



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

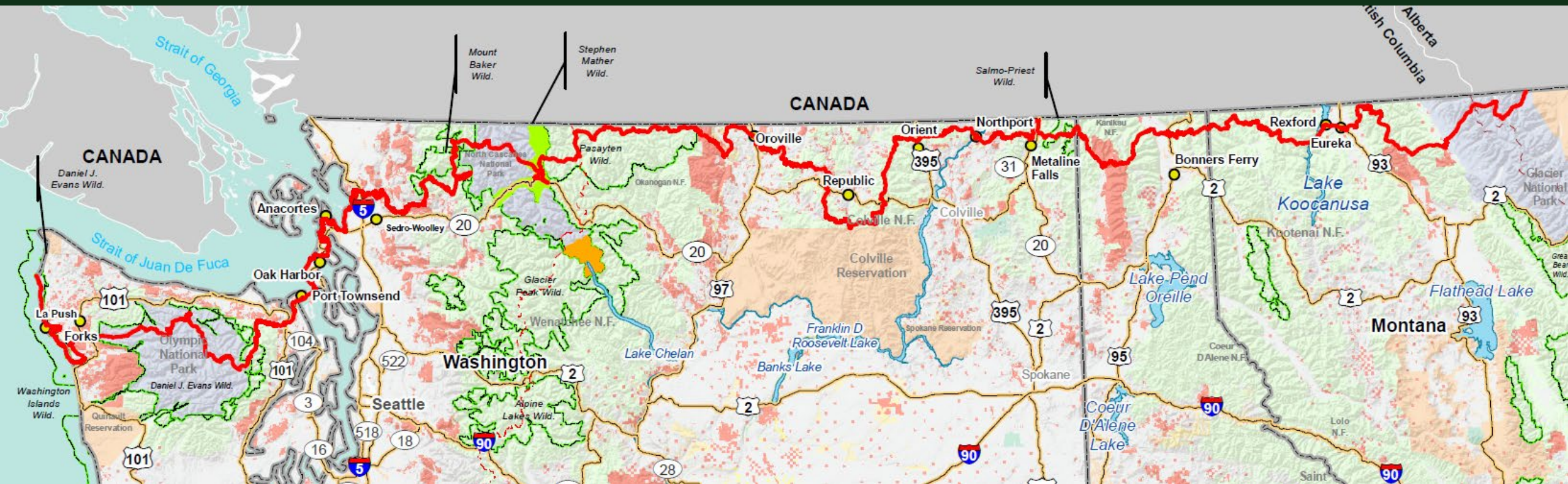


# Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council Background & History

