

FINAL REPORT 2015

Alexandra Novitske captured 1st Place in our Nationa
Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ photo contest with this stunning photo at
Great Sand Dunes National Preserve.


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Official National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ logo designed by Sharon K. Schafer of Skydance Studios.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Now 23 years strong,
NTD is one of the nation's
largest outdoor initiatives and serves as the premier celebration of our nation's incredible trails system.

Our nation's trails offer
Americans from all walks of life boundless opportunities to enjoy nature, renew themselves, and establish a lifetime of fitness.
From city dwellers and suburban families to rural and country residents, children to senior citizens, recent immigrants to people with deep roots here, trails offer every American a healthy, enjoyable way to spend time outside.

Celebrated on June 6, 2015, American Hiking Society's 23rd annual National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ encouraged all Americans to get outside, get active and experience the myriad opportunities for outdoor recreation that trails afford. Now 23 years strong, NTD is one of the nation's largest outdoor initiatives and serves as the premier celebration of our nation's incredible trails system.

Under the American Hiking Society banner, this year's National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ was the biggest ever and brought more than 176,000 Americans from all walks of life outdoors and on the trail at more than 2,300 NTD events across all 50 states, Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and Canada. America's trails do not build nor sustain
themselves. Trail volunteers work year-round to ensure trails are safe and accessible to the public, and NTD is a time when their collective power is harnessed in remarkable ways. Over 24,700 NTD volunteers contributed their time and 'sweat equity' on 456 trail projects to build or improve more than 1,490 miles of trail. On this single day, NTD volunteers got out and gave back, saving the nation $\$ 2.1$ million in costly trail repairs.
All across America, we witnessed an extraordinary array of trail activities, including: hikes; paddles; horse and bike rides; outdoor festivals; trail openings and dedications; volunteer trail building and maintenance projects; educational programs; and much more. This report brings to life the deep sense of partnership and commitment through the excellent diversity of activities and participation at this year's National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. Besides allowing people to discover, learn about and celebrate our country's public trails system, NTD also provided Americans a chance to thank the volunteers, land-managing agencies and organizations, and civ-ic-minded businesses that maintain this irreplaceable national asset.

Once again, National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ served as the kick-off event for Great Outdoors Month. Great Outdoors Month was recognized by a Presidential proclamation from President Barack Obama, an annual occurrence dating back to the Clinton Administration. Working with a national coalition, together we were able to also secure proclamations from all fifty state governors who joined President Obama in highlighting the importance of America's great outdoor legacy.

My sincere thanks go out to our generous corporate sponsors, dedicated agency and trail organization partners and to the tens of thousands of volunteers and trail enthusiasts who give so generously of their time and effort. Through our collective efforts, we will continue to develop, maintain and protect trails and their surrounding natural areas to leave a positive outdoor legacy for future generations.

See you on the trail in 2016 for our 24th National Trails Day ${ }^{\text {® }}$ !

Sincerely,


## Ex:EUTIVE SUMMARY

On Saturday, June 6, 2015, America celebrated American Hiking Society's 23rd annual National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. On this one day in late spring, people across the nation gathered to hike, bike ride, paddle, learn, pitch in on needed trail work, and celebrate all things trails-related. Thousands of people learned about nearby trails that they didn't know were there and thousands more met neighbors who shared their love of the outdoors and trails.

A tradition since 1993, American Hiking Society's National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ kicks off a summer of fun the first Saturday of June each year. This year's celebration was highlighted by:

2,329 activities taking place in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.
176,000 people getting out and getting active on trails in their community.
24,700 trail volunteers taking part in 456 trail stewardship projects, building and maintaining nearly 1,500 miles of trails-a value of $\$ 2.1$ million.

- 79,300 hikers attended 1,200 hikes and walked a cumulative distance of 354,000 miles.
> 3,500 paddlers attended 40 paddling trips and covered a cumulative distance of 13,600 miles.
- 8,800 cyclists attended 113 bike rides and pedaled a cumulative distance of 123,000 miles.
>1,800 equestrians attended 28 horseback riding trips and covered a cumulative distance of 36,000 miles.

