



Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Project Updates - Protection, Development, and Promotion

Caltrans Update

A first draft of the sign plans for most of the routes of the California and Pony Express national historic trails (NHTs) through California is under review by the National Park Service's Denver Service Center. Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) volunteers continue to work on the few remaining routes. This project was featured by NPS at the ESRI Federal GIS Conference in February, which typically is attended by more than 3,500 mapping and data professionals. The conference is a professional forum and explores ground-breaking ways government uses geospatial technology to meet global needs.



Darcee Killpack, Regional GIS Coordinator/Geographic Resources Division Chief, NPS Intermountain Region, introduced all conference participants to the success of volunteer mapping in the Caltrans signing project. Photograph courtesy of ESRI.

Planning Update

The revision to the feasibility study and environmental assessments for additional routes for Oregon, California, Pony Express, and Mormon Pioneer NHTs is being prepared for public review.

In January the NPS Washington office reviewed the revised significance statements for the four trails and approved compliance with NPS policy. The study will be presented to the NPS Advisory Board National Historic Landmark Committee in May and it will likely be presented to the full advisory board in June.

The study is tentatively scheduled to be released to the public in draft form in the fall 2016.

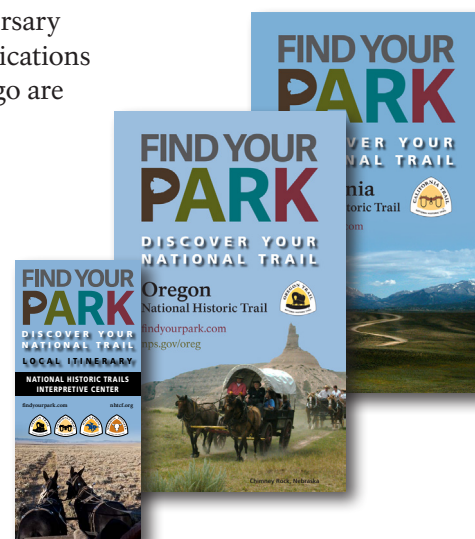
National Park Service Centennial

Let's celebrate the NPS 100-year anniversary and raise awareness for trails! New publications that incorporate the Find Your Park logo are available to boost interest in visiting or learning about national historic trails.

Official Oregon and California NHT centennial events include the Alcove Spring fall fun trek and two family-friendly dedication events in Kansas City in June. If OCTA or others hold additional events, we ask that they be events held *in honor of the centennial*.

Questions about events or materials? Email carole_wendler@nps.gov and include "Centennial Help" in the subject.

2016



Examples of materials developed for the Find Your Park centennial campaign.

Design, Development, and Interpretation Projects

- A cooperative agreement between Mid-America Regional Council (the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the bistate Kansas City area) and NPS will fund the 40-mile Santa Fe, Oregon, and California NHT retracement trail plan project for Kansas and Missouri.
- The NPS design charette at Pappan's Ferry/Topeka Riverfront Park (Topeka, Kansas) has been tentatively scheduled for the week of August 22, 2016.
- A conceptual site plan will be created with BLM for the Canyon Creek Station site along the Oregon NHT in Idaho. Work is also underway to stabilize the on-site historic station building.
- Three Applegate Trail wayside exhibits are in progress for the California NHT. They will be installed at the two I-5 Manzanita rest stops north of Grants Pass, Oregon.



Oregon Trail Trek fun run at Alcove Spring Park

- A successful "Oregon Trail Trek" fun run event was held at Alcove Spring Park (Marshall County, Kansas) in October 2015. It was the final piece in the National Park Foundation's Active Trails Grant. A similar event will be held October 16, 2016 as a NPS centennial event.

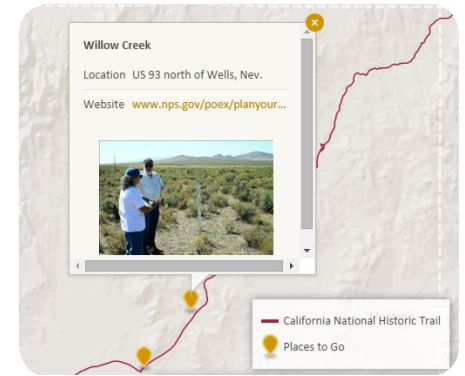
Cultural Resource Update - Compliance Roundup

Across the West, NHTs have received impacts as land managers route projects along/over trail corridors in order to avoid sage grouse habitat.

- Boardman-to-Hemingway (B2H) will be a 300-mile transmission line from Boardman, Oregon, to Hemingway, Idaho, where it will meet the 1,000-mile Gateway West transmission line under construction across Wyoming and Idaho. It will impact the Oregon NHT.
- A 225-mile transmission line by Nebraska Public Power District will impact the California and Mormon Pioneer NHTs between Sutherland and Thedford, Nebraska.
- Transfer of land ownership along Humboldt River from Bureau of Reclamation to Lander/Pershing counties and Pershing County Water Conservation District, Nevada will affect the California NHT in the vicinity of Rye Patch.
- Long Canyon Mine on BLM land has potential adverse effects to the Hastings Cutoff along the California NHT in Nevada.

Questions? Contact Jill_Jensen@nps.gov or Lee_Kreutzer@nps.gov

GIS Update



NTIR continues to add pictures to the websites' Places To Go interactive maps. To share your images for any of the sites featured on the maps, contact: ntir_rim_team@nps.gov.

NTIR is working with a University of New Mexico student intern to continue development of dynamic "Story Map" applications. A story map provides an innovative way to tell the stories of the Oregon and California NHTs in a web-based interactive map application. Please stay tuned for future updates.

Project Queue

Have a project idea? Please contact NTIR staff early in the process. The project queue is scheduled years ahead. If your project is time sensitive, we can also discuss other options for moving forward.

Staff News

Kimberly Finch has left the building! NTIR Interpretive Specialist Kimberly Finch accepted a job with BLM-Utah as a public affairs specialist in January. We wish her eternal luck and happiness in her new job.

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? Write to:

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