

Trail Talk Minutes

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

3:00 – 4:00 pm CST

I. Introductions

Trail talk began with introductions of Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (LECL) hosts:

Karla Sigala, Interpretive Specialist (karla_sigala@nps.gov, 402-661-1826)

Jill Hamilton-Anderson, Education Specialist (jill_hamilton_anderson@nps.gov, 402-661-1824)

Nichole McHenry, Volunteer Program Manager (nichole_mchenry@nps.gov, 402-611-1810)

II. Trail Talk Purpose

The purpose of Trail Talk is to connect interpreters, educators, and volunteer professionals so they can learn from each other, share ideas and resources, and build relationships. It is also to weave places and people together along the National Historic Trail. Trail Talk will also be used as a conduit for information dissemination regarding policy changes, administration needs, grants and other funding opportunities.

Trail Talk is an informal way to assist partners by providing a conduit for communication.

III. Introductions

Trail Talk welcomed an audience from North Dakota, Illinois and the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

IV. Guest Speaker: Neal Bedlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Omaha, NE.



Neal works to enhance sustainable recreation on the Lewis and Clark NHT. Neal has been focused on the Lewis and Clark NHT auto tour route wayshowing, water trails, and recreational trails. Neal is a firm believer in actively experiencing the Lewis and Clark NHT. He works with communities and organizations along the trail to promote recreation within the context of stewardship.

Thanks to Neal for accepting the offer to share with the Trail Talk audience his experience as the Outdoor Recreation Planner for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Neal has been with the Trail for 3 years and has been active in promoting Trail Stewardship. He spoke to the participants on the various types of recreation, driving, water trails and surface trails, etc. The Trail focuses on stewardship of the land and story of Lewis and Clark. Users of the Trail will have a greater appreciation of the trail by having an actual experience out on the Trail, Neal is a firm believer users protect the Trail and practice stewardship of the land when they experience it. During his tenure with the Trail and other land

management agencies, he believes that Interpretation and experience go hand-and-hand, getting out on the Trail to learn, with the opportunity to recreate is an added bonus.

Recreation for people with disabilities, 80% of it is information. It is a practice to work with partners that meet ADA standards or exceed them. Information is important and should be available for all who want to enjoy the various forms of recreation.

Is there ADA standards for outdoor recreational trails? Is there a place to find the best trail materials for accessibility? How about ADA standards for forts?

The standards vary depending on the type of trail being proposed, please see:

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/accessible/ADASummFeb00.html>;

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/rectrails/manuals.htm>

Some acceptable materials for outdoor path accessibility may be in porous pavement systems.

<http://www.americantrails.org/resources/trailbuilding/index.html>

For forts and other historic structures this Preservation Brief may be helpful:

<http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/brief32.htm>

Karla asked Neal for examples of partners he worked with that focused on both recreation and stewardship.

Neal cited recent examples of the Missouri National Recreational River and the Jefferson River Canoe Trail and how they are working to protect the natural resources and also encourage the use of the river through recreation. Jefferson River Water Trail, the group is working with the NPS to have the proposed transmission lines moved from close proximity to the Trail.

Jill mentioned a project in Salmon Idaho that is using technology to educate trail users about the significance of an area to the Lewis and Clark NHT. The aim is that through education, users become more aware of the negative impacts of their actions and hopefully change their actions to become less impactful on the resource.

Neal also mentioned that the NPS only supports sustainable forms of recreation where it will have little impact on the resource.

Another example of a recreation stewardship combination is a program through the North Dakota State Historical Society. They have invested in snow shoes to embrace the winter months, and have partnered with Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to provide both a recreational and educational experience.

A repository for recreational opportunities across the Trail through the Adventure Cycling Association:

<http://www.adventurecycling.org/routes/lewisandclark.cfm?pg=more>

There was a question about structural modifications to Earth lodges, A good place to start is with the Earthlodge Movement at earthlodgemovement@gmail.com OR

http://www.earthlodgemovement.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3&Itemid=6

A great suggestion for a future Trail Talk topic is historic structure restoration, maybe with a focus on forts as there are so many forts along the trail Fort Mandan, Fort Clatsop, Camp River Dubois, etc,. Perhaps there are others out there who will be people willing to share some best practices of dealing with these structural concerns.

<http://www.restoretraining.org/>; <http://www.wbdg.org/resources/omhs.php>;
<http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/briefs/presbhom.htm>; <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/>;
<http://www.preservationnation.org/resources/faq/historic-buildings/how-do-i-restore-or.html>;

IMLS- Let's Move Initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama as a support for trail building and recreation:
<http://www.letsmove.gov/>

VI. Trail Notes

Brainstormed examples of recreation opportunities that have lead to stewardship.