



Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Public Scoping Meetings

As part of the scoping process, National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) staff conducted 16 public meetings across 13 states, and also accepted written comments by mail and email. A scoping report, which summarizes the comments received, is available at:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailFS>

Meanwhile, progress continues on the draft environmental assessment (EA), with draft route maps and descriptions in preparation for public review. Key OCTA contributors will have an opportunity to review those maps and descriptions before the EA is released for public review and comment. We anticipate releasing the public draft in 2013.

New Faces and Places

We will be moving our Salt Lake City office to a new location in town sometime in 2012. Please watch our websites (www.nps.gov/cali, www.nps.gov/oreg) for updates.

Interpretive Specialist Chuck Milliken retired in December 2011 after 42 years of NPS service and 10 years with the trails office.

David Mayfield joined the Salt Lake office as an administrative assistant in April 2011 providing trails information to the public on the phone, via email, and in person.



Site and interpretive planning efforts have begun for the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park. This property was purchased using \$1 million in gas mitigation funds.

Exhibit, Research, & Highway Sign Project Updates

Exhibits:

- NTIR staff have coordinated site planning at McCoy Park in Independence, Missouri. Five exhibits will be fabricated in spring 2012.
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) work group will be closing out an 8-year programmatic agreement with the completion of four interpretive waysides, to be installed on the Lander Trail near Pinedale, Wyoming in summer 2012.
- NTIR staff will meet with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes in spring 2012 to begin planning for site certification and interpretive exhibits on old Fort Hall. We are working toward a cooperative agreement between the Shoshone-Bannock tribes and the National Park Service (NPS).

Research:

- "Sweet Freedom's Plains: African Americans on the Overland Trails, 1841-1869," by Dr. Shirley Ann Wilson Moore of California State University, Sacramento, has been finalized. We will make the study, the product of a three-year effort, available to the public on our websites.

Highway Signs:

- Sign plan standards will be available online by spring 2012 for the Oregon and California national historic trails.
- A new memorandum of understanding with the Idaho Transportation Department to install new tour route highway signs throughout southeast Idaho has been reviewed. Funding for the production of nearly 290 new highway signs along US highways 30, 89, & 91, I-15, I-86, state routes 27, 34, 36, & 77, and the county road along the Oregon NHT from Soda Springs to Chesterfield and Fort Hall are included in this phase.

Trail Exhibit Highlights



Lander Trail Pinedale, Wyoming

Four interpretive exhibit designs managed by the BLM in partnership with OCTA and the NPS have been finalized and approved. The exhibits interpret the role of mitigation for gas impacts along the Lander Trail.

These exhibits will be installed during the summer 2012 season at the Sand Springs turnout on Wyoming highway 191 near Pinedale, Wyoming. This project marks the final task in the BLM's amended programmatic agreement.



New Fork River Crossing Historical Park Pinedale, Wyoming

NTIR has created a site plan and interpretive plan for the New Fork River Crossing Historical Park along the Lander Trail. The park plans to hold a soft opening in late summer 2012 for phase one of planning efforts. The park will continue with improvements in future phases.

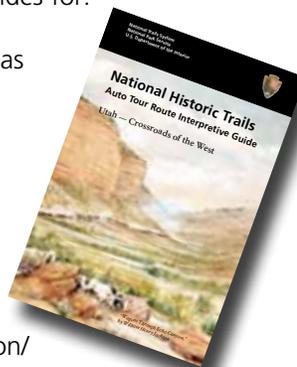


Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide Series

Through congressional funding obtained by the Partnership for the National Trails System, seven of the nine interpretive guide series have been developed for the four northern national historic trails. These include guides for:

1. Northwestern Missouri and Northeastern Kansas
2. Iowa
3. Nebraska and Northeastern Colorado
4. Wyoming
5. Idaho
6. Utah
7. Nevada

The Nevada interpretive guide will be available for distribution in spring 2012. Planning for the Oregon/Washington guide is underway.



More Projects Near You

Highway Sign Projects

New highway signs will be installed along the Pony Express and portions of the California national historic trails across Nevada in 2012.

We hope to reach an agreement with CalTrans to start the planning for signing the California NHT in the state of California.



The New Fork River near Pinedale, Wyoming.

Ongoing Projects

- Lander Trail, Pinedale, WY exhibits
- Lander Trail Foundation exhibits
- McCoy Park, MO exhibits
- Implementation of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan
- Tribal listening sessions, trail marking, final lab work & reporting for Middle Sweetwater Archeological Project
- American Indian tribal consultation workshop, fall 2012
- Carson Route, Snowshoe Thompson Cave trailhead exhibit

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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