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2015 WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS: Adventure Medical Kits,
Brooks-Range Mountaineering, Columbia
Sportswear, Eddie Bauer, Hi-Tec,
Therm-a-Rest, and Save the Redwoods
League; and federal agency partners:
Bureau of Land Management, Federal
Highway Administration, National Park
Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and
the USDA Forest Service.

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BROOKS-RANGE MOUNTAINEERING


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Administration Administration


# ACTIVITIES BY TYPE 

In 2015, hiking and trail running were the most common activities to occur on National Trails Day ${ }^{\oplus}$, accounting for $52 \%$ of the total. Trail Stewardship, which includes trail building, maintenance, cleanups, and invasive species removal, took second place in overall prevalence. American Hiking Society looks forward to seeing continued emphasis on hiking and trail stewardship by National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ event hosts in future years.


# PARTICPATION 



## 79，300 HIKERS The average hiker walled 4.5 miles



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8，800 BICYCLISTS $_{\text {The averagec cyclist } r \text { ode }} 13.9$ miles


## 3，500 PADDLERS Theaveragepaddle traveled 3.9 miles $^{\text {Pa }}$ م安 <br> 1，800 EQUESTRIANS тheaverage equestrian rode 20.3 miles $^{\text {m }}$ 

# TOTAL DISTANCE EXPLORED 

Harnessing the collective actions of the thousands of hikers, volunteers, cyclists,
paddlers, equestrians, and other outdoor enthusiasts is what gives the National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ movement its voice. On this singular day, 79,300 hikers and trail runners traveled a combined 354,000 miles on foot, the rough equivalent of hiking 14 times around the Earth! Additionally, 24,700 volunteers built and maintained nearly 1,500 miles of trails.
Add in all the additional miles of paddling, bicycling, and horseback riding and it's clear that National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ set America in motion!


## ACTIVITIES BY STATE



## AGTIVIIIES BY STATE



# FOUR HOOVES OR TWO WHEELS 

It All Adds Up to Fun!

"We had an awesome time here on the Cross Florida Greenway here in Central Florida. Even with all the bugs, heat and humidity over 70 people came out to show support for National Trails Day@! I feel fortunate to have had ten new volunteers sign up to help us keep our huge trail system (over 290 miles) of hike, bike, equestrian and multi-use trails in good shape for everyone to enjoy 365 days a year!"

- Bre Ximenes



## HIKING THE TRAIL




# WATE TRALIS \& TRALLS IN HISTORY 


"We (at Georgia Trail Summit) held our 2nd annual statewide trail summit in Georgia, 175 trail hounds attended 1.5 day sessions June 4-5, and then hit the trail on June 6. We visited water trails, greenways, botanic gardens, nature trails, and built bridges, cut ribbons, and led trail work days. Our themes were building a culture of health, trails are transportation, and trails are money makers!"

## STEWARDSHIP \& RIBBON CUTTINGS


"At Sand Creek Regional Greenway Partnership, we believe that stewardship is an important part of recreation, therefore we hosted a workday along the Sand Creek Regional Greenway to celebrate National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. Our National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ volunteers split into three work groups. The first tackled thistle along the trail, the second caged cottonwoods to protect them from beavers in the riparian area alongside the trail, and the third painted over graffiti in one of the underpasses adjacent to the trail. It was a beautiful day and our volunteers did a phenomenal job!">

- Mollie Hayden



## NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS

On June 4, 2015, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis designated 10 local and state trails as national recreation trails, adding more than 150 miles to the National Trails System.
"By designating these exceptional trails as part of the National Trails System, we recognize the efforts of local communities to provide outdoor recreational opportunities that can be enjoyed by everyone," said Jewell. "Our world-class network
of national trails provides easily accessible places to get exercise and connect with nature in both urban and rural areas while also boosting tourism and supporting economic opportunities in local communities across the country."
"Our National Trails System of 16,000 miles continues to grow and offer new opportunities for Americans to explore the great outdoors," said Jarvis. "With summer here, I hope everyone will take advantage of a trail nearby to hike or bike."

