

**Missouri Ozark Trail Council
Semi-Annual Meeting
Echo Bluff State Park
Saturday, February 24, 2018**

Meeting opened at 10:00 by Kathie Brennan, President, Ozark Trail Association

Individuals Attending

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Abi Jackson	Ozark Trail Association	Andrea Yates	Private Citizen
Becky Hays	US Army Corp of Engineers	Bob Lourwood	Ironton
Dave Tobey	National Parks Service	Doug Mehlville	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri
Jeff Goetter	Ozark Trail Association	Kathie Brennan	Ozark Trail Association
Kelley Brent	MO State Parks	Kyle Paynter	US Army Corp of Engineers
Lee Hughes	MO Dept of Conservation	Maury Mertz	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri
Roger Allison	Ozark Trail Association	Stacy Bandelier	MO State Parks
Stanley Cartz	US Forest Service	Susan Farrington	MO Dept of Conservation

Agency Reports

- Department of Natural Resources – Missouri State Parks
 - The Proposed flag line for trail from Echo Bluff to Current River has been started
 - New general overview OT Brochure is ready to go to print, it was passed around for review. After discussion it was decided that only 20,000 would be printed for the first go around instead of the 100,000 that were done last time to see how long they last. Additional prints can be ordered at any time and also other agencies may request them if needed
 - The smaller initial print will ensure it can be updated more often.
 - The OTA will distribute to towns and such while DNR will do the state locations
- Sierra Club
 - The club held their annual week of maintenance last fall in the LAD area and another is scheduled for October 2018
- US Forest Service
 - Stanley introduced himself as the new USFS representative and he is in the process of getting to know everything
- National Park Service
 - The roads and trails plan comment period has closed and being reviewed
- Pacific River Walk – present on behalf of Steve Myer
 - The river walk is continuing to grow with the addition of 35 acres along the river and the OTA will be assisting the group with cleanup operations in early March.
- OTA President Report
 - The OTA continues to be very busy, since the last meeting there have been fundraisers, crew leader training sessions held, sawyer certifications, multiple promotion events around the state
 - Was invited to take part in a roundtable sponsored by MDC
 - Last fall there were 2 Mega events to make up for the high number of weather cancelled events last year
 - The OTA is now the proud owners of the rights to the OT Guide Book
 - Grants received from Red Wind and LAD grants awarded and billing has started on the NPS portion of the Round Spring grant

- OTA Volunteer, Don Massey has published a coffee table picture book of the OT and we get a percentage of proceeds
- OTA is 15 years old where we initiated a volunteer of the year award, plus did some trail work for TMCA trout lodge
- Using a generous donation and a matching grant we have acquired a new 4WD Truck

Agenda Items

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
 - The MOU has had some minor revisions which had been shared with the group and after discussion it was decided to distribute as is for on proposed MOU and
 - ACTION ITEM: Roger Allison will distribute with the MOU with the approved language changes to each agency is to take to their home agency for review and approval.
2. The Future of the Ozark Trail
 - Roger Allison, the OTA Planning and Development Committee Chairperson presented a 5-year plan that his committee is working on. Please see Attachment 1 for the full document.

Open Discussion

- Bob Lourwood, the Mayor of Ironton expresses his concern about the commitment level form OTC and OTA on getting trail over to Arcadia Valley. After discussion Bob felt he had a better understanding and rather the focusing on physical trail at this time, efforts should be focused on support of the existing trail and getting the word out and that a physical connection will eventually come.
- After discussion the next OTC meeting will be at Meramec State Park on July 28th, 2018 @ 10 AM

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Kathie Brennan

Kathie Brennan
President, Ozark Trail Association

Jeffery J. Goetter

Jeffery J Goetter
Secretary, Ozark Trail Association

OTA Planning and Trail Development Committee Report; February 24, 2018

The OTA Planning and Trail Development Committee supports the OTA Mission by providing long range planning for the further development of the Ozark Trail, providing GIS and mapping support for OTA operations such as construction and maintenance, coordinating environmental clearance and review for OTA projects and assisting in coordination of OTA operations with those of the land managers.

OTA PLANNING TASKS 2018-2022

Summary

The following is a list of planning tasks/projects that have been identified for the next five years. The subsequent sections give a more detailed description of each project's scope and objectives, the planning tasks that have been identified for the project and current project status.

1. Support USFS-Mark Twain National Forest in renewing National Recreation Trail Designation.
2. Coordinate final environmental review of the 2017 RTP, Round Spring to Echo Bluff segment of the Current River Trail.
3. Establish a comprehensive geo-spatial database for the existing trail that includes ownership, trail section management objectives, trail conditions, maintenance and rehabilitation requirements.
4. Develop and market to local government an on-road route between the Eleven Point Section and the North Fork Section.
5. Develop plans for filling in the eastern loop with possible spurs to recreation sites in the St. Francis River Basin with identification of private property owners of right of way required for the plan
 - a. Ketcherside Mountain to Crane Lake/Marble Creek routing.
 - b. Spur trail from Marble Creek to Mill Gardens CA
 - c. Resurrect plan for trail to the south border of Mark Twain National Forest in Madison County
 - d. Develop a route and alternative routes between Mark Twain National Forest and Sam A. Baker State Park.
 - e. Develop a connection from Wappapello Section to Victory Section
 - f. Develop a connection from Victory Section to Between the Rivers Section
6. Develop plan for route and alternate route from Huzzah Conservation Area to Pacific.
7. Develop plan for a route and alternate route from North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

1. National Recreation Trail Designation.

Scope:

This project consists of supporting the Mark Twain National Forest (MTNF) in the process of re-designating the Ozark Trail as a National Recreation Trail. The main deliverable required of

MTNF is a report recommending the trail be re-designated. For the OTA, the objectives are that the designation be renewed, and that scope of the designation be increased to include the entire Courtois Section, recognizing the closure of the “Courtois Gap,” and at least the Taum Sauk Section from Highway A TH to Taum Sauk Mountain State Park.

