the stewardship challenge to improve trail covering a distance greater than the combined length of the Arizona, Potomac Heritage and Appalachian National Scenic Trails and contributed to the long-term sustainability of our nation's trails. “Get Out and Give Back” was heard loud and clear from hikers and trail stewards across the nation this past year.

Because of the dedication of our board and staff, Alliance members, corporate, foundation and government partners we will leave a positive hiking and outdoor legacy for future generations. To our new members and supporters, as well as those who have hiked the trail with us before, thank you. Together we will remain steadfast in our commitment to protect the places you love to hike and increase the participation and enjoyment of hiking by Americans from all walks of life.

Experience and protect nature. Hike.

Sincerely,



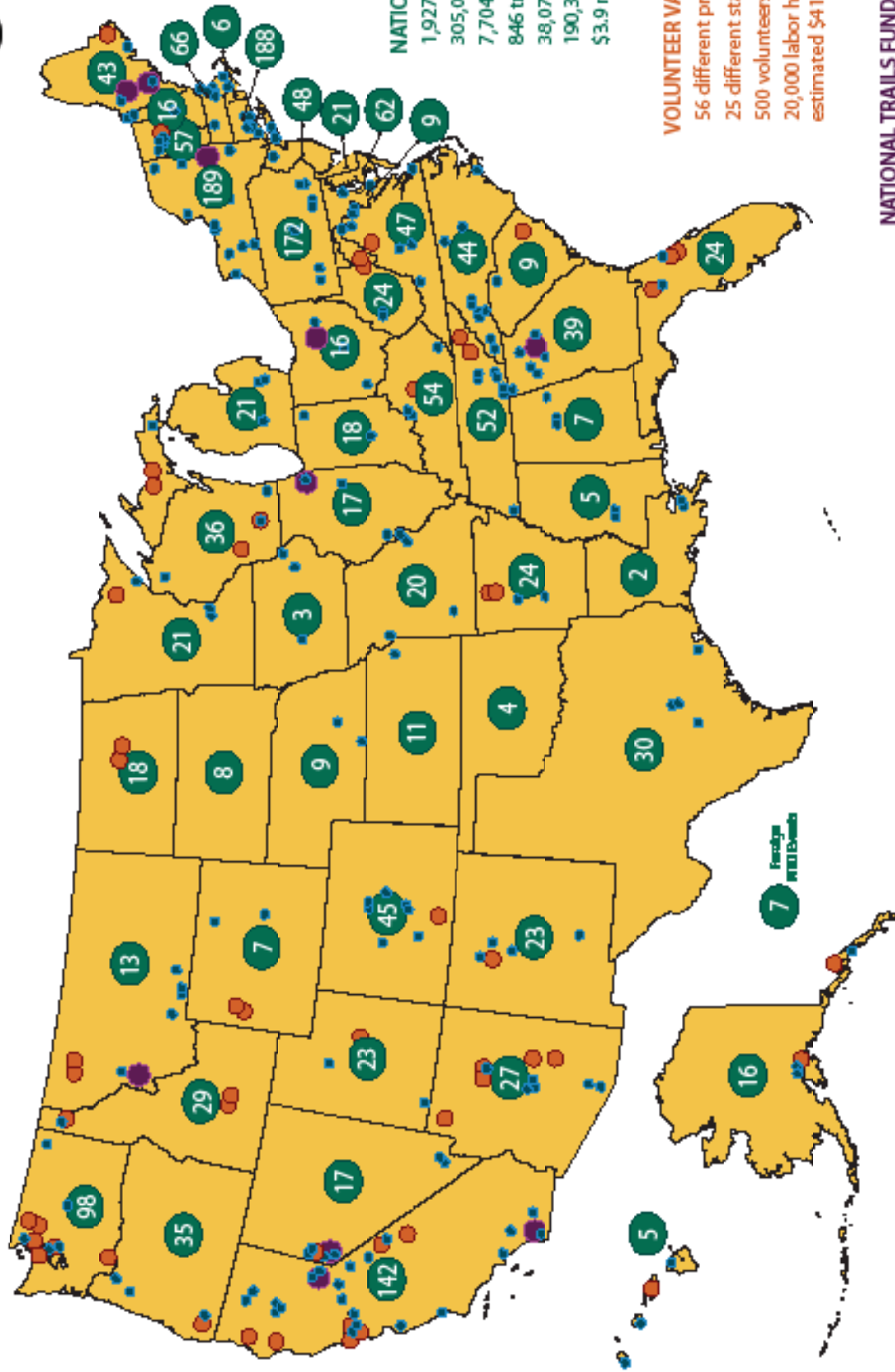
Robert Rubright
Chair, Board of Directors



