



# Trail location and relocations

Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Advisory Council  
October 15, 2015



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**“Ron Strickland: Pathfinder” [2012]**

<https://youtu.be/bpullRjAKvU>

# Strickland’s route

In 1970, Ron Strickland got the idea for an east-west long trail.

He and many others worked over the following decades to get the Pacific Northwest Trail on the map and on the ground.

Strickland’s guidebook identifies “ideal” and “practical” PNT routes, as well as other alternate routes.





# National Scenic Trails

Section 3(a) of the National Trails System Act:

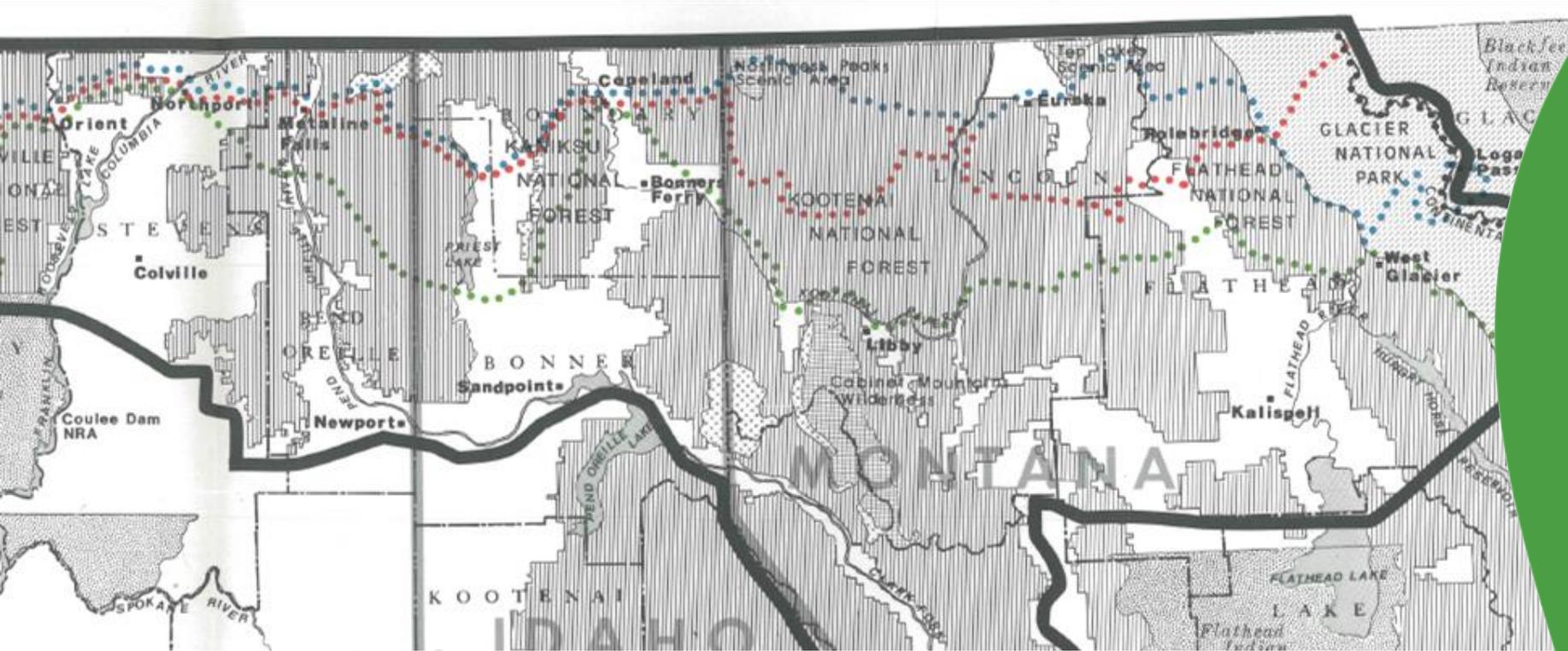
*located as to provide for maximum outdoor recreation and for the conservation and enjoyment of the nationally significant scenic, historic, natural or cultural qualities of the areas*

Other guidance for selection of a National Scenic Trail route:

- An NST is an extended trail ( $\geq 100$  miles, continuous) [Sec. 3(b)]
- On trail, motor vehicles are generally prohibited [Sec. 7(c)]
- Minimize adverse effects on adjacent landowners' operations [Sec. 7(a)]
- Harmonize with and complement established multiple-use plans [Sec. 7(a)]



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# 1980 Feasibility Study

Analyzed four alternatives:

- 1. Most Scenic route:** Closest to Strickland route. High latitudes, high elevations. Most scenic, also most remote: costly, little benefit to communities, wildlife impacts.
- 2. Least Costly route:** Maximizes existing trails & public lands. More easily accessible. Intermediate scenic quality and environmental impacts.
- 3. Minimal Environmental Impact route:** Avoids sensitive areas but also the most scenic areas. Low elevation: more private land, most costly route.
- 4. No trail**



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# Congressionally Designated Route



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# Designating the PNNST

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009:

