

**Missouri Ozark Trail Council
Semi-Annual Meeting
Echo Bluff State Park
Saturday, February 22, 2020**

Individuals Attending

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Abi Jackson	Ozark Trail Association	Kathie Brennan	Ozark Trail Association
Becky Hays	US Army Corp of Engineers	Maury Mertz	Backcountry Horseman of Missouri
Nancy Mueth	Private Citizen	Jessica Gillespie	MO State Parks
Jeff Goetter	Ozark Trail Association	Suzanne Smith	Sierra Club
Don Schulte	Ozark Trail Association	Ben Nagy	MO State Parks
Skyler Bockman	MO Department of Conservation	Dena Matteson	National Park Service
Terry Hawn	Ozark Trail Association	Louise Bullock	Sierra Club
Connie Weber	MO State Parks	Hannah Hussey	Ozark Trail Association
Jackson Rhoades	David's Trail	James Hodges	Ozark Highlands Trail Association
Jason Lott	National Park Service	Yvette Bly	St Louis County Parks
Michelle Gabelsberger	Conservation Federation of MO	Reva Dow	MO Department of Conservation
Greg Iffrig	L-A-D Foundation	Becky Ewing	Mark Twain National Forest
Matt Dillon	Mark Twain National Forest	Garrett Doak	Ozark Trail Association
Mark Seesing	Ozark Trail Association	Elizabeth Seesing	Ozark Trail Association
Ron Koskovich	Ozark Trail Association	Rosie Koskovich	Ozark Trail Association

Meeting opened at 11:00 by Kathie Brennan, President, Ozark Trail Association

Introductions

Each attendee introduced themselves and told a little about the organization they represent

OTA Collaborative Information Presentation

Kathie Brennan reviewed the presentation the OTA has been giving to the different agencies, most recently at the recent US Forest Service meetings. See **Attachment 1** for the presentation.

OTA 2020 Operating Plan

Kathie Brennan shared the 2020 Operating plan put together by the leadership of the OTA. See **Attachment 2** for the plan.

Review of Finances/Budget

Kathie Brennan shared the draft of the 2020 Operating Budget for the OTA. See **Attachment 3** for the plan.

MOU Agreement update

Kathie Brennan announced the agreement had been signed by all parties. See **Attachment 4** for a copy of the agreement.

Update on OT Projects

The Future of the Ozark Trail

- Blue Trail Update – The Meramec River Trail paperwork is being worked

- Suggestion was forwarded to investigate another water trail from Montauk and that is being considered

Endowment Fund

- The OTA has started the process to create an Endowment fund and has received an Initial donation of \$25k to kick things off

Construction and Maintenance Update

- First steps toward connecting the OT at the AK border has started, site surveys have been done and first dirt may be moved in the next few months as a good portion of the Missouri side has been flagged. Most of this work has been done by Ozark Highlands Trail people. Also plans are being worked to make road routes available to connect this new section to the existing ones.
- Due to the work getting the Round Spring trail completed, maintenance has been lagging on other sections and this year there will be an emphasize on maintenance
- More sawyers are going to be certified this year

Final Discussion and Decision on the 14th section

- A proposal was submitted by the OTA to the council to finalize the naming of the new trail that previously was referred to as the "Round Spring Section". After discussion, a voice vote was held that set the name as the "Upper Current Section". Attachment 5 contains the background information presented by Kathie Brennan.

Handouts

Find attached some of the handouts that were made available during the meeting. Each of these were discussed during the meeting

- Ozark Highlands Trail Closing the Gap Brochure
- The Current River Challenge
- The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge - <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/trails/10ytc>

Open Discussion

- Jason Lott of National Park Service suggested that we have talks about having consistent rules on all areas of the trail, after discussion consensus of the group was that this is not something that needs to be addressed by the council and it should remain the purview of the land agencies.
- Rod Brown brought up there are signage issues at Steagall Mountain and on the Upper Current loop. NPS is working on signage for the loop and the OTA will work on the Steagall Mountain area.

After discussion, the next OTC meeting will be at Meramec State Park on August 15 or 17, 2020 @ 11 AM

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Kathie Brennan

Kathie Brennan
President, Ozark Trail Association

Jeffery J. Goetter

Jeffery J Goetter
Secretary, Ozark Trail Association

Attachment 1 – Collaborative Presentation

The OZARK TRAIL

210 MILES TO TAUM SAUK

401 miles of multi-use trail

ozarktrail.com

OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION

St. Louis, Mo. Springfield, Mo. Fayetteville, Ark. Potosi, Mo. Poplar Bluff, Mo.

READER'S CHOICE AWARD NUMBER 1 2018 NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL USA

Google

This slide features a topographic map of the Ozark Trail region, showing the trail route in red and brown. Key locations marked include St. Louis, Mo., Springfield, Mo., Fayetteville, Ark., Potosi, Mo., and Poplar Bluff, Mo. To the right of the map, the text 'The OZARK TRAIL' is prominently displayed. Below this, a graphic indicates '210 MILES TO TAUM SAUK'. Further down, it states '401 miles of multi-use trail'. The Ozark Trail Association logo is in the bottom left, and the website 'ozarktrail.com' is in the bottom right. Several award logos are shown, including 'READER'S CHOICE AWARD NUMBER 1 2018' and 'NATIONAL RECREATION TRAIL USA'.

Who is the OTA?

LEAF BLOWING

SAWING & SWAMPING

NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

TRAIL TREAD TRAINING

SCOUT PROJECT

BEFORE

AFTER

MEGA EVENT

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OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION

This slide is a collage titled 'Who is the OTA?'. It features several photographs of trail maintenance and community events. The photos are labeled: 'LEAF BLOWING', 'SAWING & SWAMPING', 'NEW TRAIL CONSTRUCTION', 'TRAIL TREAD TRAINING', and 'SCOUT PROJECT'. A large group photo is labeled 'MEGA EVENT'. A 'BEFORE' and 'AFTER' comparison photo shows trail improvement. The Ozark Trail Association logo is in the bottom left, and the website 'ozarktrail.com' is in the bottom right.

POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS

18 YEARS AT A GLANCE:



141,250
HOURS VOLUNTEERED



UP TO
401 MILES
MAINTAINED PER YR



14,000
VOLUNTEERS



VALUE OF
TIME CONTRIBUTED
\$3,500,00



ozarktrail.com

GETTING COMMUNITIES OUTDOORS



Challenge Hike



Devil's Toll Race



MTB Race



Mega Events



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CONNECTING WITH THE NEXT GENERATION



- AmeriCorps
- National Civilian Conservation Corps
- Scouts
- Sierra Club
- Jr. Ranger Day
- John Burroughs HS
- Rural Elementaries

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Identified Collaborative Needs to...

preserve, protect and maintain the natural and physical integrity of the Ozark Trail to provide a backcountry recreational experience for multiple user groups

CHALLENGES

- Impacts from timber sales and restoration projects
- Damage from motorized use and overuse on trail
- Restricted access to trail (e.g., road closures)
- Identifying priority trail maintenance needs

SOLUTIONS

- Regular notices on upcoming MTNF projects
- Outreach to user groups on trail impacts
- Access to most updated road conditions/maps
- Collaborative planning meetings across districts



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Identified Collaborative Needs to...

*continue to **develop** a contiguous trail
with all MTNF segments completed*

CHALLENGES

- Lack of shovel-ready projects to fill gaps
- No capability for private land easements in-house
- High financial burden of construction projects

SOLUTIONS

- Establish support for trail projects as a priority
- Develop partnerships to secure land easements
- Expand expertise of shared funding opportunities



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Identified Collaborative Needs to...

*promote awareness of the trail to
create funding opportunities, recruit volunteers
and share a love for the outdoors*

CHALLENGES

- Value of OT is not recognized by all partners
- Limited financial capacity to promote the trail
- Dependent on volunteers

SOLUTIONS

- Pursue official recognitions as a premier trail
- Need strong partners to help promote the OT
- Include all user groups in OTA governance



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SUSTAINABLE TRAIL

Partnership Model



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FOCUSING ON MAKING A DIFFERENCE ONE MILE AT A TIME

REVENUE PER TRAIL MILE COMPARISON



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Ozark Trail Association, Inc.

2020 Operating Plan

This document presents the Ozark Trail Association's plan for accomplishing its mission "to develop, maintain, preserve, promote, and protect the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail."



Introduction:

The 401 mile Ozark Trail (OT), one of the 20 longest backcountry trails in the nation and a National Recreation Trail, traverses 12 rural counties and is a gateway to the interior of the Missouri Ozarks. The OT provides opportunities for backpacking, mountain biking, trail running, horseback riding and many other outdoor activities. The citizens of the state of Missouri and the surrounding region benefit from having the Ozark Trail in their communities. The NPS Ozark National Scenic Riverways area, alone, has 1.25 million people visit annually supporting over 700 jobs. The OT enhances the recreation opportunities of the parks, benefiting trail towns in the area and the many outfitters near the corridor. Trails serve as hands-on environmental classrooms for people of all ages and trail building is a great opportunity for youth to get outdoors.

The Ozark Trail Association is a 501©(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to develop, maintain, preserve, promote, and protect the rugged, natural beauty of the Ozark Trail. The OTA plays the leading role in the construction and maintenance of Missouri's 400+ mile premier long distance multi-use backcountry trail. The OTA provides volunteer resources to Ozark Trail land managers and the organization's top priorities are trail maintenance, further development (through construction of new connections in the trail system) and promotion of the trail as a regional recreational asset. The OTA's secondary focus is the long term vision of a trail stretching from St. Louis to the Arkansas border connecting the Ozark Trail to the Ozark Highlands Trail to create a 700+ mile thru-trail.

