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First name: Jonathan

Last name: Bullard-Sisken

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I completed a westbound thru-hike of the PNT in 2022, starting in July and ending in September. Of course, long-term goals should include building more trail to get the route off of roads as well as the improvement of existing trails, many of which suffer from infrequent maintenance. These goals are difficult to meet due to challenges with land ownership, funding, and volunteer recruitment. There are, however, two improvements that can be made relatively quickly and easily that would drastically increase the quality of the hiking experience.

First, add more trail markers (painted blazes, signs, and/or placards). In its current state almost none of the trail is marked, which requires hikers to navigate via other means, mostly digital. This is not necessary on most other long-distance trails and the result is that PNT hikers spend a significant amount of time looking at their phone to navigate the maze of cow trails, local trails, spur trails, forest roads, and every other type of intersection. This does not make for a pleasant experience. It is much more immersive to arrive at an intersection and be greeted with a blaze or placard indicating the correct direction. The addition of signage will also passively increase awareness of the trail among locals, who more often than not have no idea that the PNT exists. Increasing signage would also help advertise the trail to potential future thru-hikers and trail work volunteers. For example, the PNT has two intersections with the PCT and neither has a PNT marker. This would be the perfect place to have a couple PNT signs ("Montana this many miles this direction. Pacific Ocean this many miles that direction.") since *thousands* of long-distance hikers would pass them each year. Most of the PCT hikers I talked to on that section had never heard of the PNT.

Second, the FarOut app (formerly Guthook) could use a significant amount of work. There are a handful of waypoints that display incorrect information or are placed at the incorrect location. More importantly, there are very few waypoints for the things that actually matter. Tons of trail intersections have waypoints, which isn't really that important considering a user can simply look at the red line and see where the route goes. What is more important are water drop and campsite waypoints. There are precious few water waypoints, which results in people leaving all of their water comments on the closest trail intersection waypoint ("Good water 2.7 miles eastbound"). This is an imprecise and unnecessary annoyance. People are going to look for, and leave, water comments regardless, there is no reason not to put water drop waypoints where the water is like every other trail. If a person wants to hike the trail without knowing where the next water will be, they can simply hide the waypoints. Additionally, there are very few campsite markers. With how dense the brush is, how overgrown the trails are, and how much of the route traverses private property, finding a suitable place to camp can be challenging. Additional campsite waypoints would help hikers feel confident hiking on into the evening, knowing that they are not going to get stuck night hiking for hours with nowhere to camp.