THE NEWLY DESIGNATED NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS ARE:

Alabama

- Autauga Creek Canoe Trail


## Mississippi

- The Tanglefoot Trail


## Nevada

- Historic Railroad Trail


## New York

- Sackets Harbor Battlefield History Trail


## North Carolina

> Chinqua-Penn Walking Trail

- George Poston Park Trail System

Ohio, Pennsylvania,
West Virginia

- Ohio River Water Trail


## Washington

- Mount Si Trail
- Snoqualmie Valley Trail


## Wisconsin

- Tribal Heritage Crossing of the WIOUWASH Trail


A National Recreation Trail in Maryland designated earlier.

# tralls day challenge 

For each of the six weekends leading up to National Trails Day®, American Hiking Society teamed up with our NTD sponsors and offered NTD participants an opportunity to win fantastic prizes.

All folks had to do was to take a photo of themselves on a hike or at a trailhead and share it with American Hiking Society on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram

2015 Trails Day Photo Challenge

Are you ready for a challenge? Leading up to National Trails Day, American Hiking Society is offering a series of hiking challenges to prepare you for your ultimate adventure on National Trails Day. Go hiking, win prizes. \#NationalTrailsDay

20 RULES: To enter take a photo of yourself next to the trail head or on the trail, upload the picture to facebook or twitter and tag @AmericanHiking (facebook / twitter) with \#NationalTrailsDay

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| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

PRIZES: Each week, two winners will be randomly selected to receive prizes from American Hiking Society and that week's Sponsor. Prizes for members and non-members are listed under each challenge week.

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Week 1 Member Prises

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2015 Trails Day Photo Challenge - National Trails Doy $37 \mathrm{~F}^{2} \mathrm{C}$

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## TRAILS GHALLENGE WINNERS

The following
National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ participants were the selected winners of the Trails Day Challenges. Even with two winners each week, so many phenomenal photos were received that
it was a special challenge (and treat) to narrow it down!

Special thanks to our sponsors who added to the fun with terrific prizes:
Adventure Medical Kits, Brooks-Range

Mountaineering,
Columbia, Eddie Bauer, Hi -Tec, and Therm-a-Rest.

Week 1


Photo by Mark N.
Week 3


Photo by Pamela W.


Photo by April N.


Photo by Kimi G.


Photo by Barbara M.


Week 2


Photo by Cheryl R.
Week 4


Photo by Chris H .

Photo by Jeff $\mathbf{N}$.


Photo by Jose Luis L.

## Week 6




Photo by Sheena F.

## FACT-A-DAY•MAY 15

## pre American Hiking society

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\text { Publiched by Dara Zaleser ITl/ Mar } 15 \text { is }
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Fact of the Day for inNationalTraisDay! Nabional Traiss Day isnt just for hikersi its for anyone who wants a litbe outdoors in their ite - whether it be along a dirt path or a water onel
You can join the Fiorids Trall Association's Panhandie Chapters event at the Look \& Tremble Rapids where you can padcie and ride the rapids along the Chipola Riverl For those that want to add a hive, the Floridis Trall crosses the fiver and you can hike the Althe section.
Looking for an event a lettle closer to home? Check out our tevent map with nundreds of registered events: nttp i/ww. nationatralisday. orginto events:


Find An Event Near You - National Trails Day FFOR A LIST OF EVENTSH YOUR STATE - Selectyour stale tom Tre dopsown spensers: And by our Federal Agency Partners. Special nianks to supponels

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## FACT-A-DAY•MAY 18

he. American Hiking Society

Fact of the Day for unationarT ralsDay1 Did you know there is a National Trats Day event taking place in every single state?l Looking for a hive in Utah? How about visting Diannass Throne in Kanab, UT? This event This is a ste the kanat Fieid ofrce encourages nokers to visid This 1000 This is a ste the Kanab Fietd Office encourages nikers to vise. This loop ts approximately 5 miles with about a $1000^{\prime}$ elevation gain. The hike ofters
awesone views of the Grand Sta. See More awesome views of the Grand Sta. See More


Find An Event Near You - National Trails Day
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## FICT-A-DAY gOUNTDOWN

Building awareness about our National Trails System and recreation opportunities on trails is an important aspect of National Trails Day. To further this effort, for a fourth straight year American Hiking Society continued our Fact-a-Day Countdown on our social media channels. For a month leading up to NTD, each day AHS posted an informative item about hiking or trails. Our followers chimed in, elaborating on our facts and sharing their own stories and sharing their photos in the great outdoors.