OTA volunteers keep the trail in top shape for users who will benefit from the positive impact on their health and wellness offered by the trail. Trail work brings together state, federal and private landowners to create an area for future generations to enjoy that is unique and nationally significant. The Ozark Trail Association is a family-friendly resource for all ages and individuals from a multitude of backgrounds and lifestyles that are passionate about conserving the great outdoors for the next generation. Since the incorporation of the Ozark Trail Association in December of 2002, over 14,000 volunteers have donated 141,250 hours valued at over \$3.5 million.

Last year, the OTA was awarded the NPS Midwest Region 2018 George & Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service. OTA volunteers contributed 3,812 hours of volunteer service, constructing approximately 8 miles of new hiking trail located within Ozark National Scenic Riverways (ONSR) park boundaries which is part of a larger section connecting two state parks to the backbone of the Ozark Trail. ONSR park visitors now have access to over 400 miles of hiking trails and other recreational opportunities. In addition, volunteers assisted with several park hosted interpretive, educational programs and activities, including the annual Junior Ranger Day Event. This national award is one of the highest compliments possible.

The OTA has also received recognition from the USDA Forest Service as their National Volunteer Group award winner for 2013, along with the Region 9 awards for 2013 and 2008. In addition, volunteers have won several individual awards for their efforts from the National Park Service, American Trails, and American Hiking Society. Missouri was designated Best Trails State at the 2013 International Trails Symposium, thanks in part to our dedicated OTA volunteers.

The Ozark Trail Association is governed by a Board of Directors. The purpose of this operating plan is to describe what OTA intends to accomplish in 2020 towards the furtherance of its mission, how it will go about it, what resources will be required, and who will be responsible for executing the OTA's

programs. The operating plan provides valuable information to OTA's partner agencies, stakeholders, members, and donors.

As a non-profit organization, the OTA has been granted tax exempt status by the IRS by providing services for the public good through its programs:

1. CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF NEW AND EXISTING TRAILS
2. PROMOTION OF THE OZARK TRAIL
3. DEVELOPMENT OF THE OZARK TRAIL

The OTA is a non-profit business which incurs general administrative expenses, overhead costs, and provides services for the public good. These overhead costs include insurance, cost of maintaining an office and website, accounting fees, and other costs associated with being a responsible business.

Revenues generated are either "designated funds" or "undesignated funds." Revenue streams are also differentiated as either "program revenues" or "general revenues."

These terms are defined as follows:

- Designated Funds: Occasionally donors may request that their donations go toward a specific program or purchase. The OTA honors these requests.
- Undesignated Funds: These funds are generated by membership dues, general fundraising and some program revenues. The OTA pays in advance for project expenses associated with the Recreational Trails Program and the USFS Cost-Share Program out of undesignated funds. Once these projects have been completed, the OTA is issued reimbursements which replenish the undesignated fund. Undesignated funds are important to any nonprofit and in particular to the OTA for the following reasons:
 1. Undesignated funds can be used to cover any overhead costs not absorbed by program revenues.
 2. The OTA can allocate undesignated funds to essential programs as directed by the board.
 3. Undesignated funds can finance programs until reimbursement is received.
- Program Revenues: These are revenues generated through a specific program. For example, grants for construction of new trail or the mowing program. More details of expected program revenue can be found in the respective section of this Operating Plan.
- General Revenue: Examples of this type of revenue are membership dues, merchandise sales, or nonspecific donations in support of OTA's operations, i.e. all of its programs.

On the expenditure side, program expenses are detailed in the specific program budgets. It should be noted that the COO's salary is allocated between programs, fundraising and general administrative tasks.

2020 Operating Plan

General:

The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation, responsible for execution of OTA's programs as coordinated by the Operations Committee. Day-to-day activities, including operations and administrative functions, will be performed by the Chief Operations Officer.

MAINTENANCE OF EXISTING TRAILS

This task will be headed up by the Construction and Maintenance (C&M) Committee. Construction and maintenance tasks include monitoring and reporting trail conditions, overseeing the Adopt-a-Trail and sawyer programs, and ensuring that the trail is blazed according to policy. Furthermore, the C&M Committee has established standards for training and certifying crew leaders and event leaders, and recruiting individuals to serve in that capacity. They will oversee acquiring, maintaining and distributing all needed tools, including safety and first-aid equipment, and providing training in the use of such tools, including safety and first-aid equipment, procedures and policies, and are tasked with initiating and supervising work outings for both construction and maintenance projects of all types, including Mega events.

After trail is constructed, the Adopt-A-Trail Program plays a vital role in ensuring the corridor remains open, the path is properly signed and the organization is informed of trail conditions. 93% of the Ozark Trail is currently adopted and our goal is 100% adoption.

Since its inception, the OTA has constructed over 60 miles of new sustainable, single track trail. This mileage includes the newest section connecting the Blair Creek section to two State Parks, some re-routes of existing trails, but also involves filling in significant gaps like the 24-mile John Roth Memorial - Middle Fork Section completed in 2005. All of these accomplishments have primarily been completed by volunteers who have provided both design and layout services along with construction labor. In 2020, the OTA will continue its tradition of constructing new trail and maintaining over 400 miles of backcountry trail in Missouri, including the Ozark Trail and other connected spurs and loops.

Planned 2020 construction and maintenance projects are described below:

1. Midco Hollow Re-route: This area along the Current River section received heavy damage due to a timber harvest. The OTA will be working with the USFS to establish a new route through Midco Hollow.
2. Summer Mowing and Brushing- Mark Twain National Forest: This program will be planned in conjunction with the Mark Twain National Forest and is funded through the USFS Cost-Share. Plans this year will include contracting paid labor to weed-eat as much trail as possible inside the forest. Additional labor may be required in the Berryman area due to a timber restoration project. The USFS will likely support the additional expense of this maintenance with K-V funds. **(THIS SECTION WILL BE DEVELOPED FURTHER AFTER WE MEET WITH THE USFS ABOUT FINALIZATION OF THE BUDGET)** Additional funding through the 2017 RTP grant will help with maintenance of the backbone of the Ozark Trail.
3. Maintenance Outings: The Construction and Maintenance Committee will hold volunteer maintenance events year-round, and has already scheduled sixteen maintenance outings for 2020, to address non-adopted sections of trail and problem areas due to erosion, seasonal growth, and/or abuse. This activity is coordinated with OTA agency partners.

4. Adopt-A-Trail Program: The Adopt-A-Trail (AAT) Program is vital to maintaining the Ozark Trail. 93% of the trail is currently adopted and the AAT Coordinator assigns adoptions as available. AAT activities include keeping the surface free of sticks, rocks and other debris, pruning small limbs from the trail corridor, cleaning water bars and drainage ditches, and in cutting back encroaching vegetation to maintain a trail corridor. Other responsibilities include litter clean-up, maintaining the trailhead area, replacing missing trail signage and reporting vandalism and ATV damage. This program is organized and executed by the AAT Program Coordinator.
5. Sawyer Program: The sawyer program annually clears hundreds of miles of deadfall and hazard trees along the trail corridor. In 2019, the OTA had 17 volunteers certified or re-certified. The USFS has also scheduled another sawyer training for March 2020 and the OTA will have several volunteers attending. The OTA also currently has six USFS certified cross-cut sawyers. This should help substantially throughout the upcoming year with accumulated deadfall. To help ensure timely re-certification and more regular trainings for new sawyers, the OTA Sawyer Coordinator has requested to become certified through the USFS as a sawyer trainer, along with one other volunteer. The OTA owns saws, safety gear and supplies and a sawyer report is sent out regularly to monitor/report results. The Sawyer Coordinator works with all OTC agency partners to identify problem areas and deploy sawyers.
6. Road Signing Project: Remaining 2015 RTP funds were re-allocated to include the purchase of trail signage. Trail signs for all road crossings, along with Carsonite posts, were purchased in the fall of 2018. These signs are helpful for trail users, especially in the case of an emergency. Placement of these signs has been ongoing and most of the roads along the trail have had signs installed. Work on this project will continue in 2020 and will most likely be completed.
7. Crew Leader Training: OTA held its first Crew Leader Training in August 2004. Crew leaders are trained in the standards of building sustainable trail. Recognizing the value of crew leaders to the organization, the C&M Committee will be making plans to hold a training session in 2020.

Program Budget Summary:

Estimated Construction & Maintenance Program Expenses \$24,362.00
See 2020 proposed budget for program budget details.

PROMOTION OF THE OZARK TRAIL

This program consists of efforts to promote the use and awareness of the Ozark Trail. Education and outreach support OTA's efforts to maintain the trail since a well-used trail is easier to maintain. Athletic events help to enhance its reputation as an outdoor recreational opportunity in the region and the nation.

Planned 2020 promotion projects are described below:

1. Special Events: The Ozark Trail Association has five special events scheduled for 2020. These events attract folks from around the country and are a significant generator of unrestricted funds. These events are coordinated by the Race Directors and the Fundraising Committee and serve as both fundraisers and promotional events.
 - a. *Trivia Night-* The annual Trivia Night will be held on February 8th at the Affton Elks Lodge. The evening's activities include trivia, silent auction and a raffle. This event is a

great opportunity for OTA volunteers to introduce their friends and family to the organization.