Tasks:

- Provide MTNF a draft report by updating the 2008 report for the original designation to take into account the ensuing 10 years as well as expanding the scope of the designation as described above.
- Maintain communication with other land managers who will be asked to concur with the final report. To that end, OTA will provide land managers with copies of the draft report and make a presentation to the OTC in February 2018.

Status:

A draft report that reflects updates to the original nomination as described above has been submitted to MTNF for review as of 21 Feb 2018.

2. Final Environmental Review of Round Spring to Echo Bluff

Scope:

Prepare a Section 106, Historic Preservation Act project review application and submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer. Flag and map final proposed route. Prepare Categorical Exclusion form for the project, circulate the form for concurrence with reviewing agencies as required and forward to DNR for submission and approval by FHWA. The preparation of the CE form will reference the EA prepared by the NPS for the trail.

Status:

The Section 106 application has been prepared and submitted. Flagging has begun and will continue in the next two months.

3. Comprehensive Geo-Spatial Database

Scope:

Establish a comprehensive geo-spatial database for the existing trail that includes ownership, trail section management objectives, trail conditions, maintenance and rehabilitation requirements. The objective is to be better able to visualize trail conditions and needs of the trail in a geographic sense and to improve communication and coordination with land managers. OTA has obtained ArcGIS licenses from ERSI as part of its non-profit program.

Tasks:

- Convert OTA’s current mapping line work to ArcGIS shape file(s).
- Develop a set of attribute fields to assign to shapes (trail sections).
- Obtain ownership overlays from land managers.
- Split sections into shape files differentiated by ownership.
- Split sections into shape files differentiated by AAT segments.
- Document the database.
- Gather data from AAT volunteers and users on trail conditions, needed repairs etc. and develop a repair and rehabilitation shape file with appropriate attributes.
- Provide analysis to Construction and Maintenance and land managers.

Status:

Rebecca Landewe has converted line work to the shape file format. Some editing of attributes will be required once a set of attribute definitions have been agreed to.

4. On-road route between the Eleven Point Section and the North Fork Section

Scope:

The objective of this project is to provide a degree of connectivity between the two sections. It would allow through hikers or bike packers an opportunity for increased mileage. It would establish a presence in Howell, Oregon and S.W Shannon counties that might lead to favorable relationships with local landowners for development of backcountry trail.

Tasks:

- Develop presentation materials for local government and business leaders
- Coordinate with MDC on possible use of Thomasville Tower site as a way-point.
- Schedule meetings with local government regarding sign road route.

Status:

Steve Coates outlined a road route and presented the OTC in June 2013. We have the mapping of the route. The proposed route is being reviewed by interested OTA volunteers.

5. Filling in the eastern loop

Scope:

Detailed scope to be developed further. Six significant projects identified:

- a. Ketcherside Mountain to Crane Lake/Marble Creek routing. Partial built by MDC in 1980's and then abandoned due to lack of progress on connection. Private property access needed to bridge between MDC and MTNF.
- b. Spur trail from Marble Creek to Mill Gardens CA. Discussed by OTC in 1980's. There is a 2.33 mile road gap from Marble Creek TH east on Highway F to where a route on continuous Forest Service property could travel Silver Mines.
- c. Resurrect plan for trail to the south border of Mark Twain National Forest in Madison County. A route was flagged in the 1980's but not built. Some topo maps show the trail. However, a final routing should be coordinated with d. below.
- d. Develop a route and alternative routes between Mark Twain National Forest and Sam A. Baker State Park. There is about 6.5-7 miles of straight line gap of private property between MTNF boundary and Graves Mountain State Forest. GMSF is on the north side of Big Creek.
- e. Develop a connection from Wappapello Section to Victory Section. This would be a short road connection.
- f. Develop a connection from Victory Section to Between the Rivers Section. A challenging gap of private property to be closed.

Tasks:

- Further develop the scope definition for each sub-project and project task lists
- Develop a relationship with the SEMO Regional Planning Commission
- Obtain access to property ownership overlays for Iron and Madison Counties
- Develop a relationship with Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission

- Obtain access to property ownership overlays for Carter, Butler and Wayne Counties.

Status:

- Not started

6. Huzzah Conservation Area to Pacific.

Scope:

Develop a connection with trails and road connections from Huzzah/Onadaga SP to Pacific/St. Louis County line. Southside of Meramec, Northside or both?

Tasks:

- Identify points of interest and public lands in the corridor.
- Develop relationships with local officials and planning agencies.

Status:

- Matt Atnip had a meeting with J.T. Yarnell of Sullivan a couple of years ago, otherwise not started.

7. North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

Scope:

Develop a connection with trails and road connections from the North Fork Section to the Arkansas Border.

Tasks:

- Identify a road route from southern terminus of the North Fork Section to Dawt Mill
- Identify a trail route on North Fork Lake, USACE property.
- Coordinate with USACE for approval of route.
- Obtain NEPA clearance for USACE trail.

Status:

- Rick Henry has scouted a road route to Dawt Mill.
- Steve Coates has drawn a trail route using Google Earth.