## FACT-A-DAY • MAY 24

(c. American Hiking Society
puetahec by Own Zainat (v) May 24 e e
inationarfraksDay Fact of the Day: America's great trats do not bulld nor sustain themselves. A large percentage of our trais are maintained by volunteers every year. This stewardship is harnessed and passonately volunteers every year This stewardsnip is harnessed and passonately
displayed on one day in particutar eNationair raisDay on the first Saturday ocplayed on one day in particuar enatonar raisoay on the frst Saturday year to give trats across the country the tender loving care they require and deserve.
And none is more deserving than the Buars King Range Nationat Conservaton Area in Cailornia. The remote 68.000 acres of coastine is known as Caifornia's Lost Coast, and is onty accessed by a few back roads. The trats here are as dwerse and rugged as the landscape - from mountains meadows to old-growth forests and ridgetop vistas. King Range hike offers one of the few coastal widerness hiking experiences in the US, where nakers can vew sea tions and bdepoots
See more on the Bureau of Land managemenrs instagram the rest of Memorial Day Weekend during American Hiking's takeover of BuA instagram (@mypubiciands)
Photo by Make Putsiey
igetoutgiveback mine iseeBLM Mtrails ingetoutdoors




## PHOTO CONTEST






## PHOTO CONTEST

## PUBLICDUTREEGH

National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ was featured in thousands of publications across the country. NTD appeared in newspapers, magazines, local newsletters, on the radio, and in on-line blogs and articles. According to the Meltwater News impressions tracking service, from January to July 2015, "National Trails Day ${ }^{\text {®" }}$ generated
approximately $\mathbf{2 . 2}$ billion media impressions worth an ad value of $\$ 2$ million. During the same timeframe, American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ pages and posts were viewed
more than 159,000 times by over 48,000 unique visitors. Supporters of National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ were recognized through many digital and print outlets, including American Hiking Society's quarterly newsletter American Hiker (7,000 recipients), monthly e-newsletter Paperless Trail (26,000 recipients), targeted National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ email blasts, website posts, press releases, social media postings, and program materials, including t-shirts and gear kits.

## Backpacker magazine

## DISGOVER TRALIS ON JUNE ${ }^{\text {TII }}$



 the ides, and more at

WwW.NATIONALTRAILSDAY.ORG


Backpacker magazine continued its long-standing commitment to National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ by donating advertising space in its June issue. Above is the half-page advertisement valued at more than \$15,000. Backpacker magazine reaches more than 1 million readers who are engaged in active outdoor lifestyles.

##  <br> American filiking Society Ambassadors




## SOCIAL MEDIA

In the week leading
up to National
Trails Day ${ }^{\text {® }}$, AHS
achieved 2.3
million impressions, 22,800 interactions (comments, likes, shares), and 19,200 unique visitors on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.


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 Therm-a-Rest Scooks-Fange Mountaineerng Equipment, Save the Redwoods Leapue. And our toseral agency partsers us. Farest Service vatbeol Pan Service, US Fish and Wiple Sevice, and Anencas save Pantr

## Happy trals



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## Grenoworntime <br>  



## GREAT OUTDOORS MONTH



The White House hosted their own Capital Campout with 50 4th grade Girl Scouts camped out on the South Lawn. The event was hosted by First Lady Michelle Obama and featured knot tying, orienteering, and rock climbing. The children were even visited by President

Obama himself as well as astronaut Cady Coleman.

Each year since 2002, June has been declared "Great Outdoors Month" to celebrate America's abundant and diverse outdoor recreation resources. Great Outdoors Month is officially designated through proclamations
issued by the President of the United States as well as governors of the states, calling on Americans to get outdoors and hike, camp, fish, bike, boat, and explore.