- b. *OT Challenge Hike*- On May 2nd, the OTA will hold the fourth annual OT Challenge Hike, based out of Bass' River Resort. This event involves a 17.5 mile hike on the Courtois section and each participant is required to raise \$1,250. This is the OTA's biggest fundraiser and has been a very successful and fun event. Past participants of the Challenge Hike have also expanded their involvement to other OTA special events and work outings.
 - c. *Devil's Tollgate, The Race*- Following the success of the Taum-A-Hawk Hiking Race, this event is an expansion to include trail running. This event is based out of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park and is scheduled for June 13th. Teams will race from Taum Sauk Mountain SP to the pavilion across from the Black River at Johnson's Shut-Ins SP. Participation in the race more than doubled from 2017-2018 and is expected to grow even more in 2020.
 - d. *One-Eyed Dog Mountain Bike Race*- This race is in partnership with the Team Noah Foundation. This partnership will benefit two non-profits with worthy causes and will keep the OTA involved with the mountain biking community. The OTA will continue to benefit from promotion and fundraising from this event. Matt Johnson, Team Noah Foundation President, will serve as race director and the OTA will assist in securing the USFS permit and volunteer resources preparing for the race.
 - e. *3-Legged Monster*- This year, the OTA will hold the first annual 3-Legged Monster Adventure Race. This event is a trail running, mountain biking and paddling adventure race for teams of two consisting of three legs totaling 50 miles. No event like this is currently held on the Mark Twain National Forest. This unique event has the potential to bring in participants from across the country and is logistically simple. It will give the OTA an opportunity to further build OTA's relationship with the local outfitters and will increase their business during the off-season.
2. Publications and Merchandise: The OTA has created section maps, which are available for purchase by trail users to aid in planning and safety during hiking. The L-A-D Foundation, along with the USFS Cost-Share, have provided funding to re-print additional Courtois, Taum Sauk and Current River maps. These funds also support printing maps of the newest section near Round Spring. The OTA also sells the Ozark Trail Guidebook publication and merchandise displaying the OTA brand which helps to publicize the organization and our mission.
 3. Social Media Outreach: With a dedicated following on Facebook of more than 10,000 "likes", the OTA's Communications Committee is transitioning to an improved communications style and more consistent brand throughout social media platforms. Regular email blasts will continue to be sent to 1,800+ subscribers via Constant Contact and improvements are continually ongoing to the website (ozarktrail.com) which receives more than 24,000 hits per month.
 4. Booths & Outreach Events: The Education and Outreach Committee makes several public appearances throughout the year spreading word of the work of the OTA and the recreational

opportunities available on the OT. These opportunities include Junior Ranger Day at Alley Spring, MV Bike & Outdoor Expo, Bass Pro Fitness Expo, Meet Me Outdoors Festival and more.

Program Budget Summary:

Program Expenses \$33,070.00

See 2020 proposed budget for program budget details.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE OZARK TRAIL

This program focuses on the long term vision of the trail as a long trail extending from St. Louis to the Arkansas border and connecting to the Ozark Highlands Trail. To protect the trail, the OTA advocates for public policy that provides adequate resources for trails on public land.

Planned 2020 development projects are described below:

1. Ozark Trail Council Meetings: The OTA is scheduled to hold Ozark Trail Council meetings twice per year. OTA is chair of the Ozark Trail Council, whose purpose is to promote the Ozark Trail; to establish guidelines for its construction, maintenance, marking, and mapping; to publicize the trail; and generally to provide an organizational framework within which all matters relating to the Ozark Trail in Missouri can be discussed and resolved. The OTA works in partnership with landowners, land managers, and trail users, which are all represented on the Council. Key members include: Mark Twain National Forest, Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, St. Louis County Parks Department, Pioneer Forest, and the Sierra Club.
2. Northern Expansion: The OTA has proposed designating the Meramec River as a water trail to extend the trail north from Onondaga Cave SP. A map has been produced, determining ingress and egress points and the PTD Committee will continue developing this route. There has also been interest from a private landowner to extend the foot trail north from Onondaga Cave SP through his property on the north side of the Meramec River. The Meramec Valley Trail Association has taken on the task of attempting to extend the trail from Meramec SP to meet the Great Rivers Greenway at Pacific.
3. Southern Expansion: The OTA will continue communications with David's Trail and the Ozark Highlands Trail Association, who have shared quite a bit of recent success in their plans to connect the OHT to the Missouri border. Once they reach the state line, there is 15 miles of Army Corps' land near Tecumseh, MO where trail can be built up to Dawt. North of there, is a piece of property that may require a bushwhack route due to environmental concerns before reaching private land along the Norfolk River near the southern terminus of the OT. There is a 14.6 mile gap between Dawt and the North Fork section of the OT. Development of trail from the North Fork section south to the Arkansas border is an ongoing project.
4. Road Designation: One option to close gaps in the trail is the use of road routes. Mark Seesing has been in contact with county commissioners along the Ozark Trail to discuss the possibilities of using county roads to close the gaps in the through-trail that pass through areas of privately owned lands in their county. Communication on this subject will continue throughout 2020.

5. Planning and Trail Development (PTD) Committee: This Committee will meet throughout 2020 and is responsible for recommending to the Board the future course of the trail, including trail design, layout and general scope within the vision promulgated by the Corporation/OTA. The PTD Committee applies for and maintains appropriate Memorandums of Understandings, easements, usage and public access commitments, and other needed agreements with various land managers and owners, and maintains and updates the status and designation of the Ozark Trail as a National Recreation Trail.
6. Advocacy & Representation Statewide: The OTA President regularly represents the OTA at federal and state meetings, as well as seminars, in the area surrounding the OT. Those partners include the USFS Collaborative Partnership, Meramec River Recreation Association, Meramec Valley Trail Association, American Trails' International Trails Symposium, the MO Department of Conservation Collaborative, and more. The President continues communications with AmeriCorps St. Louis, the Aurora, CO National Civilian Conservations Corps, and the Ozark National Scenic Riverways. The OTA maintains membership in the following organizations: MO Bike & Pedestrian Federation, the Open Space Council, and the Conservation Federation of Missouri, along with various trail towns' Chambers of Commerce.

Program Budget Summary:

Program Expenses: \$6,053.00

See 2020 proposed budget for program budget details.

Attachment 3 – OTA Draft Budget

2020 Draft Budget

2019 Revenues	2019 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Budget
40000 - Donations	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 12,495.92	\$ 14,000.00
		<i>2019 donations may have been lower due to broken "Donate" link on website</i>	
40100 - Individual Contributions	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,852.23	\$ 8,000.00
40200 - Entity Contributions	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,643.69	\$ 6,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
42000 - Grants	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 11,000.00
42100 - Business Grants	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
		<i>Bass Pro, CFMO, etc</i>	
42300 - Foundation Grants	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
		<i>Red Wing, LAD, etc.</i>	
42500 - Nonprofit Grants	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
45000 Recreational Trails Program	\$ 56,155.00	\$ 18,125.88	\$ 20,000.00
45300 - RTP Reimbursements	\$ 56,155.00	\$ 18,125.88	\$ 20,000.00
50000 USFS Cost-Share	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,682.20	\$ 15,000.00
50200 - USFS Cost-Share Reimbursements	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 9,682.20	\$ 15,000.00
52000 Membership Revenue	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 13,435.24	\$ 10,000.00
52100 - Memberships	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 13,435.24	\$ 10,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
54000 - Merchandise and Misc.	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 7,709.76	\$ 3,600.00
54340 - Map Sales	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,362.22	\$ 9,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
54350 - Merchandise Sales	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,883.54	\$ 3,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
		<i>Round Spring, Current River, Courtois and Taum Sauk Maps</i>	
54440 - Map Costs	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (7,100.00)
		<i>Majority of merch cost has been donated by volunteers</i>	
54450 - Merchandise Costs	\$ (2,500.00)	\$ (536.00)	\$ (1,300.00)
		<i>donated by volunteers</i>	
58000 - Special Events Income	\$ 41,000.00	\$ 42,726.46	\$ 35,500.00
58001 - Mega Cash In	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,990.49	\$ 2,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
58010 - Trivia Cash In	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 5,922.90	\$ 6,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
58015 - One Eyed Dog MTB Race Cash In	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
58030 - Challenge Hike Cash In	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,625.54	\$ 14,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
58035 - Devil's Toll Race Cash In	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 9,284.53	\$ 8,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
- Al-Pint Night Cash In	\$ -	\$ 1,903.00	\$ 1,500.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
Total Revenue	\$ 151,155.00	\$ 119,175.46	\$ 109,100.00
2019 Expenditures	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	2020 Budget
72000 - Salary and Wage Expenses	\$ 77,703.97	\$ 53,210.02	\$ 51,003.87
72200 - Staff Wages	\$ 37,953.97	\$ 38,003.87	\$ 38,003.87
		<i>Based on historical expense</i>	
72300 - Mower Wages	\$ 9,750.00	\$ 6,415.00	\$ 10,000.00
		<i>Includes 2017 RTP & Cost-Share 2017 RTP (Trail crew, supervisor & equipment operator)</i>	
72400 - Trail Builder Wages	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 5,840.00	\$ -
72500 - Payroll Expenses	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,951.15	\$ 3,000.00
		<i>Based on historical revenue</i>	
74000 - Promotion and Awards	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 600.00
74100 - AAT Promotion	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
74200 - New Membership	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
		<i>Special Event Awards & Red Jackets (\$28/ea)</i>	
74300 - Awards and Gifts	\$ 300.00	\$ 280.00	\$ 100.00
		<i>Booth space and updated display boards</i>	
74400 - Booths	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00
75000 - Contract Services	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 2,965.00	\$ 3,175.00
75200 - Accounting Fees	\$ 3,175.00	\$ 2,965.00	\$ 3,175.00
		<i>Monthly fees & 990 processing</i>	
75300 - Legal Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
75400 - Other Professional Fees	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
81000 - Nonpersonnel Expenses	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 4,644.76	\$ 3,900.00