The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, a trail of **approximately 1,200 miles**, extending from the **Continental Divide in Glacier National Park, Montana**, to the **Pacific Ocean Coast in Olympic National Park, Washington**, following the route depicted on the map entitled 'Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail: Proposed Trail', numbered T12/80,000, and dated February 2008



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# Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail Proposed Trail

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



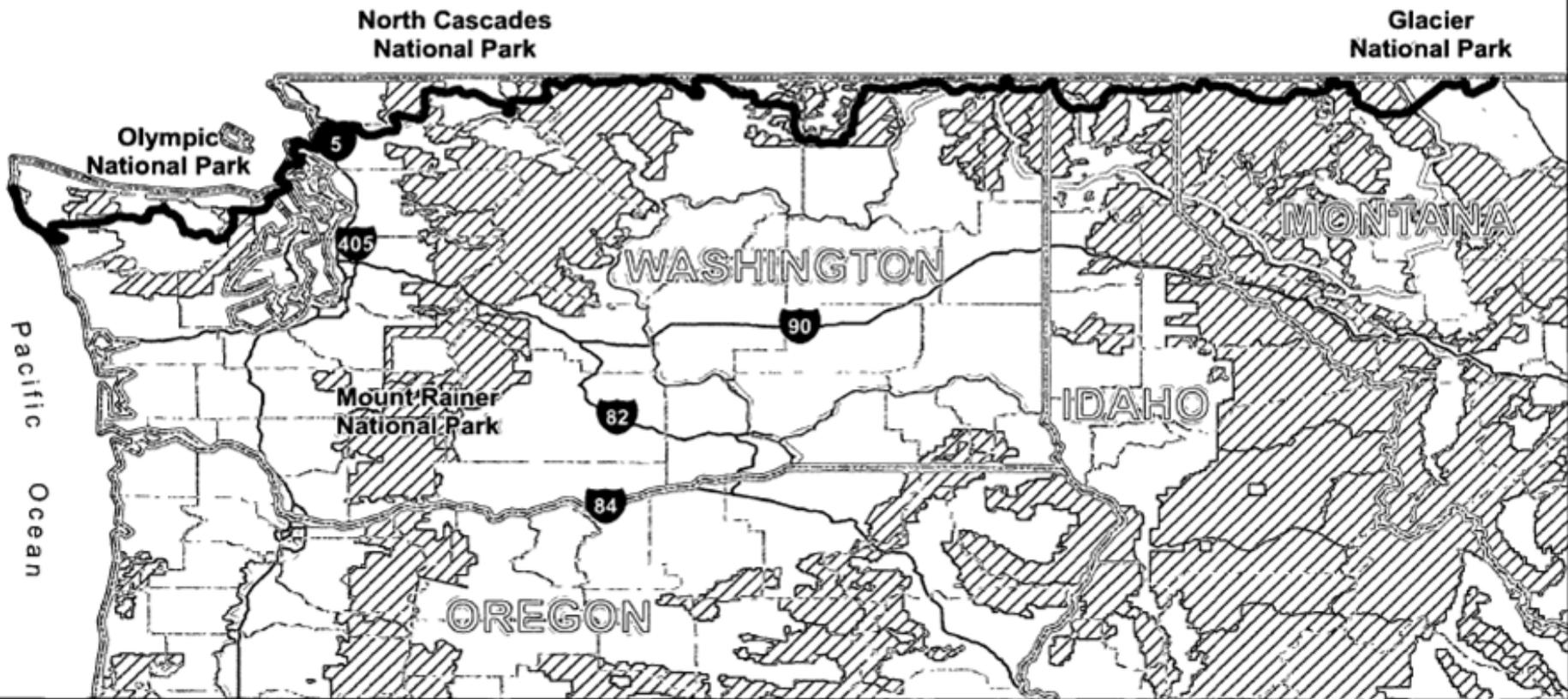
C A N A D A

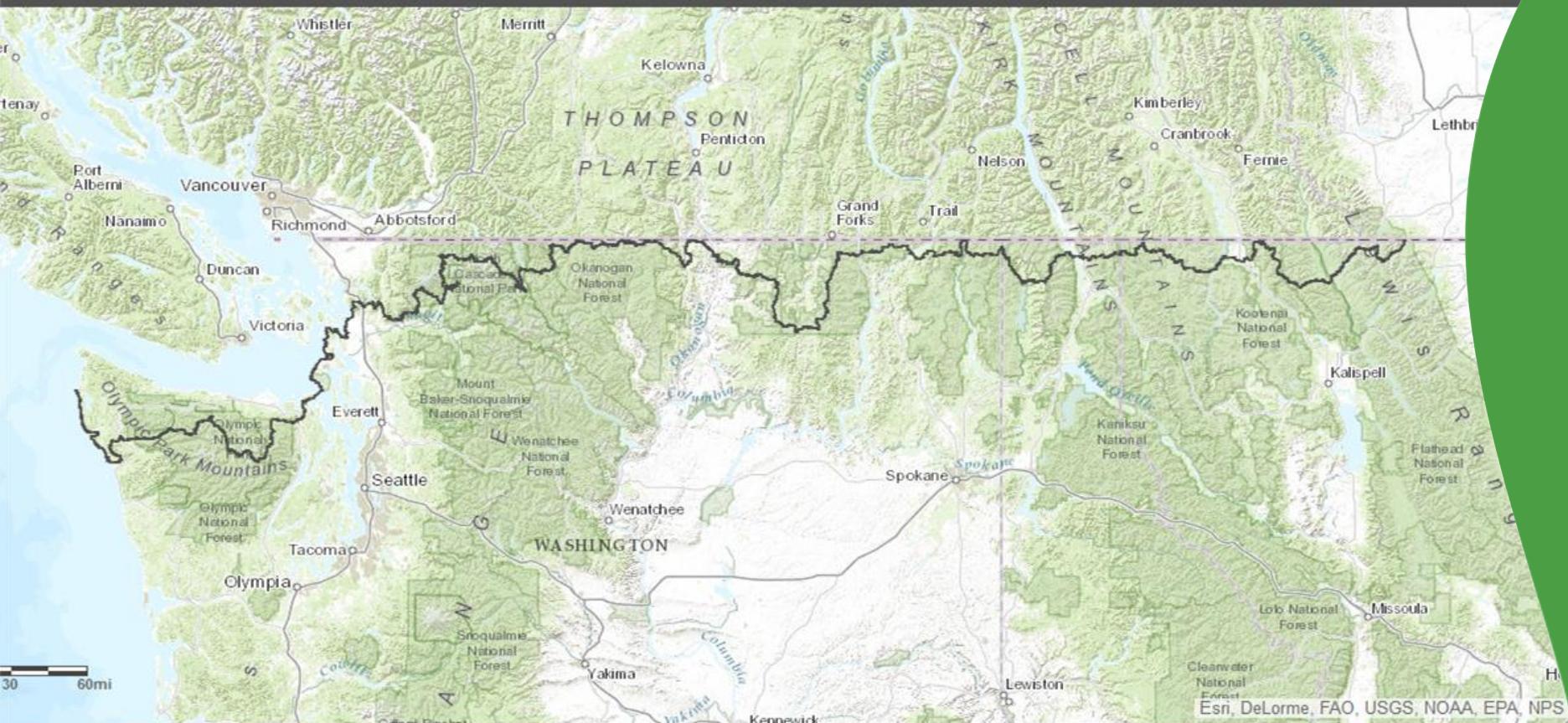
### Legend

- Proposed Trail
- Freeway System
- National Parks
- National Forests
- State Boundary



OFFICE: Lands Resources Program Center  
REGION: Pacific West Region  
PARK CODE: T12  
PARK ALPHA: PN00  
TOTAL PROPOSED MILEAGE: 1,1200  
**MAP NUMBER: T12/80,000**  
**DATE: February 2008**





# Congressionally designated route

To access this [interactive web map](#):

1. Go online and navigate to <http://www.arcgis.com>
2. In the search bar, look up “Pacific Northwest Trail”
3. Select Show > “Maps”, look down the list for the map by “Ikiesz”



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# Route Relocations



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A grayscale photograph of the United States Capitol building in Washington, D.C., featuring its iconic dome and neoclassical architecture. The image is partially obscured by a large green circular graphic on the right side of the slide.

# Authority for relocations

National Trails System Act gives the Secretary authority to relocate segments of a National Scenic Trail upon determination that:

*such a relocation is necessary to **preserve the purposes for which the trail was established**, or the relocation is necessary to **promote a sound land management program in accordance with established multiple-use principles**. [Sec. 7(b)]*

Any “**substantial relocation**” shall be by Act of Congress.  
However, this term is not defined in the NTSA.



