Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/10/2022 12:25:15 PM First name: John Last name: Whatley Organization: Title:

Comments: Our National Scenic Trails are each important. When deliberately and comprehensively interlinked they will become the true national treasure they are intended to be. Their value to citizens, international tourists, and wildlife will grow as the network effect of interlinked trails expands. The PNT is an important piece to connect two of our long trails-the Pacific Crest and Continental Divide Trails, along with myriad smaller trails and systems. Thank you to the NPS for continuing this work and undertaking the patient and long term projects to continue development and protection of these trails. I encourage the investment of additional tax dollars to expand these trails, purchase land, create community-connecting side trails, and eliminate road walls wherever possible. Use of our national funds this way is truly an investment in protecting natural areas, as well as our connections to them.