

# News and Public Relations

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## **Pacific Crest Trail Association Honors Timber Company with Partnership Award.**

### **Collins Pine Company Demonstrates Unique and Exemplary Stewardship of National Scenic Trail.**

At its recent Annual Meeting, the Sacramento-based Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) honored the Collins Pine Company (headquartered in Portland, Ore.) with its Partnership Award.



Among the highest honors bestowed by the trail-advocacy organization, the Partnership Award has historically been given to fellow non-profit organizations with exemplary records of providing service to the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail (PCT). In what some might call a surprising departure from tradition, the 2002 award went to a for-profit timber company.

In 2002, Chief Forester Jay Francis of the Collins Pine Company took time out from managing all of the company's operations at Chester, California, to initiate and implement an important relocation of the PCT through the company's property in Plumas County, Calif.

Recognizing that the PCT's route in Collins Pine Company forests was not as scenic or as safe as it could (or should) be, Francis recommended that the trail be relocated to the Collins Pine "Park 40." Collins Pine Founder, Truman Collins, set this 40-acre parcel of land aside to be preserved in perpetuity for educational and interpretive purposes. In addition to moving the trail to a more aesthetic area (which involved the construction of one mile of new trail), Francis also orchestrated a safer highway crossing for PCT hikers and equestrians. The former route led PCT users across busy Highway 36 at a location with limited sight distance. The new highway crossing improves the safety of the trail substantially. Additionally, the Collins Pine Company has orchestrated the installation of signs and a parking area, allowing for greater recreational opportunities.

The above changes represent a \$27,500 investment. The project was largely implemented and funded by the Collins Pine Company, with the help of the US Forest Service and the California Conservation Corps.

"If all the trail's neighbors shared Collins Pine's commitment to responsible stewardship, our job would be a lot easier and our National Scenic Trail a lot more scenic," remarked PCTA Program Director, Joe Sobinovsky, at the recent awards ceremony.

Collins Pine Company has been practicing responsible forest stewardship in the Almanor Basin since 1941 and was the first privately owned company to have its forestlands certified by the Forest Stewardship Council as sustainable. Its multi-layered, biodiverse forests support bald eagles, ospreys, goshawks, and northern spotted owls.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association is the "The Voice" of the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. The mission of the Association is to promote, preserve and protect the PCT (which stretches for 2,650-miles from Mexico to Canada through California, Oregon and Washington) so as to reflect its world-class significance for the enjoyment,

education and adventure of hikers and equestrians.

For more information, contact Joe Sobinovsky, Program Director of the PCTA at 916-349-2109 ext 12.