# Relocation vs. re-routing

In practice, National Scenic Trails are dynamic:

- Emergency re-routing of trail users due to wildfire, firefighting activities, mudslides, flooding, hazard trees, dangerous wildlife, etc.
- Temporary re-routing of trail users for part of a season or multiple seasons due to washouts, construction activities, timber harvest, etc.
- **Relocation** of the National Scenic Trail *right-of-way*, abandoning the old route for a new route that will better provide for the *nature and purposes* of the trail, and/or minimize adverse impacts on adjacent landowners or implementation of existing multiple-use management plans.



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# Why might we consider relocation?

*Note: Photos on the following slides are illustrative of the qualities or conditions to be considered and do not indicate specific areas of the trail identified for relocation.*



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# Maximum outdoor recreation potential



to preserve the purposes for which the trail was established

Enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic natural, or cultural qualities



to preserve the purposes for which the trail was established



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# ...and their conservation



**to preserve the purposes for  
which the trail was established**



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# Non-motorized recreation

**to preserve the purposes for  
which the trail was established**

**Continuous trail  
opportunity**



**to preserve the purposes for  
which the trail was established**



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# Consent and cooperation of landowners

**to preserve the purposes for which the trail was established**

# Benefits to communities

**to preserve the purposes for  
which the trail was established**



# Youth outdoor experiences

**to preserve the purposes for  
which the trail was established**

# Harmonize with existing land management plans

**to promote a sound land management  
program in accordance with  
multiple-use principles**



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