



Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Project Updates – Protection, Development, and Promotion

Four Trails Feasibility Study Update

We have updated more than 70 feasibility study maps of the study routes here: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourTrails-Maps>. View the maps and stay tuned for the public comment period to be announced.

For study updates visit: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailFS> or email: Michael_Elliott@nps.gov.

GIS Updates



Work continues to add pictures to the websites' Places To Go interactive maps. If you have images you would like to share for any of the sites featured on the maps, please contact us: ntir_rim_team@nps.gov.

NTIR is working with a recent University of New Mexico graduate, participating in the Latino Heritage Internship Program, to develop dynamic "story map" applications. A story map provides an innovative way to tell the stories of the Oregon and California national historic trails (NHT) in a web-based interactive map application. Please stay tuned for future updates on these new efforts.



Boy scouts enjoy a hike at Alcove Spring Park in Kansas during a September 6th celebration event that included a performance by the Topeka Symphony Orchestra. Photo: Tom Parker

Interpretation and Design & Development

- Our Connect Trails to Parks proposal for City of Rocks National Reserve in Idaho was selected for FY17. The project proposal includes a new retracement trail, a family friendly event, and new waysides.
- Work continues on the Lander Trail Foundation interpretive kiosk at the Ft. Hall Museum on the Shoshone-Bannock Indian Reservation. The design phase is complete and the panels will be fabricated soon.
- Three Applegate Trail wayside exhibits covering the Hill Cemetery, the Oregon Donation Land Claims, and the Applegate Trail will be installed at Emigrant Lake County Park near Ashland, Oregon this fall.
- The City of Independence, Missouri partnered with NTIR to produce four ADA accessible wayside exhibits with kid-friendly stories that include braille text. They will be installed in McCoy Park's new playground. Local Independence kids chose the theme of westward expansion along the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California trails.
- NTIR will provide technical assistance to help the Burley, Idaho BLM field office develop outdoor exhibits at Milner Historic Recreation Area in southeastern Idaho.
- We are working with the Boise, Idaho BLM field office and the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) to provide a plan for the Canyon Creek station on the Main Oregon Trail Back Country Byway.
- We are developing interpretive exhibits at Camp Guernsey with the Wyoming Military Department and Wyoming National Guard.
- A successful sign planning workshop was held at the Caltrans office in Marysville, California in September. The NPS Denver Service Center will be the primary point of contact for completing the sign plans.
- OCTA Northwest Chapter members with Malheur County's road department installed Oregon NHT signs on Oregon BLM land this summer.

Project Highlights



Site and access improvements were made at Alcove Spring Park, Kansas during July 2015.



The Topeka Symphony Orchestra performed at Alcove Spring Park, Kansas in September. Photo: Tom Parker

Kansas City Projects

In mid-August, a series of meetings were held in the Kansas City metro area to discuss a comprehensive plan for the Santa Fe, Oregon, and California national historic trails from Wayne City Landing in Sugar Creek, Missouri to Gardner Junction in Gardner, Kansas. Participants included Mid-America Regional Council, representatives of public works and parks departments in Missouri and Kansas municipalities, and members of trail associations including the Santa Fe Trail Association, OCTA and the Kansas City Area Historic Trails Association. The proposed project builds on many years of effort by local trail advocates for the construction of retracement trail, including such milestones as the soon to be completed Powder Mill Bridge, which provides a safe pedestrian crossing of Interstate 435 specifically for the national historic trails. Participants expressed high enthusiasm, and we will continue to develop options this fall.

Alcove Spring Park Active Trails Grant

Alcove Spring Historical Trust, NTIR, the OCTA Kanza Chapter, and other partners completed a new pedestrian bridge, public events and tours, and other trail and site improvements. The Topeka Symphony Orchestra performed at the park on September 6, 2015 bringing the arts and history together for a unique and successful public event.

Archeology & Metal Detecting

Kansas State Historical Society, Alcove Spring Preservation Association, and NTIR conducted archeological and metal detecting surveys at Alcove Spring Park in May. Volunteers found numerous metal artifacts, but only a small number show potential for association with the trail period.

Cultural Resource News



Farewell Bend State Park, Oregon

NTIR provided the BLM Vale District's National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Baker City, Oregon with \$7,000 to fund a seasonal archeology technician. Vale District archeologists developed a trail monitoring form and began using it to monitor interpreted and publicly accessible segments of the Oregon NHT. They also created viewshed models for the major trail segments in the district and worked with OCTA to install new signs for trail sites in the southern part of the district.

Additional tasks to be performed in coordination with OCTA volunteers include site cleanup and stabilization on one or more trails sites; documenting trail ruts between Farewell Bend and Huntington, Oregon; and conducting preparatory work for geophysical testing to identify Oregon Trail trace that is not readily visible.

Staff News

Chief of Interpretation Carole Wendler has led the interpretive team since March. Archeologist Jill Jensen joined the office in May. In June, Mike Elliott returned to NTIR to coordinate planning efforts, including the Four Trails Feasibility Study. GIS Coordinator John Cannella was promoted to Deputy Superintendent/Program Manager, and our new Administrative Officer Kelly Shea joined NTIR in August.

Urban Ranger Program



In September, NTIR provided a presentation on national historic trails that travel through Salt Lake City, Utah to Urban Ranger interns. As part of the program, University of Utah students will patrol trails on mountain bikes and educate users about natural resource stewardship and provide information on national historic trails.

100 Years in the Making

FIND YOUR PARK On August 25, 2016, the National Park Service turns 100 years old! Explore what parks mean to you and join the #FindYourPark movement at: www.findyourpark.com.

Socialize with Us!

We just launched the combined Oregon and California NHTs Facebook page. Please like us & share! <https://www.facebook.com/oregoncalifornianps>

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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