81100 - Office Supplies	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,018.01	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,000.00
81300 - Computer and IT	\$ 600.00	\$ -		\$ -
81320 - Hardware & Software	\$ -	\$ 79.99		\$ -
			Neon CRM Database, ESRI & Constant Contact	
81390 - IT Subscriptions	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,762.75		\$ 2,000.00
81400 - Postage & Shipping	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 746.49	Based on historical expense	\$ 800.00
81700 - Printing	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 37.52	Based on historical expense	\$ 100.00
81820 - IT Subscriptions	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
81900 - Nonpersonnel Expenses	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
82000 - Facilities Expenses	\$ 5,550.00	\$ 3,478.46		\$ 3,250.00
82200 - Utilities	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,806.09	Based on historical expense	\$ 2,000.00
82300 - Telecommunications	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,335.22	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,250.00
82600 - Facilities Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 337.15		\$ -
83000 - Travel and Meetings	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
83600 - Mileage Reimbursements	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
85000 - Other Expenses	\$ 10,470.00	\$ 12,002.00		\$ 11,200.00
85100 - Advertising	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,057.50	Terrain, help wanted ads, etc. CFM, MO Bike & Ped, Eminence Chamber, etc.	\$ 500.00
85200 - Dues and Subscriptions	\$ 350.00	\$ 540.00		\$ 200.00
85500 - Insurance	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,404.50	Based on historical expense	\$ 10,500.00
86000 - Other Business Expenses	\$ 30.00	\$ 5.40		\$ 30.00
86600 - Penalties and Judgements	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
86700 - Organizational Expenses	\$ 25.00	\$ -	State of MO	\$ 25.00
86800 - Bank Fees	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.40	Based on historical expense	\$ 5.00
87000 - Special Events Expenses	\$ 14,500.00	\$ 9,394.82		\$ 10,100.00
87001 - Mega Cash Out	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,923.41	Based on historical expense	\$ 2,000.00
87010 - Trivia Cash Out	\$ 1,600.00	\$ -	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,000.00
87015 - One Eyed Dog MTB Race Cash Out	\$ -	\$ 590.67	Based on historical expense	\$ 400.00
87020 - Work Outings Cash Out	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 543.85	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,000.00
87025 - Workshops/Training Cash Out	\$ 500.00	\$ 54.67	Based on historical expense	\$ 100.00
87030 - Challenge Hike Cash Out	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,188.36	Based on historical expense	\$ 2,500.00
87035 - Devil's Tollgate Race Cash Out	\$ 4,100.00	\$ 3,093.86	Based on historical expense	\$ 3,100.00
88000 - Tools and Equipment	\$ 9,150.00	\$ 3,184.85		\$ 4,610.00
88100 - Fuel	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 1,639.40	Based on historical expense	\$ 2,000.00
88200 - Maintenance	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 517.76	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,000.00
88300 - Repairs	\$ 1,750.00	\$ -	Based on historical expense	\$ 100.00
88400 - Tool and Equip Purchases	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 829.62	Based on historical expense	\$ 1,000.00
88500 - Equipment Rental	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
88600 - Safety	\$ 200.00	\$ -	Based on historical expense	\$ 200.00
88700 - Signage	\$ 150.00	\$ 109.48	Based on historical expense	\$ 150.00
88900 - Tools and Equipment - Other	\$ -	\$ 58.75	Based on historical expense	\$ 100.00
88800 - Kitchen Supplies	\$ 250.00	\$ 29.84	Based on historical expense	\$ 60.00
Total Expenditure	\$ 129,078.97			\$ 87,868.87

Saturday, January 18, 2020

**Memorandum of Understanding
For the Ozark Trail Council**

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is entered into this 19 day of September 2019 by and between the signatory parties to this document. The purpose of this MOU is to form a voluntary affiliation of public and private partners to be known as the Missouri Ozark Trail Council ("Council") for the purposes of creating an open public forum for discussion about all matters regarding the Ozark Trail ("Trail").

1. Purpose of the Ozark Trail:

The purpose of the Trail is to provide the most scenic and varied pathway possible from the confluence of the Mississippi and Meramec rivers southwestward through the Ozarks of southern Missouri to the Arkansas border, where it will eventually join Arkansas' Ozark Highlands Trail. The Trail currently represents a major north-south path through the Ozarks and looping east through the St. Francois Mountains with future extensions along the Meramec River Greenway to the north and toward Arkansas to the south (Figure 1 on Page 3). The parties, where they have authority to do so, designate that the Trail be a non-motorized pathway, with multiple uses allowed where possible and deemed appropriate by the land manager or owner. At a minimum, the Trail will be open to foot traffic. (Current typical uses include hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing.)

2. Purpose of the Council:

The Council's purpose shall be to promote the Trail; to recommend uniform guidelines to landowners and land managers for the Trail's construction, maintenance, marking, and mapping; to publicize the Trail; and generally to provide an open, public forum where all matters relating to the Trail can be discussed. By consensus, the Council shall endorse names and locations of all new Trail sections. The Council shall speak on behalf of or otherwise represent the position of parties to this MOU regarding particular Trail issues only after reaching consensus of the signatory parties present at the meeting where the issue is discussed.

The Council shall not have any power to adopt or enforce binding policies governing Trail locations, standards of construction, or any other matters that are contrary to the desires of the landowner or land manager's land under consideration. The Council shall function in an advisory capacity in these circumstances.

3. Membership:

- a. Parties to this MOU shall include the following organizations which have previously been members of the Ozark Trail Council:
- U.S.D.A, U.S. Forest Service, Mark Twain National Forest
 - U.S.A.C.E, St. Louis District, Wappapello Project
 - U.S. Dept of the Interior, National Park Service, Ozark National Scenic Riverways.
 - The L-A-D Foundation, a Missouri Not for Profit Corporation
 - Missouri Department of Conservation
 - Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks.
 - The Ozark Trail Association, Inc., a Missouri Not for Profit Corporation.
 - The Sierra Club
 - Back Country Horsemen of Missouri, a Missouri Not for Profit Corporation.

 - Saint Louis County Department of Parks

**Memorandum of Understanding
For the Ozark Trail Council
Page 2 of 4**

- b. Parties will each designate one individual as its representative to attend OTC meetings and at least one alternate. Failure to attend three consecutive meetings will be deemed voluntary withdrawal from the Council. A written report from any signatory party will be accepted in lieu of attendance.
- c. New parties may be added to this MOU only by mutual agreement of the existing parties.

4. Meetings:

The Council shall meet no less than two times within a twelve-month period. These meetings shall be used to discuss any and all matters concerning the Trail and to fulfill the purpose of the Council and the Trail, as stated above. The meetings shall be open to the public, and any interested person or group may address the Council on topics pertaining to the Trail. Any decisions to be made by the Council shall be by a consensus of signatory parties present at the meeting. The Ozark Trail Association ("OTA") will coordinate the biannual Council meetings and update the Council as needed on the general status of the Trail. The OTA will also produce agendas for and keep minutes of each meeting and maintain all Council records. These meetings are to generally occur in February and July. The February meeting will usually be held at the lodge at Echo Bluff State Park or another location agreed upon by the members of the Council. The July meeting will usually be held at the Meramec State Park Visitor Center outside of Sullivan, Missouri. OTA will post the specific dates, times and locations of the meetings on its website as soon as they are confirmed.

The Council shall attempt at least every 18 months to participate in a joint meeting with Arkansas' Ozark Highlands Trail Association, at which time matters concerning the joint development of the Trail with the Ozark Highlands Trail may be discussed. In lieu of a meeting, correspondence by electronic or postal mail may be substituted.

4. Amendments, Expiration and Termination:

This MOU takes effect upon the date of the last signature of the signature partners and shall remain in effect for 5 years from the date of execution. This MOU may be extended or amended upon written request of any signature partner and the subsequent written concurrence of the other(s). Any signature partner may terminate involvement with this MOU with a 60-day written notice to the other(s).

5. Responsibilities of Parties:

All signature partners and their respective agencies and office will handle their own activities and utilize their own resources, including the expenditure of their own funds, in pursuing these objectives. Each party will carry out its separate activities in a coordinated and mutually beneficial manner.

6. Non-Fund Obligor Document:

Nothing in this MOU shall obligate any signature partners to obligate or transfer any funds. Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the various agencies and offices of the signature partners will require execution of separate agreements and be contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds. Such activities must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority. This MOU does not provide such authority. Negotiation, execution, and administration of each such agreement must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations.

Memorandum of Understanding
For the Ozark Trail Council
Page 3 of 4



Figure 1

Memorandum of Understanding
For the Ozark Trail Council
Page 4 of 4

This MOU is executed by:

OZARK TRAIL ASSOCIATION

Cherie Brennan 2/1/18
Name Date
President
Title

US FOREST SERVICE - MARK TWAIN N.F.

