mountain goats, bobcats, cougars and other Sonoran (Mojave/Sonoran Deserts). Wildlife.

The National Scenic Trail (PCT) spans three states and crosses national monuments, designated wilderness, state and county parks, and tribal lands. Along the way, it Zigzagging 2,650 miles (4,265 kilometers) from Mexico to Canada, the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT) gains designation and earns national recognition, national parks, national forests. Beams of Land Management has dedicated national scenic, state and county parks, leaving behind the role of established by the Congress of Diverse Diversity is found in all sectors of the PCT. For example, each mile, the scenery changes and the landscape is dramatic and varied. Rivers and more notable for the diversity of wildlife. Today's hikers have been bringing diversity back to the PCT for decades, and the result is a vibrant ecosystem that thrives in all sectors of this trail. The PCT's journey begins in Mexico and ends in Canada, making it one of the longest trails in the world. With a diverse array of landscapes and climates, the PCT offers opportunities for hikers to experience the beauty of the natural world in a variety of ways.

Wildlife

One of the great pleasures of the PCT is the opportunity to observe and interact with the diverse wildlife that makes the trail its home. From mountain goats and bobcats to cougars and other species, the PCT is a haven for the wildlife of the Sonoran (Mojave/Sonoran Deserts). Wildlife is abundant and varied along the PCT, with species ranging from small mammals and birds to larger animals like bears and mountain lions. The National Scenic Trail (PCT) is dedicated to preserving and protecting this ecosystem, ensuring that it remains a home for the diverse wildlife that thrives in all sectors of this trail.

Volunteering

Volunteering on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) is a rewarding experience that offers a unique opportunity to give back to the trail and its surrounding communities. Volunteers play a vital role in maintaining the trail, ensuring that it remains accessible and safe for all hikers. From trail maintenance and trail building to camping and information, volunteers are needed to help preserve this precious resource. The Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) is dedicated to preserving and protecting the PCT, and volunteers are integral to the success of this mission. Whether you are a experienced hiker or a newcomer to the trail, there are opportunities for you to get involved and make a difference!

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Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace ethos is a set of guidelines that encourage hikers to leave the trail as they found it, with minimal impact on the natural environment. This includes minimizing waste, avoiding fire, and adhering to a few simple guidelines to ensure that the trail remains in pristine condition for future generations. The Leave No Trace principles include:

1. Plan Ahead
2. Carry It Out
3. Dispose Properly
4. Leave It Better
5. Take Pictures
6. Maintain Trail Quality
7. Respect Wildlife
8. Be a Partner

These principles are designed to ensure that the trail remains a pristine and enjoyable destination for all hikers. By following these guidelines, hikers can ensure that the trail remains in perfect condition for future generations to enjoy.

Bears and Food Storage

When hiking on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), it is important to be aware of the risks associated with bears and wildlife. Bears pose a threat to hikers and wildlife alike, and proper food storage is essential to minimize the risk of encounters. The PCTA recommends using bear-resistant canisters for food storage, and hikers should always store food in these canisters when not in use. It is also important to follow Leave No Trace guidelines to minimize the impact of food waste on the environment.

Safety and Administrative Information

Safety is a top priority on the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), and hikers should take necessary precautions to ensure their own safety and the safety of others. This includes staying on the trail, avoiding dangerous areas, and being aware of the local weather conditions. The PCTA offers a range of resources to help hikers prepare for their journey, including maps, guides, and safety information. It is also important to familiarize yourself with the Leave No Trace principles to minimize the impact of your visit on the environment.

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From near Siskiyou Summit (elev. 4,310’) in southern Oregon to the Washington border, this section is both the northern terminus of the Pacific Crest Trail and the southern terminus of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The hike begins in the Truckee Meadows area, just outside Reno, Nevada, and travels westward through the wilds of northern Nevada and southern Oregon before crossing the Columbia River into Washington State.

Starting with a lengthy climb out of the Columbia River Gorge, the trail eventually reaches agricultural land and then descends to the lobby of Mount Hood National Forest. From here, the PCT follows the Columbia River to the Washington state line. The PCT passes through Osoyoos, British Columbia, and then embarks on a 3,300-foot ascent to Cottonwood Pass. To the north is the majestic, glaciated High Sierra. The glaciers formed shallow basins that filled with water to form lakes, including Clear Lake, which is the highest and is located only eight miles from the PCT.

In the upper elevations of Mount Shasta, which dominates the skyline, the PCT turns west towards greener lands north of the park, the PCT follows the extremely dry Hat Creek Rim toward majestic Mount Shasta, which rises to an elevation of 14,179 feet. The park extends beyond the border by the Canadian government to provide access to Highway 3 in British Columbia.

From the PCT’s northern terminus in the Sierras, the trail leads through the Sierra Nevada westward to its southern terminus, the town of Campo in eastern San Diego County. The PCT crosses the San Andreas Fault and enters the Tehachapi Mountains, where it descends to the floor of the Mojave Desert. From here, the PCT then passes through the Tehachapi Pass (elev. 4,925’), a prominent (4,925’) mountain pass leading into the San Bernardino Mountains, where it ascends to the crest of the San Andreas Fault and enters the San Gabriel Mountains.

The PCT then descends to the floor of the Mojave Desert, where it passes through the Tehachapi Pass (elev. 4,925’), a prominent (4,925’) mountain pass leading into the San Bernardino Mountains, where it ascends to the crest of the San Andreas Fault and enters the San Gabriel Mountains.

Finally, the PCT then descends to the floor of the Mojave Desert, where it passes through the Tehachapi Pass (elev. 4,925’), a prominent (4,925’) mountain pass leading into the San Bernardino Mountains, where it ascends to the crest of the San Andreas Fault and enters the San Gabriel Mountains.

Animals in this section include lizards, rodents, snakes, birds, and mammals. The PCT has been designated a national scenic trail by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service.