

# Appendix E

## Chronology of the Project

### 1. **The Genesis of the Federal Trail Data Standards:** May 2001

At a meeting of Federal National Trails System administrators in Denver, Colorado, participants affirm a collective need to inventory, assess, and map trail locations and trail resources across multiple jurisdictions throughout the United States. They also recognize that consistent standards would facilitate the exchange of trail data.

### 2. **GPS Data Dictionary Team:** May 2001 to December 2001

A team of agency representatives discuss the challenge and decide to pursue the production of two GPS (Global Positioning System) data dictionaries. One would be for National Scenic Trails and the other for National Historic Trails. Drafts of both data dictionaries are created.

### 3. **Evolution of the GPS Data Dictionary Team into the Interagency Trail Data Standards Team:** December 2001

The GPS Data Dictionary Team realizes that the scope of the work needs to expand in order to fully address the needs first identified by the Federal National Trails System administrators. The Federal Interagency Council on Trails concurs and calls for the formation of an interagency team of trail, data, and subject-matter specialists who would develop national-level interagency trail data standards. The authority to form the team is based on a provision in the January, 2001, *Memorandum of Understanding for the Administration and Management of National Historic and National Scenic Trails*.

### 4. **Interagency Core Trail Data Standards Charter and Action Plan:** February 2002

Agency representatives meet in Phoenix, Arizona, to draft a charter for the Interagency Trail Data Standards Team. The charter calls for the establishment of a Core Trail Data Set to be used by the Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and US Forest Service in the collection, recording, and retrieval of trails data for National Scenic Trails, National Historic Trails, and other agency trails. Two potential action plans are outlined.

### 5. **Interagency Core Trail Data Identification Meeting:** July 2002

At a meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, Interagency Core Trail Data needs are identified, the objectives and expectations of the Interagency Draft Charter and Action Plan are reviewed, Core Data Review Criteria are established, the Interagency Definition of a "Trail" is crafted, and Interagency Core Trail Questions (Desired Data Outputs) are identified.

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The Interagency Trail Data Standards Team begins the identification of data attributes, definitions, and lists of values. Two interagency work groups are created to follow-up on identifying and defining the remaining attributes.

### **6. Completion of Draft Interagency Trail Data Standards:** August 2002 to April 2003

The two work groups meet several times via conference calls and/or meetings to complete discussion, review, and development of the Draft Interagency Trail Data Standards. The Interagency Trail Data Work Group focuses on the draft standards applicable to all system trails, while the Interagency National Historic Trails (NHT) Data Work Group focuses on an additional subset of unique draft standards applicable only to National Historic Trails.

### **7. Internal Agency Review of Draft Interagency Trail Data Standard:** May 1 to May 30, 2003

The draft standards are circulated within the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, and the US Forest Service for review and comment.

### **8. Refinement of Draft ITDS Based on Comments Received from the Internal Agency Review:** June 2003 to April 2004

The Interagency Trail Data Standards Team meets in Phoenix, Arizona, in July 2003 to review the comments received from the internal agency review. Over the next several months, the team meets via conference calls to complete the crafting of a disposition document and the editing of the data standards files.

### **9. External Review of Draft Interagency Trail Data Standards (ITDS Version 1):** May 1 to June 30, 2004

The Draft Interagency Trail Data Standards (ITDS Version 1) are posted on a web site (<http://www.nps.gov/gis/trails/>) for review by agency partners, state trail coordinators, and other interested trail groups and individuals.

### **10. US Fish and Wildlife Service Joins the Team:** October, 2004

### **11. Refinement of ITDS Version 1 Based on Comments Received from the External Review:** July, 2004 to September, 2006

The Interagency Trail Data Standards Team meets in Denver, Colorado, in July 2004 to review the comments received from the external review. Periodic conference calls continue the work.

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Members of the team advance the incorporation and implementation of the Interagency Trail Data Standards within the Department of the Interior (National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and US Fish and Wildlife Service).

Implementation is almost completed within the USDA Forest Service.

A task team works with GIS professionals to refine the geospatial component of the data standards. A second task team contracts with North Carolina State University to do a proof of concept pilot project in which the ITDS is applied to a selected area in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem.

Core members of the ITDS team meet in Anchorage, Alaska, in September 2006 to thoroughly review the ITDS Spreadsheet (Attributes, Definitions, LOVs, etc.)

### **12. Public Review of Federal Trail Data Standards (ITDS Version 2) for Publication as FGDC Trail Data Standard:** March 6 to August 8, 2008

In FY 2007 the North Carolina State University team was contracted to transform the ITDS into a Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Data Standard. The Standard was presented in two separate parts:

- Data Content provides semantic definitions of a set of objects. This part specifies and defines the data elements associated with trails.
- Data Transfer describes how to produce or consume packages of data, independent of technology and applications that will facilitate moving data between agencies and systems.

ITDS Version 2 -- entitled "Federal Trail Data Standards (Public Review Draft)" -- was posted on the web by FGDC for public review.

### **13. Refinement of FTDS (Public Review Draft) Based on Comments Received from the Public Review:** September, 2008 to June, 2010

Comments received from the public review were adjudicated by a core work group of the Interagency Trail Data Standards Team in Denver, Colorado in January 2009. The Interagency Trail Data Standards Team is renamed the Federal Trail Data Standards Team. In June, 2010, identified edits from the review were incorporated into the data standards in preparation for final publication by the FGDC.

### **14. Final Step – FTDS Published as FGDC Data Standard:** November 2011

The Federal Trail Data Standards are published by the FGDC as the Federal standard document number FGDC-STD-017-2011.