

## Introduction

Interest in the creation of a national historic trail to commemorate the Anza expedition began following the 1976 Bicentennial celebration. Equestrians, historians, and recreation advocates banded together to reenact the 1776 journey on horseback along the historic route. In 1978, Congress included the trail in an amendment to the National Trails System Act to propose funding for a feasibility study. In 1983, Congress passed, and President Ronald Reagan signed, Public Law 98-11 that called for a national trail study to determine the significance and desirability of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

In 1986, the National Park Service completed the study, determining that the Anza Trail met the criteria as determined in the National Trails System Act to become a National Historic Trail. In 1990, Congress passed, and President George H.W. Bush signed, into law PL 101-365, adding the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail to the National Trails System. This was reaffirmed in PL 102-461, on October 23, 1992 and subsequent addenda to the National Trails System Act. The

legislation enacted by Congress states the fact that the trail is comprised of the overland route used by Anza from Sonora, Mexico to San Francisco, California. Congressional testimony included statements asserting that much of the trail's significance lies in the role it played in settling the west.

Today, the Anza trail is one of twenty three National Trails and is a Millennium Trail. In the time since the Anza Trail was added to the National Trails System, the National Park Service has followed a systematic process to create and staff the trail and to fund projects relating to it. One mechanism to achieve this is the Challenge Cost Share Program in which funds given by the National Park Service are partially matched by partners conducting the work. It is within this program that this Trail Guide was conceived and created.

The intent of the Guide is to provide portable interpretation of the trail that can be used in a variety of ways to raise awareness on how the trail affected the early Spanish colonization of the west. It can serve both students in the classroom and children and adults on family vacations. It includes this booklet, and an audio compact disk (CD) that contains wildlife sounds, interviews, and music and songs relevant to the trail. Imagine hearing sounds that Anza expedition members would have heard in the places that they heard them. You can start your morning at an expedition campsite with sounds of the *Alabado*, hearing the sound of a psaltery as played by Father Font at a morning mass. That evening, you can listen to the sounds of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century *Fandango*. During your explorations, you can hear the voices of American Indians speaking their languages and singing their songs, or you can hear the sounds of local wildlife. This guide allows you to do all these things, and more.



1976 Anza Reenactment at Yuma

Photo: Benjamin and Winston Elstob