



2018

# National Trails Intermountain Region

FY 2018 SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT





# Contents



Acronym List .....	4
Executive Summary of Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments .....	6
Administration and Staffing .....	10
Organization and Purpose .....	10
Budgets.....	11
Staff Changes .....	12
Core Operations .....	13
Partnerships and Programs.....	13
Trail Studies and Planning .....	14
Trail Administration.....	16
California National Historic Trail .....	16
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.....	20
El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail .....	23
Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail .....	27
Old Spanish National Historic Trail .....	29
Oregon National Historic Trail .....	33
Pony Express National Historic Trail .....	36
Santa Fe National Historic Trail .....	39
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.....	43
NTIR Trails Project Summary .....	47
Trail Websites.....	50
Volunteers-in-Parks (VIP) Program .....	52
University-Based Partnerships.....	53
Geographic Information Systems .....	54
Resource Advocacy and Protection .....	56
Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program.....	57







## Acronym List

<b>ATR</b>	Agreements Technical Representative; also Auto Tour Route	<b>CTTP</b>	Connect Trails to Parks
<b>BLM</b>	Bureau of Land Management	<b>DCP</b>	Developmental Concept Plan
<b>CALI</b>	California National Historic Trail	<b>DIGIT</b>	Digitally Integrated Geographic Information Technologies
<b>CAS</b>	Comprehensive Administrative Strategy	<b>DOT</b>	Department of Transportation
<b>CESU</b>	Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit	<b>ELCA</b>	El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail
<b>CHAM</b>	Chamizal National Memorial	<b>ELCAT</b>	El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association
		<b>ELTE</b>	El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail
		<b>FLAP</b>	Federal Lands Access Program
		<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
		<b>HFC</b>	Harpers Ferry Center (National Park Service)
		<b>INAH</b>	Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico)
		<b>MoDOT</b>	Missouri Department of Transportation
		<b>MOPI</b>	Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail
		<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding
		<b>MTSU</b>	Middle Tennessee State University (Center for Historic Preservation)
		<b>NHT</b>	National Historic Trail
		<b>NPS</b>	National Park Service
		<b>NTIR</b>	National Trails Intermountain Region
		<b>NTSA</b>	National Trails System Act
		<b>OCTA</b>	Oregon-California Trails Association
		<b>OLSP</b>	Old Spanish National Historic Trail
		<b>OREG</b>	Oregon National Historic Trail

**PECO** Pecos National Historical Park

**POEX** Pony Express National  
Historic Trail

**RIM** Resources Information  
Management

**ROSI** Route 66 Corridor  
Preservation Program

**SAFE** Santa Fe National Historic Trail

**SFTA** Santa Fe Trail Association

**SHPO** State Historic Preservation Office

**THC** Texas Historical Commission

**TOTA** Trail of Tears Association

**TRTE** Trail of Tears National Historic  
Trail

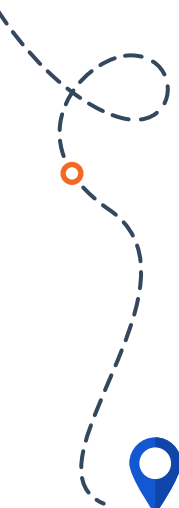
**TVA** Tennessee Valley Authority

**UNM** University of New Mexico

**USFS** United States Forest Service

**VIP** Volunteers-in-Parks  
(NPS program)





## Executive Summary of Fiscal Year 2018 Accomplishments

View into the Columbia River Gorge (Oregon NHT) at Tom McCall Nature Preserve, east of Hood River, Oregon.

### OCTOBER 1, 2017 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

This document enumerates a considerable number of specific accomplishments. This summary includes the following sampling of significant staff accomplishments that have influenced most or all of the trails and programs that the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) administers:



- The year 2018 marked the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, the guiding legislation for all national historic and scenic trails, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on October 2, 1968. Throughout the country, the administrators of these trails recognized this anniversary with their partners. The National Trails Intermountain Region formed a planning team and hired a Student Conservation Association intern to encourage broad participation and to administer events.

Given that support and guidance, successful 50th anniversary events took place throughout the spring, summer, and fall of 2018. Almost 40 such events were held in more than 20 states, ranging from two to eight for each national historic trail (NHT). Partnership associations played a major role in encouraging and coordinating these events, and NTIR staff assisted by attending most of these events and maintaining a social media presence.

