



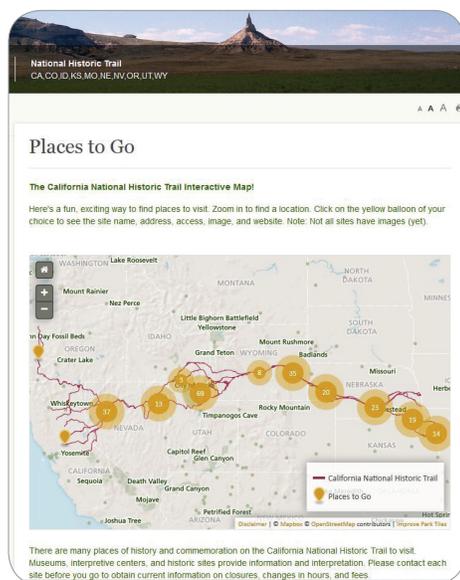
Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Project Updates – Protection, Development, and Promotion

Four Trails Feasibility Study Update

The feasibility study will be under internal review in 2015. All study route descriptions have been finalized and the document is currently being assembled for the internal review. Once the internal review has been completed the document will be prepared for public review in late 2015 or early 2016. For future updates about the study, please ask a planning team member or go to: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailFS>

GIS Updates



NTIR recently finalized and launched a series of interactive maps highlighting places along the trail for the public to visit. The maps highlight Places to Go and Passport Stamp locations to assist visitors in finding public places to visit the trails. These unique maps have been designed to be embedded within existing web pages and can be reused by partners, such as OCTA, on their websites. For questions on the use of the maps, please contact: ntir_rim_team@nps.gov



We partnered on a new interpretive project at Emigrant Lake County Park in Oregon. The road in the distance seen here is the Applegate Trail, part of the California NHT.

Interpretation and Design & Development

- In November 2014 National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) kicked off two site visits to begin site and interpretive planning for City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho and on the Bureau of Land Management's California Trail Back Country Byway north of Wells, Nevada. Both sites provide numerous significant trail remnants and landmarks.
- Work continues on the Lander Trail Foundation interpretive kiosk at the Ft. Hall Museum on the Shoshone-Bannock Indian reservation. Exhibit text is 90 percent complete, and design work will begin soon. We hope to install the exhibit panels in early summer 2015. The base is installed.
- A MOU has been completed for design, fabrication, and installation of three wayside exhibits at Emigrant Lake County Park in Oregon. NTIR staff will design three low-profile wayside exhibits. The Hugo Neighborhood Association and Historical Society received a grant for installation and will provide text, images, and maps. Jackson County Parks will coordinate installation, including the development of ADA-compliant parking space and accessible routes to the interpretive panels and the restroom.
- New "Plan Your Visit" sections of the Oregon and California NHT websites have been developed as part of the National Park Service's Centennial Initiative. For more information see: www.nps.gov/calif/planyourvisit & www.nps.gov/oreg/planyourvisit
- Planning will begin in June to develop interpretive exhibits at Camp Guernsey in partnership with the Wyoming Military Department.
- The Caltrans agreement was signed in December 2014. NTIR requested \$350,000 be transferred for the sign project. We are developing an agreement with OCTA to cover travel to a sign planning meeting and workshop in Sacramento, planned for this summer. The NPS Denver Service Center will be the primary point of contact for completing the sign plans with OCTA and National Pony Express Association volunteers.

Midwest Project Highlights



NTIR staff presented updates on the implementation of the Alcove Spring Park Development Concept Plan for phase I.



Children enjoyed the public events at Alcove Spring Park last fall.

Kansas City Sign Projects

OCTA, Santa Fe Trail Association, Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association, and other partner organizations are working with several municipalities in the Kansas City metro area on Santa Fe, California, and Oregon National Historic Trails signing projects, including the City of Kansas City, Missouri, Olathe, Kansas, and Leawood, Kansas. Signing will be completed by 2016. A meeting to discuss next steps in signing and trail construction across the metro area will be held March 21, 2015 at the National Frontier Trails Museum in Independence, Missouri.

Alcove Spring Park Active Trails Grant

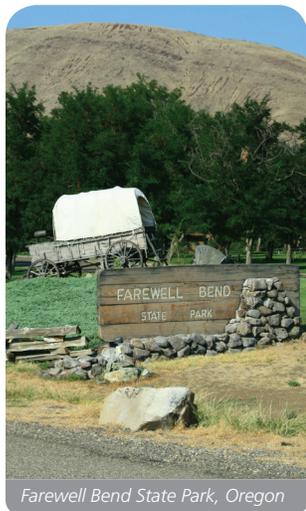
Alcove Spring Historical Trust, NTIR, the Kanza Chapter, and other partners successfully completed year one of the National Park Foundation Active Trails Grant, and are applying for continued funding for 2015. The 2014 grant supported hundreds of hours of volunteer work and community involvement at the site, which resulted in a mile of new hiking trail, pedestrian and road signing, a new site brochure, and a large, successful public event featuring Pawnee Nation traditional dancers.

Work planned for 2015 will include three new wayside exhibits, a new pedestrian bridge, public events such as trail runs and tours, and other trail and site improvements.

Archeology & Metal Detecting

The Kansas State Historical Society, the Alcove Spring Preservation Association, and NTIR will be conducting archeological and metal detecting surveys at the site in May, following the biannual controlled burn. Duane Iles is convening a team of local volunteers to assist.

Cultural Resource News



Farewell Bend State Park, Oregon

Progress on the auto tour route guide for the Oregon NHT is on hold due to the feasibility study workload. The Northwest Chapter of OCTA is coordinating some of its signing efforts with the draft driving directions. We will resume work as the feasibility study moves into review.

NTIR is preparing to enter an Interagency Agreement with BLM's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon to fund a temporary archeology technician. The technician will help document trail remnants between Farewell Bend and Huntington, monitor eight trail interpretive sites, and coordinate with OCTA volunteers to conduct research, fieldwork, and site maintenance activities.

NTIR traveled to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in October to record oral history interviews with six Oglala Lakota elders. Faculty of the Oglala Lakota College arranged and hosted the interviews, and students are transcribing the recordings.

Staff News

Several valued staff members have recently retired from NTIR. Tribal Liaison Otis Halfmoon retired in October. After 37 years with the NPS, Chief of Trail operations Sharon Brown retired in January. And Susan Boyle retired in February. All three were well known to OCTA and will be missed. On the other hand, expect to see some new faces in the NTIR in the coming year! New Chief of Interpretation Carole Wendler joins our staff in March. More on Carole in the next newsletter.

All Aboard!: Transcontinental Railroad Project



NTIR is investigating the interplay between overland emigration traffic and the developing transcontinental railroad during the mid- to late 1860s. Once the Union Pacific and Central Pacific started laying tracks from Omaha and Sacramento, respectively, how did their activities affect trail travelers? Did westbound or eastbound travelers begin to ride to the end of the rails before jumping off onto the trails, and if so, which groups of people took advantage of that opportunity? How did railroad construction affect stagecoach traffic and mail service? We hope to develop an interactive map that will explore these questions and more.

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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