While June as Great Outdoors Month was kicked off by National Trails Day ${ }^{\text {}}$, the month featured many other events that celebrated the many ways Americans enjoy outdoor adventure, including

- National Fishing and Boating Week
- National Get Outdoors Day
- Capital Campouts
- Kids to Parks Day
- National Marina Day, and
- Great American Campout



## FEDERAL IGENGY SUPPORT



## US Fish and Wildlife Service


U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

65 activities took place on US Fish and Wildlife Service lands and refuges 46 US Fish and Wildlife Service sites hosted events
4,830 people attended events on US Fish and Wildlife Service lands
> 10 trail projects, 541 volunteers, 2,808 volunteer hours, 25 miles maintained
> 33 hikes, 1,702 participants, 83 miles covered, 3,585 miles total hiked
$>2$ bike rides, 300 participants, 23 miles covered, 3,754 miles total biked
$>2$ paddling events, 190 participants, 7.5 miles covered, 575 miles total paddled
$>15$ other activities, 2,056 participants

## Federal Highway Administration

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) promoted NTD throughout the trails and transportation community across America. Numerous NTD activities took place on trails made possible by FHWA trail-funding programs.

## GORPORATE SPONSORS

National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ would not be possible without the generous support of our corporate sponsors. These partners provide the funds that are needed for the successful planning, implementation, and growth of this extensive, nationwide program.
We are pleased to recognize the contributions of our sponsors on our website, in social media postings, on the National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ t-shirts, in press releases and blog articles, in e-newsletters, and wherever else we can. Our partners take great pride in supporting American Hiking Society to help inspire hundreds of thousands of Americans to celebrate trails on National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$.

Corporate sponsors' financial support provides the resources needed for a successful event. The commitment of our corporate partners often extends beyond this by assisting with event publicity and in-kind support-including donations in our National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ kits or implementation of National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ events. We sincerely appreciate the wide range of contributions that our sponsors make to the success of National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. American Hiking Society works to promote our dedicated sponsors throughout the year. American Hiking Society is in a unique position to reach National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ participants, a growing social media base, and outdoor enthusiasts across the country. Here are some examples on how National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ corporate sponsors got involved.


Adventure Medical Kits offered samples of their products through the National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ website. 20,000 samples of Easy Access Bandages ${ }^{\top M}$, Natrape ${ }^{\circledR}$, and Ben's Insect Repellents 'sold out' in one day.

## Columbia

In addition to a generous cash
sponsorship, Columbia activated a crowd fundraising campaign online and in-store offering their VIP customers 10\% off their purchase of \$50 or more leading up to National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. The campaign was a success, raising $\$ 272,000$ from generous shoppers. $10 \%$ of those sales were donated to American Hiking Society.


Eddie Bauer hosted a National Trails Day ${ }^{\text {® }}$ event with Backpacker Magazine in Boulder, Colorado. The event was a success and we look forward to activating National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ activities in Eddie Bauer stores across the country in 2016.


Hi-Tec provided prizes and giveaways for social media contests leading up to National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$. Their boots were given to photo contest winners that submitted pictures of their National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ hikes on Facebook.


Therm-a-Rest and American Hiking Society collaborated with a social media contest in the spring to inspire people to get out and be active before National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ in June. The social media contest was called 'Welcome Back Spring' where people snapped photos of spring hiking. The photo with the most votes won a sweet prize package from Therm-A-Rest for the National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$ activity.

## BROOKS-RANGE MOUNTAINEERING

Brooks-Range Mountaineering Equipment Co. offers an innovative, top-quality selection of backcountry and outdoor equipment for a safe and enjoyable mountain experience. Additionally, Brooks- Range promotes education and safety in the wilderness by supporting organizations including American Hiking Society.


## Save The Redwoods

| L | $E$ | $A$ | $G$ | $U$ | $E$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Save the Redwoods League created blog posts to promote their support of this nationwide program while telling the story of their organization to our supporters.
"Save the Redwoods League is a proud supporter of American Hiking Society's National Trails Day ${ }^{\circledR}$, an annual celebration of America's trail system. Over 200,000 miles of trails and the volunteers who maintain them enable us to experience and enjoy our parks and open spaces. These natural places are our national heritage, the heart and lungs of our quality oflife, the pillars of our collective identity-through them, we discover adventure, knowledge, good health, inspiration and fulfillment. Trails make it all possible."

- Sam Hodder, President and CEO, Save the Redwoods League



# SAVE the DATE 

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAYO WILL BE JUNE 4,2016

Special thanks to
Adventure-7
Medical
Kits
BE SAFE

BROOKS-RANGE MOUNTAINEERING