Michael A Arp 9/11/2019
Name Date
Acting Forest Supervisor
Title

NPS - OZARK NATL. SCENIC RIVERWAYS

Lawrence E. Johnson 3/1/18
Name Date
PARK SUPERINTENDENT
Title

US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Law Dell'Orca 9/19/19
Name Date
Chief, Operations DUSCA
Title

MISSOURI DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

R. Ruiz 1/4/2018
Name Date
Director Missouri State Parks
Title

MISSOURI DEPT. OF CONSERVATION

Mark Chubb 6/15/18
Name Date
Deputy Director
Title

LAD FOUNDATION

Anson Flader 09/12/2018
Name Date
PRESIDENT
Title

SIERRA CLUB

Douglas K. McNeill 3/25/2019
Name Date
Chapter Outings Chair
Title

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF MISSOURI

Sherry L. Copeland 03/31/18
Name Date
Chairman, Board of Directors
Title

GATEWAY HOSTELLING INTERNATIONAL

ENTITY NO LONGER EXISTS
Name Date

ST. LOUIS COUNTY DEPT. OF PARKS

Thomas Ott 8/16/19
Name Date
Director, Parks + Recreation
Title

U.S. Forest Service Addendum

**Memorandum of Understanding
 For the Ozark Trail Council**

- A. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this agreement.

Principles Cooperator Contacts:

Ozark Trail Association Program Contact	Ozark Trail Association Administrative Contact
Name: Kathie Brennan Address: 406 W. High St. City, State, Zip: Potosi, MO 63664 Telephone: (573) 436-0540 Fax: N/A Email: kathie.brennan55@gmail.com	Name: Abi Jackson Address: 406 W. High St. City, State, Zip: Potosi, MO 63664 Telephone: (573) 436-0540 Fax: N/A Email: abi.jackson@ozarktrail.com
NPS – Ozark Natl. Scenic Riverways Program Contact	NPS – Ozark Natl. Scenic Riverways Administrative Contact
Name: Dave Tobey Address: P.O. Box 490 City, State, Zip: Van Buren, MO 63965 Telephone: (573) 323-4236 Fax: N/A Email: dave_tobey@nps.gov	Name: Russell Runge Address: P.O. Box 490 City, State, Zip: Van Buren, MO 63965 Telephone: (573) 323-4236 Fax: N/A Email: russell_runge@nps.gov
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Program Contact	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Administrative Contact
Name: Becky Hays Address: 10992 Hwy. T City, State, Zip: Wappapello, MO 63966 Telephone: (573) 222-8562 Fax: N/A Email: becky.hays@usace.army.mil	Name: Same as Program Contact Address: 10992 Hwy. T City, State, Zip: Wappapello, MO 63966 Telephone: (573) 222-8562 Fax: N/A Email: becky.hays@usace.army.mil
Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources Program Contact	Missouri Dept. of Natural Resources Administrative Contact
Name: Dawn Fredrickson Address: PO Box 176 City, State, Zip: Jefferson City, MO 63102 Telephone: (573) 751-3443 Fax: N/A Email: dawn.fredrickson@dnr.mo.gov	Name: Same as Program Contact Address: PO Box 176 City, State, Zip: Jefferson City, MO 63102 Telephone: (573) 751-3443 Fax: N/A Email: dawn.fredrickson@dnr.mo.gov
Missouri Dept. of Conservation Program Contact	Missouri Dept. of Conservation Administrative Contact
Name: Lee Hughes Address: PO Box 180 City, State, Zip: Jefferson City, MO 65102 Telephone: (573) 751-4115 Fax: N/A Email: lee.hughes@mdc.mo.gov	Name: Same as Program Contact Address: PO Box 180 City, State, Zip: Jefferson City, MO 65102 Telephone: (573) 751-4115 Fax: N/A Email: lee.hughes@mdc.mo.gov

LAD Foundation Program Contact	LAD Foundation Administrative Contact
Name: Neal Humke Address: 319 N. 4 th St. #805 City, State, Zip: St. Louis, MO 63102 Telephone: (314) 621-0230 Fax: N/A Email: neal.humke@ladfoundation.org	Name: Greg Iffrig Address: 319 N. 4 th St. #805 City, State, Zip: St. Louis, MO 63102 Telephone: (314) 621-0230 Fax: N/A Email: greg.iffrig@ladfoundation.org
Sierra Club Program Contact	Sierra Club Administrative Contact
Name: Becky Denney Address: 2818 Sutton Ave. City, State, Zip: St. Louis, MO 63143 Telephone: (314) 644-1011 Fax: N/A Email: becky.denney@sierraclub.org	Name: Same as Program Contact Address: 2818 Sutton Ave. City, State, Zip: St. Louis, MO 63143 Telephone: (314) 644-1011 Fax: N/A Email: becky.denney@sierraclub.org
Back Country Horsemen of Missouri Program Contact	Back Country Horsemen of Missouri Administrative Contact
Name: Gary Garner Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: (573) 785-1571 Fax: N/A Email: gritgarner@hotmail.com	Name: Maury Mertz Address: 1064 Hwy. 68 City, State, Zip: Salem, MO 65560 Telephone: (573) 729-4676 Fax: N/A Email: buddysrider@aol.com
St. Louis County Dept. of Parks Program Contact	St. Louis County Dept. of Parks Administrative Contact
Name: Dennis Hogan Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Fax: N/A Email: dhogan@stlouisco.com	Name: Same as Program Contact Address: City, State, Zip: Telephone: Fax: N/A Email: dhogan@stlouisco.com

Principles U.S. Forest Service Contacts:

U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact	U.S. Forest Service Administrative Contact
Name: Cory Roegner Address: 401 Fairgrounds Rd. City, State, Zip: Rolla, MO 65401 Telephone: (573) 341-7472 Fax: (573) 364-6844 Email: cory.roegner@usda.gov	Name: Marjorie Tweedale Address: 811 Constitution Avenue City, State, Zip: Bedford, IN 47421 Telephone: (812) 276-4744 Fax: (812) 279-3423 Email: marjorie.tweedale@usda.gov

B. ASSURANCE REGARDING FELONY CONVICTION OR TAX DELINQUENT STATUS FOR CORPORATE ENTITIES. This agreement is subject to the provisions contained in the Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2012, P.L. No. 112-74, Division E, Section 433 and 434 regarding corporate felony convictions and corporate federal tax delinquencies. Accordingly, by entering into this agreement Partner acknowledges that it: 1) does

not have a tax delinquency, meaning that it is not subject to any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, and (2) has not been convicted (or had an officer or agent acting on its behalf convicted) of a felony criminal violation under any Federal law within 24 months preceding the agreement, unless a suspending and debarring official of the USDA has considered suspension or debarment is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government. If Partner fails to comply with these provisions, the U.S. Forest Service will annul this agreement and may recover any funds Partner has expended in violation of sections 433 and 434.

- C. **NOTICES.** Any communications affecting the operations covered by this agreement given by the U.S. Forest Service or Partner is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the U.S. Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified above.

To Partner, at Partner's address shown in this Addendum or such other address designated within the MOU.

Notices are effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- D. **PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES.** This MOU in no way restricts the U.S. Forest Service or Partner from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- E. **ENDORSEMENT.** Any of Partner's contributions made under this MOU do not by direct reference or implication convey U.S. Forest Service endorsement of Partner's products or activities.
- F. **NONBINDING AGREEMENT.** This MOU creates no right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by law or equity or capable of generating any contractual obligations. The parties agree they are not entering into a legal partnership, joint venture or other such arrangement. The parties shall manage their respective resources and activities in a separate, but coordinated and mutually beneficial manner to meet the purpose(s) of this MOU. Nothing in this MOU authorizes any of the parties to obligate or transfer anything of value.

Specific, prospective projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a Partner requires the execution of separate agreements and are contingent upon numerous factors, including, as applicable, but not limited to: agency availability of appropriated funds and other resources; Partner availability of funds and other resources; agency and Partner administrative and legal requirements (including agency authorization by statute); etc. This MOU neither provides, nor meets these criteria. If the Partners elect to enter into an obligation agreement that involves the transfer of funds, services, property, and/or anything of value to a Partner, then the applicable criteria must be met. Additionally, under a prospective agreement, each Partner operates under its own laws, regulations, and/or policies, and any Forest Service obligation is subject to the availability of appropriated

funds and other resources. The negotiation, execution, and administration of these prospective agreements must comply with all applicable law.

Nothing in this MOU is intended to alter, limit, or expand the Partners' statutory and regulatory authority.

- G. USE OF U.S. FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for the Partner to use the U.S. Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted from the U.S. Forest Service's Office of Communications. A written request must be submitted and approval granted in writing by the Office of Communications (Washington Office) prior to use of the insignia.
- H. MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no U.S. member of, or U.S. delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- I. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," any and all text messaging by Federal employees is banned: a) while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately-owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All Partners, their employees, volunteers, and contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.
- J. U.S. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATIONS, AUDIOVISUALS AND ELECTRONIC MEDIA. All signature partners and their respective agencies shall acknowledge U.S. Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this MOU.
- K. TERMINATION. Any of the parties, in writing, may terminate this MOU in whole, or in part, at any time before the date of expiration.
- L. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of this MOU must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made, in writing, at least 30 days prior to implementation of the requested change.
- M. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This MOU is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through 19 SEP 2024 at which time it will expire, unless extended by an executed modification, signed and dated by all properly authorized signatory officials.
- N. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature on the MOU, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are certified to act in their respective areas for matters related to this MOU.



FS Agreement No. 19-MU-11090500-025
Cooperator Agreement No. _____

The authority and format of this agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

MARJORIE TWEEDALE
U.S. Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

9/11/2019
Date

Attachment 5 – OTC Section proposal information 2-14-2020

Ozark Trail Council members,

This is the background information concerning the request from the Ozark Trail Association in designating and naming what could be the newest section of the Ozark Trail system.

