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Comments: I am fully in support of this plan to improve the Pacific Northwest Trail. I hiked the trail westbound in 2020 and had an incredible experience walking through beautiful landscapes, connecting with locals in the trail towns along the route, and interacting with other hikers on trail. The trail connects an amazing diversity of ecosystems as it traverses between the Pacific and the Continental Divide, providing an exceptional resource for hikers, both thru hikers as well as section and day hikers. However, because the trail currently consists of many sections of bushwhacking and road-walking, it is not as accessible or appealing as it could be. The bushwhack sections require a relatively high level of route-finding skill and confidence in off-trail terrain, which is above the skillset of many potential hikers, and the long sections of road do not provide the same level of immersion in nature, not to mention that walking along the busy highway sections can be quite dangerous. Working toward developing a continuous trail along the PNT route would allow more people to enjoy the trail and explore the amazing backcountry terrain of the Pacific Northwest.