Oregon and California National Historic Trails

Public Scoping Meetings

NPS conducted public scoping this spring and summer for the Four Trails Feasibility Study to evaluate the addition of 64 routes to the Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express national historic trails.

We held 16 public meetings in: Denver, CO; Casper & Rock Springs, WY; Tahlequah, OK; McPherson & Topeka, KS; Independence, MO; Lincoln, NE; Des Moines, IA; Salt Lake City, UT; Boise, ID; Walla Walla & Vancouver, WA; The Dalles, OR; Carson City, NV, & Sacramento, CA.

The public scoping comment period ended on July 30, 2011

http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailFS

New Faces and Places

Landscape Architects Coreen Kolisko and Kristin Van Fleet joined the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) office in on June 6, 2011.

Interpretive Specialist Kimberly Finch joined the NTIR office on July 3, 2011.

Interpretive Specialist Chuck Milliken will retire in December 2011 after more than 40 years of service and 10 years with the NTIR.

CCSP Projects for 2011

There are no new Challenge Cost Share Projects for 2011.

Exhibit, Research, & Highway Sign Project Updates

Exhibits:

• Four out of five wayside panels have been written and designed for McCoy Park in Independence, Missouri. NTIR staff will visit the exhibit site in August to plan the fifth panel and to coordinate site planning.

• Bureau of Land Management work group resumed Lander Trail interpretive planning and design after a four year hiatus for five exhibits on the Middle Crest Road near Pinedale, Wyoming.

• Initial planning is about to begin to develop an interpretive trail on the Lander Trail at the New Fork River Crossing Park, owned and managed by Wyoming's Sublette County Historical Society with up to eight new interpretive exhibits.

Research:

• NTIR and Oregon SHPO signed a cooperative agreement to develop a statewide Multiple Property Documentation Form and several site nominations. A similar agreement to nominate trail properties in Missouri is in development, and an agreement with the Kansas SHPO has been in place and work underway for a year. OCTA subject matter experts will be consulted in the selection of properties to be nominated.

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 ATRLTR highways signs throughout southeast Idaho is being drafted and reviewed. Funding for the production of nearly 290 new highway signs along U. S. highways 30, 89, & 91, I-15, I-86, state routes 27, 34, 36, & 77, and the county road along the Oregon Trail from Soda Springs to Chesterfield and Fort Hall are included in this phase.
Fate Of The American Bison

There will be a dedication and program for new wayside exhibits at the Great Platte River Archway on September 15th at Kearney, Nebraska.

Caples Lake
Carson Route, California

A new wayside exhibit about the Second Summit has been sent out for production to go with the existing exhibits placed along the Carson Route of the California Trail. The wayside should be available for installation by early September.

Donner Springs
Hastings Cut-off Trail, Utah

Four new waysides for the Donner Springs area will be shipped from the vendor by the end of this month. They will be installed over the next few months. We partnered with the Utah Crossroads Chapter of OCTA for this project.

Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide Series

Through congressional funding obtained by the Partnership for the National Trails System, six 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

NTIR has created a draft layout for the seventh Auto Tour Route Interpretive Guide for Nevada. Our office anticipates printing by the end of the calendar year.

Connect Trails to Parks

Connect Trails to Parks is a competitive grant program run by the NPS offering funding for a broad range of projects—from traditional waysides and interpretive programs to innovative educational and outreach programs. Trailhead access and facility upgrades are also eligible, as are special events, when jointly planned and designed to attract new visitors to trails and parks.

Projects must have a connection between the Oregon or California national historic trails and a federal land entity. Projects on Bureau of Land Management or USDA Forest Service lands may be eligible. Contact our office with your ideas.

Highway Sign Projects

New local tour route highway signs have been installed in the following Nebraska counties: Dawson, Kearney, Adams, and Clay counties. We plan to install signs in Nebraska counties Nuchols, Phelps, and Gosper sometime in October. New highway signs are also being installed along the Pony Express Trail and portions of the California Trail across Nevada.

Ongoing Projects
- Lander Trail, Wyoming exhibits
- McCoy Park, Missouri exhibits
- Implementation of the Long-Range Interpretive Plan

Comments? Contact:
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NPS 07/2011

More Projects Near You