So, when the concept of this section of trail was conceived back in 2007 by John Roth and others, there was already a section of the Ozark Trail designated the “Current River section.” When Current River SP was being developed several years ago, the trail within CRSP was referred to by DNR as the “Current River Trail.” It is also labeled this way in current DNR publications created for the trails connecting to Echo Bluff SP. The vision was to expand from EBSP beyond through the ONSR to connect to the Roger Pryor Pioneer Backcountry and the Ozark Trail. Many of our volunteers involved with the OTA presently were not part of the process of the conception, design and final approval of this trail project by the land managers as well as the naming of the trail by DNR.

The Ozark Trail is a trail system that is broken down into sections to make it easier for users of the OT to research and decide upon what miles of the OT they would like to use. With that being said, the Construction & Maintenance Committee, comprised of trail users, came to the consensus to propose that this section be designated the 14th section of the Ozark Trail and to be named the “Round Spring section” of the Ozark Trail.

With this action, the section map that has been designed will be ordered on Monday, February 24 to be printed and available for sale to users along with being available on the OTA’s website. This 30-mile section will also be added to the OTA’s Adopt-a-Trail program that will allow volunteers to adopt miles of the section ***resulting in continued maintenance*** in the years to come, which are ***required by the funds utilized through the RTP program***. At this time the trail is blazed in orange from CRSP to the Laxton Hollow intersection of the Blair Creek section. Future signage is to be determined by the land managers where the trail traverses through those public and private lands.

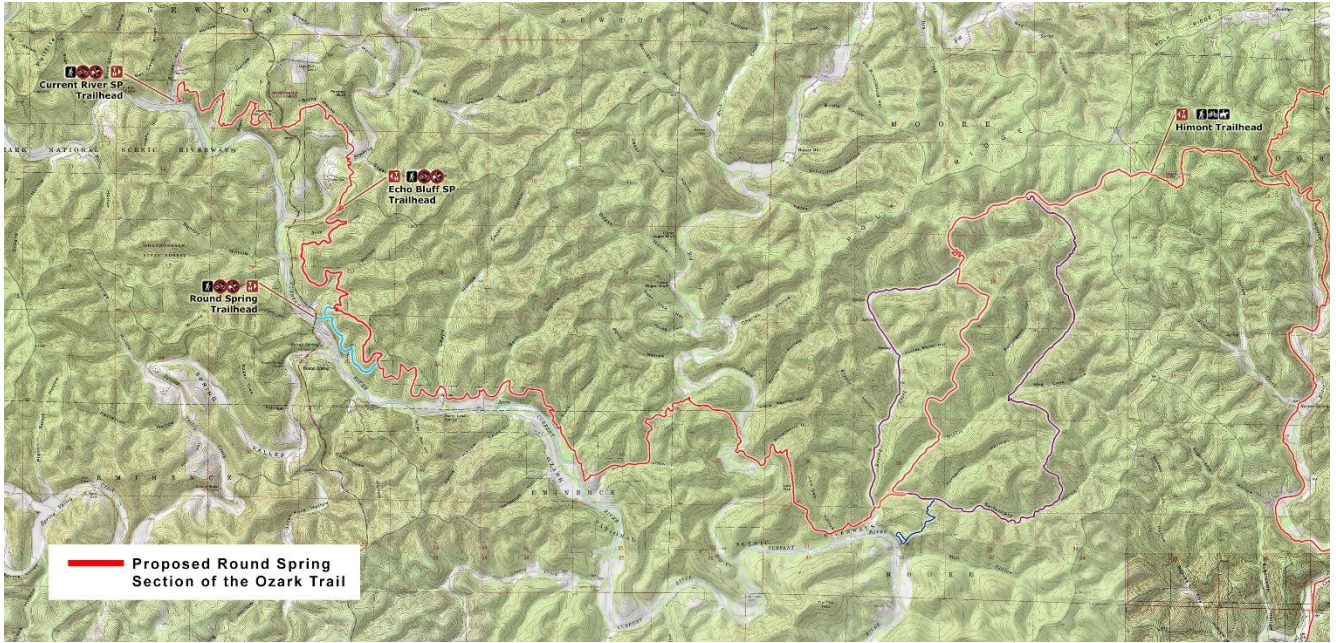
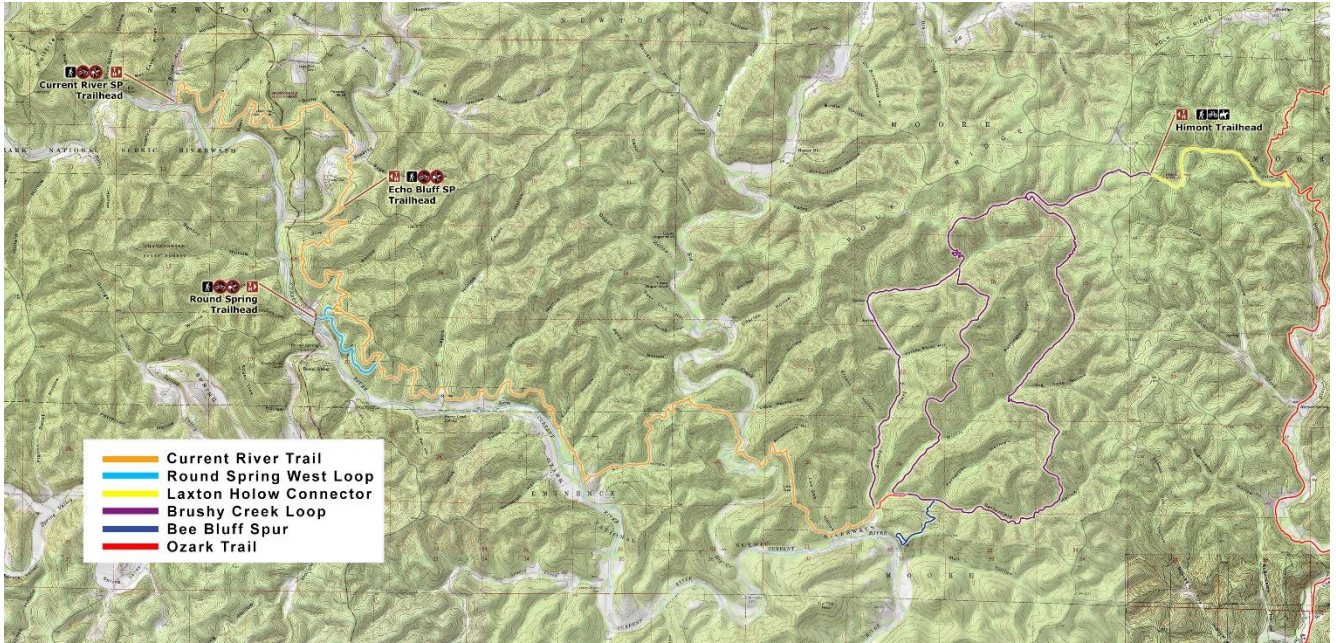
The OTA feels that by this designation of the “trails” involved with this project will make it easier for future users to come to know the Round Spring section of the OT.

The proposed “Round Spring section of the Ozark Trail” would include:

- Laxton Hollow Connector
- Brushy Creek (one leg of loop)
- Brushy Creek to Round Spring Park
- Round Spring to Echo Bluff SP
- Echo Bluff SP to Current River SP

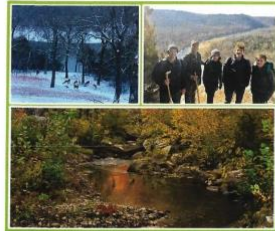
We hope this helps everyone understand the request in designating and naming this 30-mile section of trails.

Kathie Brennan, President
Ozark Trail Association



Attachment 6 – Handouts from the Meeting

Ozark Highlands Trail Brochure



NEW OHTA CHAPTER IN NORTH CENTRAL ARKANSAS

The OHTA is growing and proud to announce the addition of the OHTA Eastern Chapter (EC). The OHTA EC offers a range of opportunities for our rapidly increasing membership in the North Central Arkansas region, and for the many hikers enjoying the eastern sections of the OHT.

OHTA Board member, Phil Brown, representative of the Eastern Chapter, brown.philip9@gmail.com is leading the team launching the new OHTA EC.

Please contact Phil for more information.

If you are interested in assisting in any way, please contact

James Hodges

Trail Completion Representative,
Ozark Highlands Trail Association
870-421-0579

OZARK HIGHLANDS TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Ozark Highlands Trail Association (OHTA) is a private, nonprofit volunteer organization that was organized in 1981 to build, maintain, and enjoy the Ozark Highlands Trail. Since that time, thousands of our volunteers from twenty states have contributed over 350,000 hours of work to this trail project. Our members are all ages, come from different parts of the country, and have many backgrounds and interests.

OHTA is an outings club too. These casual trips will take you to some of the most scenic spots in the Ozarks, as well as other regional natural areas.

We are also an educational organization, with emphasis on teaching low impact camping and hiking techniques, and helping to ease those who are new to the sport of hiking into the backcountry. Beginners welcome!

All outings and meetings are open to the public, and there is never any charge. We have monthly meetings, a web page, newsletter, and an expanding program of work trips, day hikes, and overnight backpack trips for hikers of all ages and abilities.

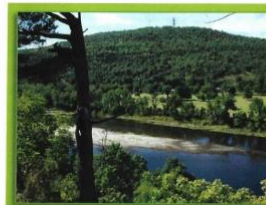
If this sounds like the group for you, download the membership application at the link below and mail it in.

<http://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/arc-central-north-central-arkansas/OHTA-Membership-Application-Form-09-06-2012.pdf>

<http://ozarkhighlandstrail.com/>



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OHTA is a 501 (c) 3 charitable organization.



Closing the Gaps



in the

Ozark Highlands Trail & (future) Trans Ozark Trail



Mind the Gaps... and Close Them.