PNT Advisory Council – June 15, 2023

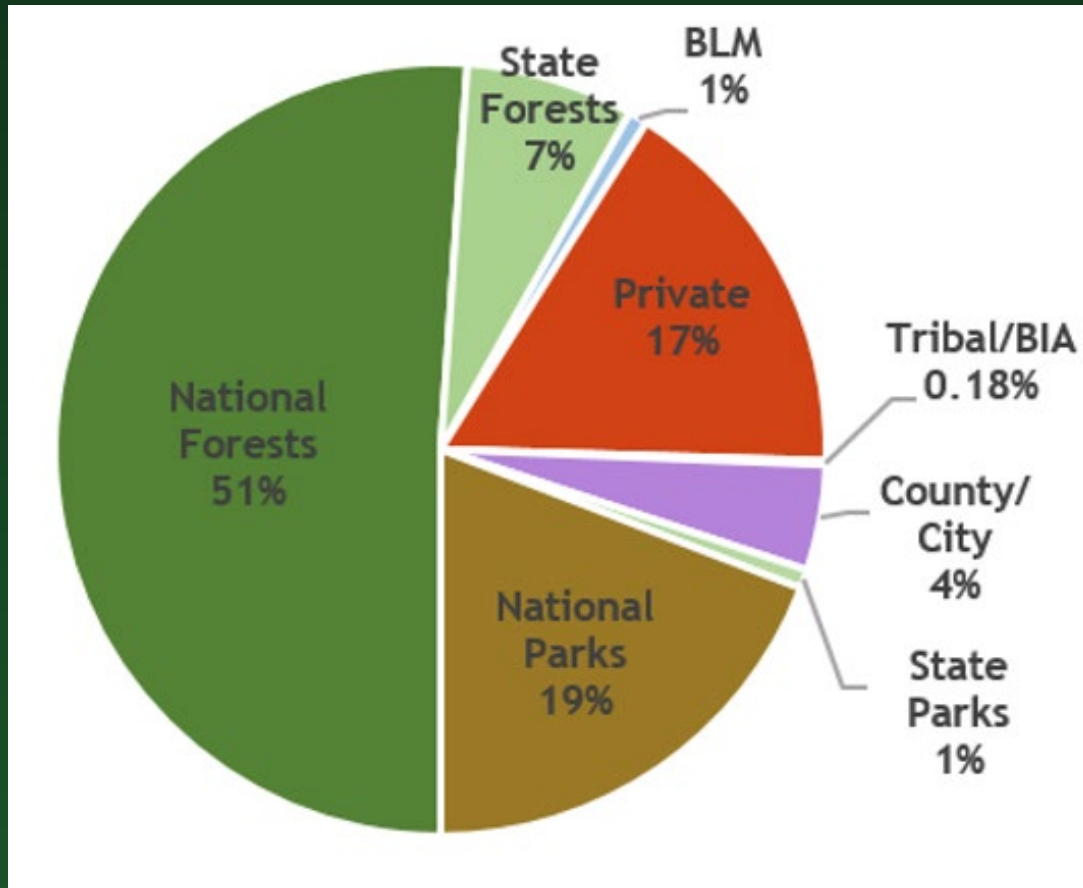
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# Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT)



- 1,200-mile non-motorized trail from the Continental Divide to the Pacific Ocean through Montana, Idaho, and Washington
- In 2009, designated by Congress as a national scenic trail and part of the National Trails System under the National Trails System Act (Pub.L. 90-543, as amended)

# An “All Lands, All Hands” Trail



- 7 national forests
- 4 National Park System units
- Public lands administered by Bureau of Land Management
- Colville Reservation
- Swinomish Reservation
- Idaho state trust lands
- Washington state forests, state parks
- County and community parks and trails
- Private lands

# Objective & Scope of the Council

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The advisory council “will advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service, on matters relating to the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, as described in the [National Trails System] Act.” (PNT Advisory Council Charter)

Per the National Trails System Act, these matters include:

- comprehensive plan (16 U.S.C. 1244(e))
- selection of rights-of-way (16 U.S.C. 1244(d))
- standards for the erection and maintenance of markers (16 U.S.C. 1244(d))
- administration of the trail (16 U.S.C. 1244(d))

# Early History

- May 2014: Advisory council established through first charter
- August 2015: First members appointed to council
- October 2015: First meeting
- May 2016: Second meeting
- November 2016: Third meeting



# #1: Oct 14-15, 2015, Sandpoint, ID

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- Panel on national scenic trails
- 4 geographic breakout groups discussed regional issues
- Agency land use planning presentation and Q&A
- Presentation on trail route, right-of-way, and relocation
- Input on draft council bylaws
- Discussion and small group work on nature and purposes statement
- **Created subcommittees: nature and purposes, education, regional**

# #2: May 4-5, 2016, Port Townsend, WA

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- **Adopted bylaws**
  - Q&A on comprehensive plan
  - Panel on youth and community engagement
  - Ron Strickland presentation
  - Baseline scenery inventory presentation
  - Forest planning presentation
- Subcommittee report-outs:
- N&Ps with group discussion.  
**Request for trail uses map.**
  - Regional subcommittees
  - **Education subcommittee to work on interpretive plan**

