



Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Four Trails Feasibility Study Update

NTIR has finished analysis of the proposed additions to the various study routes. We have started editing alternatives and developing the draft document. The document will be ready for internal agency review in early summer 2014.

The study team developed two action alternatives and a no action alternative for the feasibility study/environmental assessment. A preferred alternative has not been identified. NTIR is continuing to revise alternatives based on the recently completed analysis. For more information, please ask a planning team member or go to:

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

GIS Updates

In December, a new GIS Specialist Derek Nelson joined our Salt Lake City office. Derek is a US Army veteran and has a diverse GIS background. He transferred from Cape Cod National Seashore.

NTIR continues work with the OCTA Mapping Chair and volunteers to enable mapping activities along the trails. Recent proposals for 2014 include mapping activities in Oregon and California. In 2013, OCTA volunteer mapping activity occurred in Wyoming.

GIS staff and the University of Utah will continue providing support on translating mapped marker information from the OCTA Crossroads Chapter.



New Fork River Crossing Historical Park staff installed a new footbridge over a muddy swale last summer. The park's dedication ceremony occurs on June 21, 2014.

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Exhibits

- A wayside kiosk base has been constructed at Ft. Hall, Idaho in partnership with the Lander Trail Foundation and the Shoshone-Bannock tribes. Exhibits are in the research stage.
- Nine wayside exhibits have been delivered to the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park, in Wyoming. Installation and further site development will resume in May. The dedication ceremony will occur on June 21, 2014 with a Development Concept Plan (DCP) charette for phase II to begin on June 22, 2014.
- A new wayside at the Salt River crossing of the Lander Trail in Afton, Wyoming has been delivered and installation will occur in May.

Design/Development

- NTIR staff is reviewing the Alcove Spring DCP, to be finalized summer 2014. NTIR is assisting the Alcove Spring Preservation Association with planning for volunteer work.
- The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Caltrans for the California NHT signing project has been reviewed and is awaiting signature by Caltrans. Once the MOA is signed, funds can be transferred to the NPS, and a project schedule will be set.
- Original Route and site signs for the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHTs have recently been installed in Sugar Creek and Independence, Missouri. OCTA is pursuing Original Route and site signing for the three trails in Raytown and Kansas City, Missouri. Additional sign project proposals for other areas along the trails are still needed for funding this year or in 2015.
- California NHT signs have been shipped to Doniphan County, Kansas and will be installed along the St. Joe Road in the spring.

Trail Exhibit Highlights



New Fork River Crossing Historical Park Boulder, Wyoming

Phase I site development will be complete in May 2014. Nine exhibits, site identification signs, an ADA path, trail construction, and a parking lot continue to be developed for the dedication ceremony in June 2014.

Exhibits tell stories of camp life and river crossing challenges on the New Fork River, and how the Lander Trail was constructed. Emigrant quotes from journals personalize the stories, and colorful illustrations take visitors back in time to the emigrant era.

During the week of June 22, NTIR will facilitate a DCP charette for phase II in Pinedale, Wyoming.

Lander Trail Salt River Crossing Afton, Wyoming

A new exhibit on private land will be installed in summer 2014. The Lander Trail Foundation arranged for public access to an emigrant crossing on the Salt River. A small picnic area will be available, but visitors will still need to obtain permission from the landowner.

Site Certification & National Register

Site Certification: New Sites

On the California NHT: Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History, Roseburg, Oregon

On the Oregon NHT: Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Wasco County Historical Museum, The Dalles, Oregon

National Register

Kansas State Historic Preservation Office (KSHPO) reports that Scott Spring, the Upper Wakarusa River Crossing, the Pacha Ruts, and the Alcove Spring boundary expansion have been listed to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, the Lone Elm Campground nomination is in review, and the Clear Creek Swales are eligible for listing. The Harmon Park Swale nomination was returned to KSHPO when the municipality objected to the listing. Eight additional nominations are in various stages of preparation.

Oregon State Historic Preservation Office has prepared a final Multiple Property Documentation Form for the Oregon Trail through Oregon, as well as nominations for the Blue Mountain Crossing, Well Springs, and White Swan and Flagstaff Hill trail segments. They are now awaiting state review board approval.

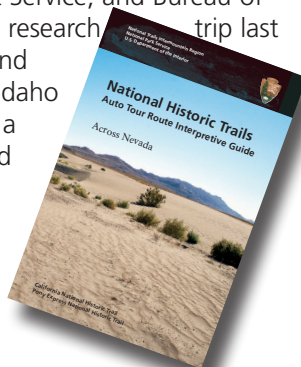
NTIR funded these nominations through cooperative agreements.

Publications

Lee Kreutzer and volunteer Chuck Milliken are hard at work on the Oregon installment of NTIR's popular Auto Tour Routes Guide series. With help from several Oregon OCTA members, tribal partners, Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management colleagues, they conducted their research trip last September. The guide will include directions to sites and interpretive venues along the primary route from the Idaho border and along the Columbia River to Oregon City; a side trip to Whitman Mission National Historic Site and nearby features; the Barlow Road; and the Southern Road to Oregon (Applegate Trail).

Will Bagley has submitted a 355-page Oregon-California trails bibliography. He identified over 2,500 new primary sources and more than 2,000 secondary sources related to the emigrant experience. Download it here:

http://www.nps.gov/cali/historyculture/upload/NPS-HRS-Biblio-Master-February2014_WillBagley-2.pdf.



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.

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NPS 03/2014