The Ozark Highlands Trail (OHT) is one of the most scenic hiking trails in the United States. Construction of the trail began in 1977 by the U.S. Forest Service, but soon funding disappeared and OHTA volunteers took up the torch. The main section of the trail was completed in 1989 and was dedicated as a **National Recreation Trail**. **David's Trail**, opened in 2009 along the route to Missouri, is a multipurpose trail adjacent to Norfolk Lake, designed to encourage an active lifestyle for all ages and abilities. Work continues—upgrading sections, creating loops and spurs, conducting ongoing maintenance, and undertaking efforts **close the gaps** to extend the trail all the way to St. Louis, Missouri—creating the envisioned **Trans Ozark Trail** trail system of over 700 miles!



Trans Ozark Trail Miles in Arkansas Summary

165	OHT Contiguous Section
42	Buffalo River Trail (BRT)/OHT Section
1	BRT/OHT near South Maumee - near completion
15	Lower Buffalo Wilderness - future section
32	OHT-Sylamore Section
8	Matney Knob to Norfolk Dam - future section
13	Lake Norfolk Trail/OHT section
18	Lake Norfolk Trail/OHT/David's Trail - future section
17	David's Trail
7	David's Trail to Missouri Border - future section
269	Total Trail Miles Completed
49	Total Gap Miles
318	Total Potential Trail Miles in Arkansas

The OHTA builds and maintains the growing Ozark Highlands Trail across northern Arkansas, from Lake Fort Smith State Park to Norfolk Lake, where it will connect with David's Trail and the Ozark Trail, being built in Missouri, to create the Trans Ozark Trail. Is a "Golden Spike" opportunity in the foreseeable future to connect the trails?

About 269 miles of trail are built in Arkansas as of 2018. However, about **49 miles remain to be built**, including 1.4 miles near South Maumee along the Buffalo River, 15 miles in the Lower Buffalo Wilderness, 8 miles between Matney Knob and the Norfolk Dam, and 25 miles along Norfolk Lake in Arkansas. The good news is that all but 8 miles are on federal lands.

The 8-mile gap between Matney Knob (near the town of Norfolk) and the Norfolk Dam is among the most difficult of the remaining gaps because there is so much private land along the potential routes.



If you want to assist in any way, please contact James Hodges, OHTA Trail Completion Representative, at 870-421-0579.

Please help us find solutions to **CLOSE THE GAPS!**

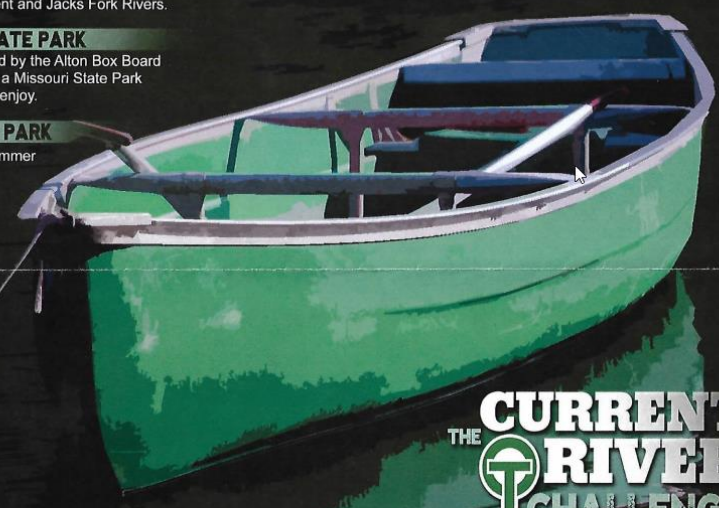
The Current River Challenge

The Current River Challenge takes you to three great parks along the Current River.

OZARK NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAYS
 Established in 1964 the ONSR is a National Park which includes 134 miles along the Current and Jacks Fork Rivers.

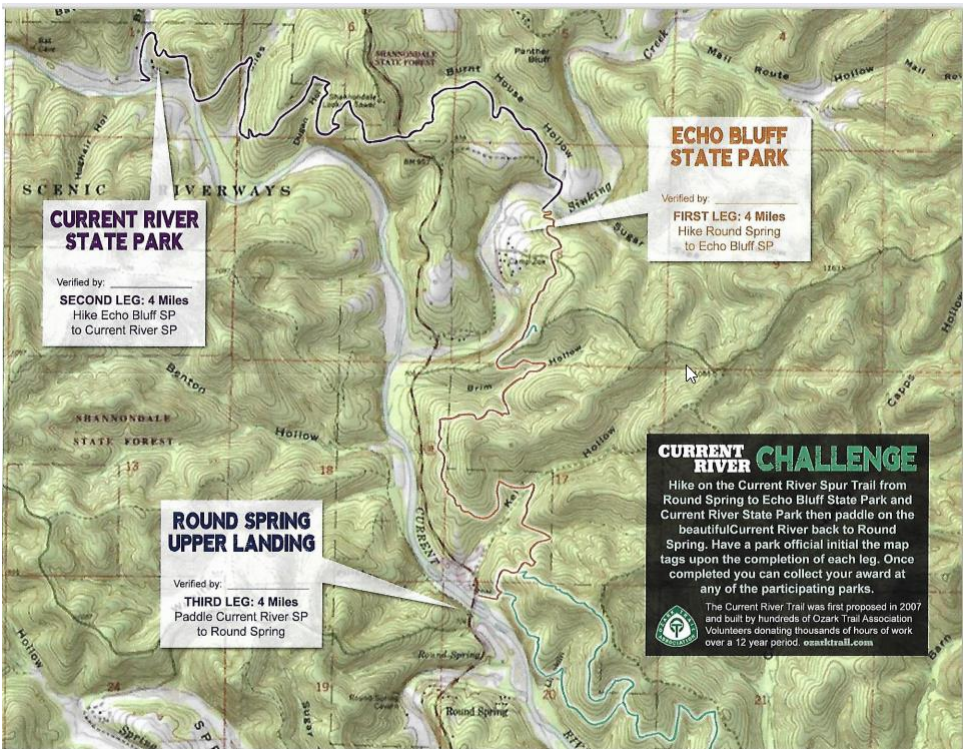
CURRENT RIVER STATE PARK
 Once a private club owned by the Alton Box Board Company, today CRSP is a Missouri State Park and open for everyone to enjoy.

ECHO BLUFF STATE PARK
 Formerly Camp Zoe, a summer youth camp, EBSP was added to the area as a State Park in 2016.



THE CURRENT RIVER CHALLENGE

ONE RIVER, ONE TRAIL, THREE GREAT PARKS.

CURRENT RIVER STATE PARK
 Verified by: **SECOND LEG: 4 Miles**
 Hike Echo Bluff SP to Current River SP


ECHO BLUFF STATE PARK
 Verified by: **FIRST LEG: 4 Miles**
 Hike Round Spring to Echo Bluff SP


ROUND SPRING UPPER LANDING
 Verified by: **THIRD LEG: 4 Miles**
 Paddle Current River SP to Round Spring

CURRENT RIVER CHALLENGE
 Hike on the Current River Spur Trail from Round Spring to Echo Bluff State Park and Current River State Park then paddle on the beautiful Current River back to Round Spring. Have a park official initial the map tags upon the completion of each leg. Once completed you can collect your award at any of the participating parks.

The Current River Trail was first proposed in 2007 and built by hundreds of Ozark Trail Association Volunteers donating thousands of hours of work over a 12 year period. ozarktrail.com

The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge Overview





The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge


2020 - 2030

An Overview

Phases

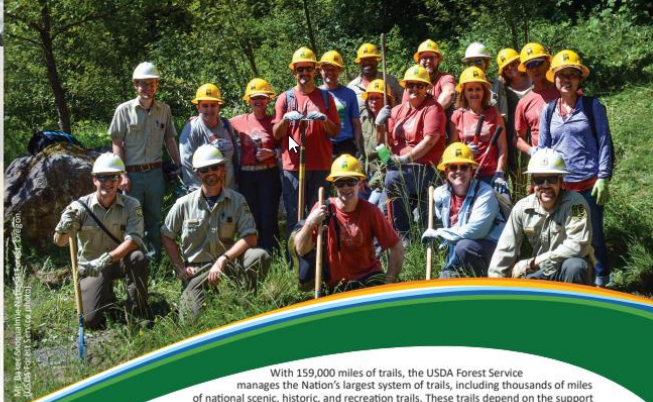
Achieving a sustainable trail system requires a multiyear effort that is responsive to local needs and opportunities. The trails community must also have the support and flexibility to take action when and where it makes the most sense.

As such, the Trail Challenge is being implemented agencywide through three adaptive phases over the next 10 years, from 2020 to 2030:



For more information, including instructions, examples, and reporting details, refer to the online guidebook posted on the Trail Challenge webpage (also available at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/10YTC>).

Lessons learned during the Launch and Learn phase and each successive phase will be used to refine subsequent phases.




With 159,000 miles of trails, the USDA Forest Service manages the Nation's largest system of trails, including thousands of miles of national scenic, historic, and recreation trails. These trails depend on the support and dedication of Forest Service employees, volunteers, partners, and communities nationwide.

The Forest Service's National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System, released in 2017, outlines 26 actions toward achieving a sustainable trail system. Trail strategy **Action 1.2, Implement 10-Year Trail Challenge**, calls for the Forest Service to launch a bold challenge, together with our partners, that improves our collective capacity to care for trails and increases on-the-ground results.