Gregory A. Miller, Ph.D.
President

PROTECTING TRAILS NATIONWIDE

2010



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
 1,927 events
 305,000 participants
 7,704 miles hiked/biked
 846 trail projects
 38,070 trail volunteers
 190,350 volunteer hours
 \$3.9 million in labor

VOLUNTEER VACATIONS
 56 different projects
 25 different states
 500 volunteers
 20,000 labor hours, worth an estimated \$417,000

NATIONAL TRAILS FUND
 10 trail grants
 8 states
 \$27,000 awarded
 1,000s of volunteers supported

ALLIANCE OF HIKING ORGANIZATIONS
 Network of 190 trail and hiking groups promoting and protecting foot trails and the hiking experience

National Trails Day events held

● National Trails Fund grants awarded

● Volunteer Vacations trail projects

● American Hiking Society National Trails Day events held

Preserving the Trails You Hike

Whether it was by sending out more than 400 volunteers to spend a week maintaining and building hiking trails, or sponsoring National Trails Day®, which drew more than 38,000 volunteers who worked on trails nationwide, American Hiking Society ensured that America's hiking trails were cared for and kept open for your enjoyment.

Volunteer Vacationers on a project in Alaska focused on a segment of trail that attracts novice hikers and is heavily used, but trail safety and access was limited. In one section, volunteers installed 45 rock steps to establish a clear and safe route through what was a very treacherous section. Sustainability of the new tread was considered as the rocks installed created a long lasting (50+ year lifespan) tread through the section and impacted areas were revegetated.



“The work everyone did on the trail was so impressive and inspiring...The Iron Goat Trail is truly unique and special, and the work that so many have dedicated much of their lives to is a worthwhile lesson to my generation. If we wish the beauty of nature to still exist when we have grandchildren, these are the lessons and responsibilities that need to be shared and appreciated.”
-Kara Pavone, Iowa Volunteer Vacations Participant

“We at the Progress Center...were so thankful to receive a grant from the American Hiking Society. Your funding combined with financial assistance from our local hospital and several nearby businesses have allowed us to continue improving the Matthew Record Memorial Park and Trail located in our quaint village of Norway, Maine [in remembrance of] Matthew Record, a remarkable young man with disabilities.”

- Priscilla Burnette, The Progress Center, National Trails Fund grant recipient



“Each year we get motivated and experienced volunteers from a wide spectrum of backgrounds through American Hiking Society’s Volunteer Vacations program. During the past years our agency has been asked to do more with less funding and utilizing volunteers is an essential part of maintaining and improving Francis Marion National Forest’s recreation program.

-Jannah Dupre, South Carolina (Volunteer Vacations Host, Francis Marion National Forest)



On a project at Mount Baker in Snoqualmie National Forest, volunteers worked on trail building and restoration along the Park Butte Trail, an important trail frequented by many day hikers as well as experienced mountaineers en route to climb Mt. Baker. In addition to basic trail maintenance, volunteers installed three new crib steps in places that had become hazardous spots for passing from frequent use and weather conditions.

