



PNNSTAC subcommittee recommendation – October 2016

Nature and Purposes of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

Nature

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail is an east-west-oriented long-distance trail that traverses the extreme northern reaches of Montana, Idaho, and Washington from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The trail invites travelers into the backcountry, to seek the grandeur of glaciated peaks, tranquil lakes, boundless horizons of majestic mountains, deep canyons, storm-carved coastlines and the splendor of wild places. Forested hillsides, grasslands, and broad river valleys shelter farms and ranches, local parks and trail systems, and historic communities that share with travelers their heartfelt connections to the land.

People, past and present, have shaped these places and in turn are shaped by them. Whether they experience one mile or 1,200 miles, the travelers and stewards of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail find opportunities for inspiration and lifelong memories, challenge and personal transformation, the solitude of quiet places and kinship in being part of a larger legacy.

Purposes

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail

- Protects, conserves, and connects visitors with the scenic, historic, natural, and cultural resources of the Pacific Northwest
- Provides day, overnight, and nationally significant extended recreational opportunities for hiking, pack and saddle stock use, and (where allowed by local management) mountain biking
- Provides opportunities for self-discovery, self-reliance, and the satisfaction of making your own way
- Is inclusive of all people, cultures, and abilities, and promotes environmental education, interpretation, volunteerism, and stewardship of the trail and its surrounding landscapes