We are moving in the right direction toward shared stewardship of trails, and together we can go farther. Forest Service employees, working in collaboration with other Federal partners, States, communities, Tribes and Tribal organizations, volunteers, partners, and others (collectively known as the trails community), are encouraged and challenged to prioritize, innovate, and invest to achieve a more sustainable system of trails.

The Trail Challenge is a call to action to increase our collective capacity to care for trails and increase on-the-ground results. **Trails need our help, so let's go!**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



Forest Service FS-1145 February 2020

Call to Action

The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge puts into motion the primary intentions of the [National Forest System Trails Stewardship Act](#) and USDA Forest Service [National Strategy for a Sustainable Trail System](#). It provides a framework for national forest and grassland units, together with the broader trails community, to improve the sustainability of National Forest System trails.

Sustainable trails are ecologically resilient, socially relevant, and economically viable.

Over the next decade, we are incorporating 10 "challenge elements" into our collective efforts. We are sharing experiences and reporting progress—learning from each other about how to best care for trails in a way that benefits the environment, people, and communities now and into the future.

Trail Challenge Elements

The Trail Challenge is composed of 10 elements that are a subset of the 26 actions outlined in the agency's national trail strategy.

Who Participates?

Everyone. The Trail Challenge emphasizes working together at local and broader scales—learning from each other and adapting to different needs and opportunities. Forest Service units are encouraged to work with volunteers and partners, as well as diverse stakeholders, such as local chambers of commerce, businesses, schools, universities, and the outdoor recreation industry.

Trail Challenge Goals

-  **To improve our collective capacity to care for trails over the long term.**
-  **To directly increase on-the-ground results benefiting trails.**

In 2019, **only 24%** National Forest System trails met agency standards for safety and high-quality recreation.

Why a Trail Challenge?

The Forest Service manages the largest trail system in the country—159,000 miles of trails connecting people to their public lands; supporting spiritual, mental, and physical health and well-being; and contributing to community health and economic prosperity. Trails are powerful economic generators, supporting the more than \$11 billion that recreation on National Forest System lands contributes to the national economy each year and supporting 148,000 jobs in outdoor recreation and tourism. National Forest System trails also offer people opportunities for shared experiences across shared landscapes by connecting to trail systems in other jurisdictions, including local, State, Tribal, nongovernmental, and Federal. Trails also support Forest Service programs such as forest health, fire prevention and suppression, wildlife and watershed management, and heritage resource protection through access to field projects and distributing recreation use.

Trail Challenge Elements

- A Establish Trails Advisory Group:** Implement a Trails Advisory Group composed of agency employees who give advice and timely input to the Chief on emerging trail issues. (Trail Strategy Action 1.4)
- B Evaluate Trails Program:** Evaluate trail programs at all levels of the agency to identify refinements/improvements needed to increase field capacity and to shift toward collaborative trail stewardship. (Trail Strategy Action 2.2)
- C Achieve Sustainable Trail Systems:** Make sure that trail systems are sustainably designed, well maintained, used for their intended purpose, and valued and supported by trail users and communities. (Trail Strategy Actions 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4)
- D Promote Cross-Program Integration:** Identify opportunities to integrate agency program areas to meet trail restoration and stewardship objectives. (Trail Strategy Action 5.3)
- E Meet Data Standards:** Meet minimum standards of trail information on all Forest Service units, including accurate and readily available spatial data. (Trail Strategy Action 6.3)
- F Support Outdoor Recreation Economy:** Work with local communities, partners, and industry to understand and leverage how trail systems can support rural and urban economic health and growth where appropriate and through strategically targeted investments. (Trail Strategy Action 3.3)
- G Increase Outreach and User Ethics:** Build upon successful outreach and user ethics programs, including work done by partners and foundations, to engage and motivate future stewards of public lands. (Trail Strategy Action 3.4)
- H Expand Use of Service and Job Corps:** Expand integration of 21st Century Conservation Service Corps, Job Corps, and similar youth and veteran programs to increase the benefits of trail stewardship. (Trail Strategy Action 3.5)
- I Invite Shared Partner Leadership:** Encourage establishment of a multipartner group—championed by nongovernmental organizations, academia, Indian Tribes, and other agencies and entities—to contribute shared leadership in carrying out the trail strategy. (Trail Strategy Action 1.5)
- J Invite Trail Endowment:** Advocate with the nongovernmental organization and partner community to establish a national trail endowment, pursue nontraditional funding sources, and invite contributions to help leverage resources to carry out the trail strategy. (Trail Strategy Action 4.5)

**Trail Challenge elements collaboratively implemented by Forest Service units/employees with partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders.*



United States Department of Agriculture

The 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge 2020 - 2030



Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Montana. (USDA Forest Service photo by Preston Veres)

Over the next decade, USDA Forest Service employees, together with Federal partners, States, communities, Tribes and Tribal organizations, volunteers, partners, and others are encouraged and challenged to prioritize, invest, and innovate to achieve a sustainable system of trails. Together, as a collective trails community, we are taking action on the 10 elements of the 10-Year Trail Shared Stewardship Challenge. The Trail Challenge is helping us to build our collective capacity and improve trails on the ground. We are achieving this by working together, adapting to different needs and opportunities, and amplifying successes for the benefit of trails and the people who use them.

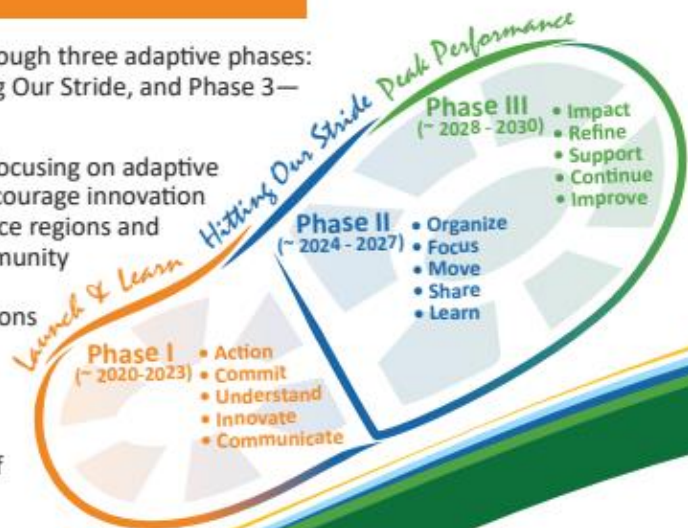
Trail Challenge Goals:

1. Improve our collective capacity to care for trails over the long term.
2. Directly increase on-the-ground results benefitting trails.

Phase 1: Launch & Learn

The Trail Challenge is being implemented through three adaptive phases: Phase 1—Launch and Learn, Phase 2—Hitting Our Stride, and Phase 3—Peak Performance.

During the Launch and Learn phase, we are focusing on adaptive “learning lab” approaches that invite and encourage innovation and sharing. Success is driven by Forest Service regions and units working in collaboration with trail community stakeholders at local and broader levels to implement Trail Challenge elements (or portions of elements) when and where it makes the most sense. Successes and lessons learned during the Launch and Learn phase will help in refining, standardizing, and setting requirements of the two remaining phases of the Trail Challenge.



Participation

Participation during the Launch and Learn phase is required in two elements: Establish Trails Advisory Group and Meet Data Standards. Other elements are optional during this phase, although some amount of regional participation in one or more of these elements is expected. Regions and units, in collaboration with partners, are also welcome to start working on additional elements or new projects associated with elements at any time during the Launch and Learn phase.

Forest Service units, working together with regional offices and local trail community members, should identify and prioritize the Trail Challenge elements they will be working on during this phase. Selected elements should be documented in the Element Selection Menu. Units working together with regional offices are encouraged to revisit annually their priorities and update the Element Selection Menu as needed.

Trail Challenge Element	Participation
National Elements	
A Establish Trails Advisory Group (Trail Strategy Action 1.4)	Required for Washington Office and Regions
B Evaluate Trails Program* (Trail Strategy Action 2.2)	Optional
Unit Elements	
C Achieve Sustainable Trail Systems* (Trail Strategy Action 4.1- 4.4)	Optional
D Promote Cross-Program Integration (Trail Strategy Action 5.3)	Optional
E Meet Data Standards (Trail Strategy Action 6.3)	Required for all Forest Service units
Optional Unit Elements	
F Support Outdoor Recreation Economy* (Trail Strategy Action 3.3)	Optional
G Increase Outreach and User Ethics* (Trail Strategy Action 3.4)	Optional
H Expand Use of Service and Job Corps* (Trail Strategy Action 3.5)	Optional
Partner Elements (invited)	
I Invite Shared Partner Leadership* (Trail Strategy Action 1.5)	Invited
J Invite Trail Endowment (Trail Strategy Action 4.5)	Invited

* Trail Challenge elements collaboratively implemented by Forest Service units/employees with partners, volunteers, and other stakeholders.

Progress Tracking and Sharing Results: During the Launch and Learn phase, initial online reporting tools will be available for sharing progress. Tracking successes and lessons learned will help in developing nationally standardized tracking tools for the remaining Trail Challenge phases.

Support and Oversight: The Forest Service's National Trail Board, Trails Advisory Group, Regional Recreation Directors, and Washington Office leadership and Trail Program staff, along with national trail partners, are actively listening and adjusting to feedback from agency units and engaged trail community members. They are also providing national support to units during the Trail Challenge, such as convening national teams to develop related toolkits and training materials.

Materials and Resources: For online resources, including instructions, examples, and reporting details, refer to the Trail Challenge Guidebook and element-specific "Idea Sheets" that contain best practices and implementation tips on the [Trail Challenge webpage](#) (also available at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/trails/10YTC>).