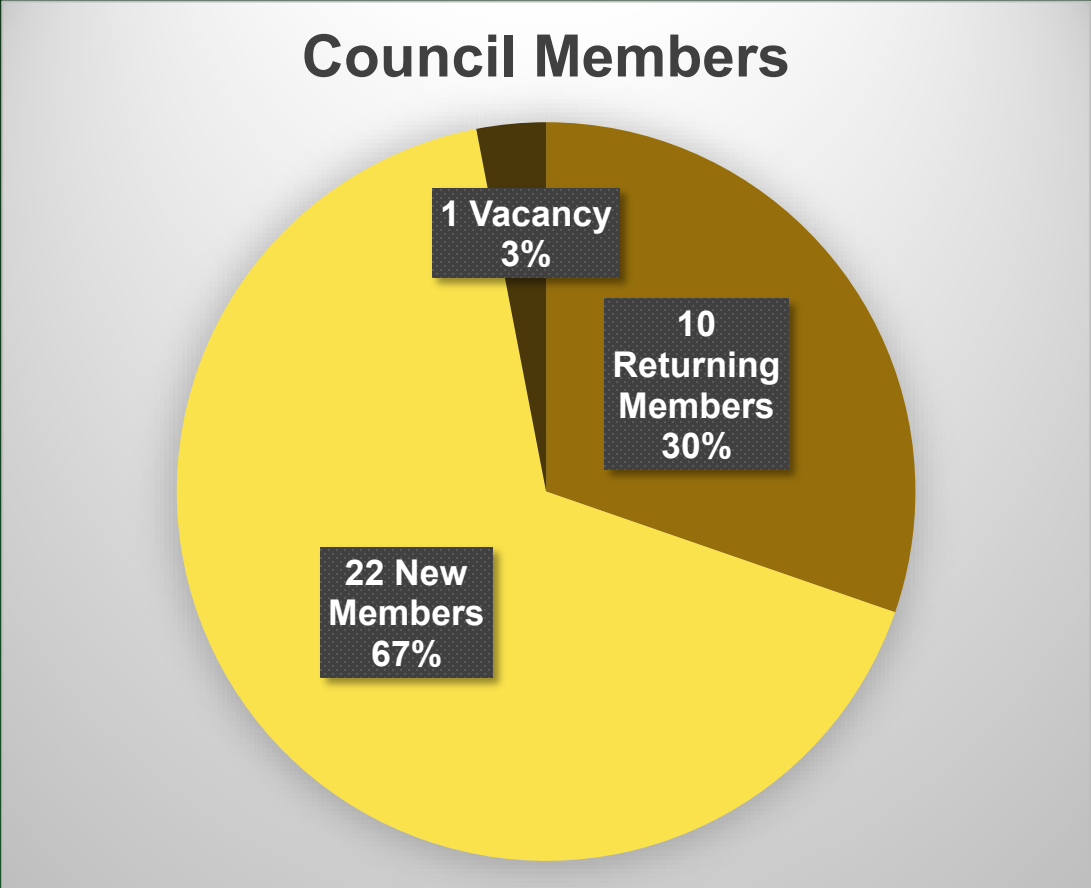
# #3: Nov 2-3, 2016, Whitefish, MT

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- Q&A on comprehensive plan
- Shared trail uses map
- Subcommittee report-outs
- N&Ps subcommittee shared draft N&Ps statement for full council discussion and edits.  
**Adopted recommendation for N&Ps statement.**
- Presentation and discussion on sign standards
- **Request for information on “thunderbird” service mark**
- Sensing on desired conditions
- **Request for information on accessibility requirements**



# #4: June 15-16, 2023, virtual



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## Focus: Recommendations on the comprehensive plan



- Forest Service is seeking council's collective recommendations on comprehensive plan contents
- Plan must be completed by December 31, 2023
- Need Draft Decision Notice in July to meet this deadline

# Advisory Council Opportunity

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- Collaborate (work together) to craft wise agreements around shared concerns.
- Agreements become recommendations to the Forest Service and USDA.