2010 Volunteer Vacations

- A total of 421 volunteers donated 16,840 volunteer hours and worked on 53 trail projects all across America
 - Volunteer crews built or maintained more than 440 miles of trail
 - Increased youth stewardship, hosting 27 students on Alternative Breaks

Protecting the Places You Love

Working with Congress, federal land management agencies, the administration, and non-profit conservation and recreation partners, American Hiking increased the protection and preservation of hiking trails and the lands around them, ensuring that the places you hike are protected for you and for future generations.



AHS was actively involved in the President's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative – an effort to develop a 21st century vision for conservation and stewardship. American Hiking participated in listening sessions and submitted official comments, which included creating more and better trail access opportunities, the need to complete trails, the potential to create green jobs, and the importance of community-

based recreation. When the White House released the final AGO report American Hiking was pleased that many of our comments and concerns were addressed.

In 2010, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) approached AHS to lead the development of a long-term, non-motorized recreation strategy for all BLM lands. This BLM non-motorized recreation strategy will be a significant step forward, as BLM manages more than 249 million acres in the West, including many premier hiking locations.



In August, 2010, Mt. Hood National Forest issued a new management plan that limits the places where off-highway vehicles (OHV's) such as ATV's and 4-wheel-drive vehicles may operate. Under this new plan all roads and trails are considered closed to OHV's unless specifically designated as open. This change closes 94% of the more than 2,300 miles of roads and trails in the forest to OHV traffic. Our members' support of American Hiking Society has helped us be able to represent hikers in this landmark decision which we believe will guide other national forests as they too try to preserve the trails for all users.



2010 Policy and Advocacy Highlights

- Hike the Hill: Trails Advocacy Week 2010 brought more than 100 trails advocates to D.C.
 - Held the first Hike the National Mall event
- Advocated on behalf of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act reauthorization
 - Participated in the Forest Service National Roundtables for the proposed Forest Planning Rule
 - Led the Outdoor Alliance efforts on complex FY 2011 federal budget and appropriations requests

American Hiking Society provided both new and experienced hikers with valuable information that helped them stay safe outdoors and helped them to enjoy and truly engage with nature. Because of American Hiking's efforts in 2010, thousands of people participated in hiking events, many for their very first time!

Helping Hikers on the Trail

In September, 2010, American Hiking helped roll out The North Face's Explore Your Parks program, which provides incentives and opportunities for families to learn about close-to-home outdoor recreation resources at their state parks. One of these events brought more than 75 youth out on the trail, almost none of whom ever hiked before. The kids had a blast!



American Hiking Society assisted several regional trail organizations and hiking clubs address user conflicts between hikers and mountain bikers. Addressing these user conflicts on the trail helps to create a better and more enjoyable experience for all who share the trail. Trail construction and sustainability, its Wilderness designation, and its current and intended users all play an important role in developing policies governing trail use and administration.



In June, 2010, American Hiking collaborated with more than thirty conservation groups and outdoor industry companies for the first annual Outdoor Youth Summit and the launch of the Outdoor Foundation's Outdoor Nation – a program that empowers young people to reclaim, redefine and rediscover the outdoors.



With more than 25,000 subscribers to its electronic newsletter and social media streams, American Hiking reaches out to hikers and outdoors enthusiasts nationwide addressing issues such as hiker safety, trail advocacy, how-to information, current happenings in the outdoor community, and offering encouragement to new hikers.

The U.S. Postal Service created a special National Trails Day postmark that was used from June 5 – July 5 in 23 key trail gateway communities around the Appalachian, Pacific Crest and Continental Divide National Scenic Trails as well as in the Grand Canyon and Acadia National Parks. This NTD outreach helped increase public awareness and appreciation of these national treasures.



2010 National Trails Day®

- 305,000 people attended 1,927 NTD events nationwide
- 38,070 volunteers contributed 190,350 hours of volunteer labor at 846 trail projects
 - 3,151 miles of trail were maintained or constructed by volunteers
- Participants hiked or walked 4,904 miles, paddled 419 miles, rode horseback for 1,303 miles and biked 2,800 miles
 - NTD reached more than 179 million people through extensive media coverage

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Appalachian Trail Conservancy
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