

PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Purpose and Objectives

From the beginning of the National Trails System in 1968, Congress recognized that citizen involvement was critical to the development of long-distance trails and that it continues to be an important part of what makes these trails special. The National Trails System Act requires that each newly designated trail establish an Advisory Council comprised of a mix of citizens and government agency representatives.

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council (Council) will:

- be comprised of between 20-35 members,
- represent a balance of interests from across the 1,200-mile length of the trail, and
- meet about twice annually beginning in October 2015.

The Council's primary objective is to advise and make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Chief of the Forest Service, on matters relating to the long-term vision for the PNNST and development of a PNNST Comprehensive Plan (plan). The plan is required under the National Trails System Act, and will be prepared by the Regional Forester of the Pacific Northwest Region, approved by the Chief, then submitted to Congress.

Scope of Activities

The Advisory Council is part of a larger planning process coordinated by the Forest Service. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Comprehensive Plan will be analyzed and documented through a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be prepared by the Forest Service. The public will have opportunities to provide comments in accordance with NEPA.

The unique role of the Advisory Council is to serve as a venue where citizens and representatives of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government agencies can talk together to develop recommendations and ensure that planning reflects the diverse public interests across the trail. In accordance with the National Trails System Act, these recommendations are expected to include:

- statement of the nature and purpose for the trail,
- trail uses and trail markers,
- refinements to the trail route,
- trail corridor and rights-of-way, and
- priority future projects.

Nominees for the Advisory Council should understand that this work will focus on broad, trail-wide issues. Site-specific concerns like trail conditions, facilities, or uses in a



for the greatest good

particular location are not the work of the Council and are best addressed through the local office of the land managing agency.

Interests to be represented

The Council will consist of between 20 and 35 members and provide a balanced and broad representation across the following interests:

Non-government

1. Nationally recognized trails organizations;
2. Regionally recognized trails organizations;
3. Outdoor recreation with an emphasis on hiking;
4. Outdoor recreation with an emphasis on pack and saddle stock;
5. Nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations;
6. Archaeological and historical preservation and/or interpretation;
7. Nationally or regionally recognized wildlife organizations;
8. Commercial timber and forest products;
9. Tourism, commercial outfitters and guides, and gateway communities;
10. Environmental education;
11. Youth engagement and employment; and
12. Private landowners.

Government

13. The Regional Forester of the US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region, or a designee;
14. The Regional Forester of the US Forest Service Northern Region, or a designee;
15. The Regional Director of the Pacific West or Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, or a designee;
16. The State Director of the Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management, or a designee;
17. Representatives of Tribes;
18. One representative of the State of Montana, selected from recommendations by the Governor;
19. One representative of the State of Idaho, selected from recommendations by the Governor; and
20. One representative of the State of Washington, selected from recommendations by the Governor.

Duties of Advisory Council Members

Advisory Council members will play an active role in developing recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture through the Chief of the Forest Service specific to the development of the legislatively required Comprehensive Plan for the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail.

Council members are not expected to come to the first meeting with expertise in planning or trail issues. However, members should take an interest in the PNNST, including how the trail may impact other public values and resources. Members will make good-faith efforts to work with others from government agencies,

non-governmental organizations, and interested citizens to contribute to the long-term vision for administration and management of the PNNST. Members will be expected to share their points-of-view, listen to and consider other perspectives, and ask for more information when it is needed.

To ensure that this is an effective Advisory Council, members are expected to attend each meeting, participate in discussions, and complete any pre-work and follow-up tasks. To make the most of these brief opportunities to get together as a Council, members should arrive at ready to focus on the work of the Council and do their best to minimize distractions.

Time Commitment

Five or six meetings held twice yearly (spring/fall) for the approximately three-year duration of the planning process. The first Council meeting is scheduled for October 14-15, 2015, in Sandpoint, Idaho. Future meetings may be conducted in person or remotely via webinar or conference calls, depending on Council business and preference of the members. When the Comprehensive Plan is finalized, the Council's work will be complete.

Expenses

Advisory Council members do not receive pay, but they can be reimbursed for costs of travel to participate in Council meetings. In selecting our meeting locations, we aim to keep costs and time burden low while providing a productive working environment for the Council and opportunities for public access.

Nomination Process

Those interested may nominate themselves for the Advisory Council by submitting a resumé and AD-755 background information form to Matt McGrath, US Forest Service, 2930 Wetmore Ave, Suite 3A, Everett, WA, 98201 or electronically at mtmcgrath@fs.fed.us.

Selection Process

Advisory Council nominees will be recommended by the Forest Service based on interest, experience, location, and ability to represent a variety of viewpoints. Members of the Council will be selected by the Secretary of Agriculture. The selection is official when the Forest Service receives notification from the Department of Agriculture. Members' terms begin on the date indicated on their letter of selection and accompanying certificate.