



Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Feasibility Study Update

Progress continues on the draft feasibility study and environmental assessment (EA) regarding the addition of routes to the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express national historic trails. The NPS planning team has reviewed initial draft descriptions and historical summaries for each study route. These will be refined and reviewed. An evaluation of each route will be made with respect to National Trails System Act criteria.

The routes will be reviewed for impacts of designation on the human and natural environment. Key sections of the EA have been completed through a contract.

The scoping report that was completed last year is available for viewing at:

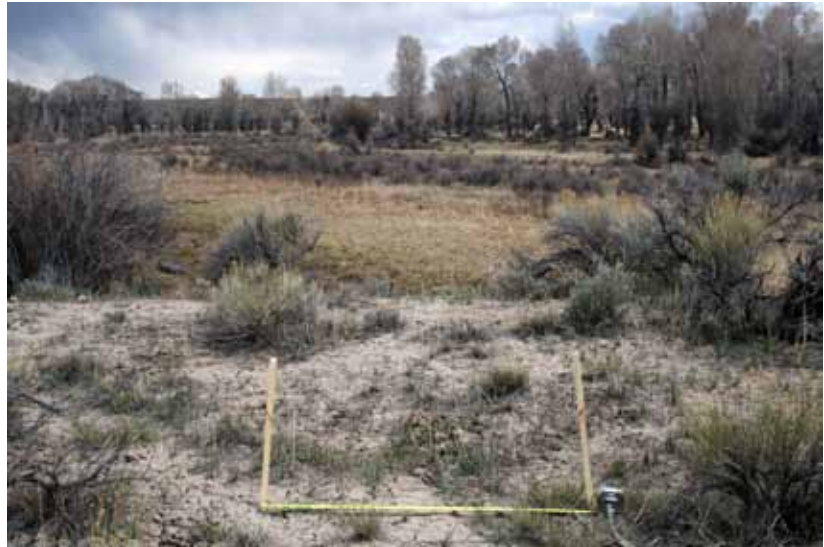
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailFS>

Release of the draft feasibility study and EA for public review is targeted for 2013.

Project Highlight



BLM Archeologist David Crowley stands with a wayside draft in front of the Lander Trail on the Pinedale Anticline in Wyoming.



National Trails Intermountain Region staff visited the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park in April 2012 to layout and stake trails and wayside exhibit locations.

Project Updates

Exhibits:

- NTIR staff coordinated site planning at McCoy Park in Independence, Missouri. Five exhibits will be dedicated in August.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) completed a wayside project located at the Sand Springs turnout on the Pinedale Anticline in Wyoming. Four new wayside exhibits were installed this summer.
- NTIR staff will meet with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes in October 2012 to begin planning for site certification and interpretive exhibits at Fort Hall, Idaho. A cooperative agreement between the Shoshone-Bannock tribes and the National Park Service (NPS) will be completed next fiscal year.
- An interpretive and site plan were completed for New Fork River Crossing Historical Park. NTIR staff marked and mapped new trails in preparation for a design concept plan to be sent for partner review this calendar year.
- NTIR staff and partners have completed wayside exhibits for Strang Park in Overland Park, Kansas and Westport Landing in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Wayside exhibits are being planned for installation on the recently completed and dedicated Red Bridge in Kansas City, Missouri.

Design/Development:

- Sign plan standards and tools will be available online by winter 2012/13 for the Oregon and California national historic trails (NHTs).
- The Kansas City parks department completed another section of the Kansas City, Missouri trails plan along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs corridor connecting Oak Street to the Blue River. The Challenge Cost Share Program project added/upgraded over 1,000 linear feet of recreational trail and installed stone trail markers and trail signs.

Quick Note

Our branch office will not be moving to a new location in Salt Lake City.

Trail Exhibit Highlights



Lander Trail Afton, Wyoming

Four interpretive exhibit designs have been drafted and are currently being reviewed for the Lander Trail Foundation. These waysides will be installed on USDA Forest Service land near Afton, Wyoming.

Boy Scout Troop #799 will grade and install bases. The panels will be fabricated and installed this calendar year. Exxon-Mobil Corporation and the National Park Service provided funding through the Challenge Cost Share Program.

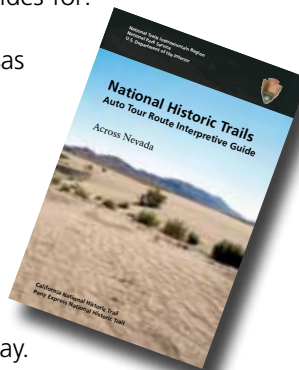
Snowshoe Thompson Cave Orientation Wayside Carson Canyon, California

The final exhibit for a series of Carson Route waysides in partnership with the California-Nevada Chapter of OCTA has been drafted and is currently being edited and finalized. We have been working with Frank Tortorich on the content and design.

Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide Series

Through congressional funding obtained by the Partnership for the National Trails System, seven of the nine interpretive guide series have been developed for the four northern national historic trails. These include guides for:

1. Northwestern Missouri and Northeastern Kansas
2. Iowa
3. Nebraska and Northeastern Colorado
4. Wyoming
5. Idaho
6. Utah
7. Nevada



The Nevada interpretive guide is now available. Planning for the Oregon/Washington guide is underway.

Projects Near You

Ongoing Projects

We reached a verbal agreement with CALTRANS regarding methodology to start planning for signing NHT routes in California. Funding will be transferred to the NPS. Sign plans will be created by trail partners using NTIR digital sign plan tools. CALTRANS will produce and install the signs.

Implementation of the Long-range Interpretive Plan

New Projects

An OCTA mapping workshop is being planned for October/November 2012.

A tribal listening session will be held next year.

NTIR will host a trail association health and tribal outreach workshop in fall 2012 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

We will be creating a mobile smartphone application version of the Utah interpretive guide to be available via a web address, phone number, and quick response (QR) code.

We will be filming and developing a web video on the Wyoming four-trails corridor to be posted on trail websites.



National Trails Intermountain Region

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Comments? Contact:

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