- A major trail-related event held in July 2018 was the American Solar Challenge, a competitive event between solar-powered vehicle teams that followed the approximate route of the Oregon Trail. The event was sponsored by the Innovators Educational Foundation and featured vehicles built by various university teams. National Trails Intermountain Region, designated to play a major support role in interpreting the ten-day event spanning four states, had begun preparations a year previously; two groups of trails staff accompanied the teams. Each day they set up information tents and dispensed information about the race, provided Oregon Trail information, and invited participation in an Oregon Trail game that had been developed by NTIR staff.
- NTIR Staff in both the Salt Lake City, UT, and the Santa Fe, NM, moved their offices in 2018. Salt Lake City staff, in early March, vacated their office at 324 S. State St.—which had been a National Park Service (NPS) office since January 1995—and moved two blocks west to a ninth-floor suite at 50

W. Broadway. The move was necessary due to the expiration of the building's lease. Three months later, an impending construction effort at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building obliged the Santa Fe staff to vacate their offices (where they had worked since November 2002) and move to the Joseph Montoya Federal Building (above the post office) in downtown Santa Fe. In conjunction with both moves, the office's records management task force (which had been formed in 2017) worked with other NTIR staff and Western Archeological and Conservation Center personnel on file structure plans, to separate permanent records from working files other records, and to box up all office materials in preparation for the move.

- A multidisciplinary working group comprising an archeologist, a historian, a landscape architect, a Geographic Information Systems (GIS) specialist, and other experts—from all three trails offices—continued developing a standardized, internal process for proposing High Potential Historic Sites and High Potential Route Segments for the nine national historic trails administered by National Trails Intermountain Region. The group met several times during the year. As a result, the group developed, offered for staff review, and revised several drafts of the protocol packet, and engaged staff in field testing one of the final versions. Completion and final approval of the protocol packet is anticipated in Fiscal Year 2019.

"Journey's End" Wagon Sculpture,

Santa Fe NHT



- Considerable preparation took place during the year to develop a trails course at the University of New Mexico (UNM). A graduate student helped prepare course materials, and the course instructor, from UNM's History Department, worked with NTIR staff on developing a readings list and the course syllabus. The course, with 18 students, began in August 2018. Students, as part of the course, were slated to undertake several trails-related projects. In addition, one history graduate student was provided an assistantship to conduct more comprehensive trails-related research. That student has been selected and will begin work in the fall of 2018.
- National Trails Intermountain Region entered into nine new partnership certifications with non-federal property owners during the year. Three of these certifications took place on the Old Spanish National Historic Trail; three more on the Santa Fe National Historic Trail; two on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail; and one on the California National Historic Trail. Two additional properties, both in the Kansas City area, had previously been listed as certified partners, but in 2018 were certified for additional trails.
- NTIR staff continued to seek opportunities for youth to interact with the various national historic trails. Work continued, for example, on updating and consolidating the various Junior Wagon Master story maps related to the Santa Fe NHT. Junior Ranger programs were an element of several events that celebrated the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary, with upcoming upgrades to the digital Junior Ranger project. NTIR staff played a key role in providing interpretation for the annual Remember the Removal long-distance bicycle ride, an annual event undertaken by select Cherokee Nation youth.



- The hiring of a Student Conservation Association intern, partially funded by a Partnership for the National Trails System grant, considerably strengthened officewide signing efforts. In conjunction with her work, efforts were made to design new, more streamlined standards for both road and pedestrian signs. These standards brought forth several new signs, modifications in existing signs, and the retirement of others.
- A draft of the office’s administrative history was completed in August 2018. After review by staff and outside partners, completion is anticipated in 2019.
- NTIR staff produced draft versions of both an interpretative planning guide and an interpretive media guide. Once completed,

these guides will be available to partners to explain various media types and to explain alternatives to wayside exhibits.

- Staff announced an organizational change in February 2018, as two former teams— Interpretation and Education, and Design and Development—merged into the new Visitor Use Experience and Engagement Team.
- Thanks to funding from UNM’s Center for Regional Studies, two projects were initiated in late 2017. One project brought forth a considerable increase in the office’s social media presence, while the other resulted in six podcasts, averaging 25 to 30 minutes in length, on trail-related subjects.
- Due to a large donation of books, the NTIR library in Santa Fe grew by more than a third during FY 2018. NTIR staff inventoried, catalogued, and shelved the new volumes. In addition, staff organized a historical collection of the various trail maps and guides, going back to the 1980s—the goal being to have one master copy of all editions and printings for each of the nine trails.
- The National Trails Intermountain Region remained committed to a safe workplace environment. Throughout the year, various staff presented a “safety minute” once per month. This attention to safety has played a major role in the absence, among staff, of work-related lost-time injuries during FY 2018.



Devils Gate,  
Mormon Pioneer NHT

## SECTION TWO



# Administration and Staffing

Prairie Ghost Town in Delhi, Colorado, along the Santa Fe Trail.

*The National Trails Intermountain Region administers nine national historic trails and a historic corridor preservation program. In addition, it has been charged with writing three ongoing trail feasibility studies and one comprehensive administrative strategy.*

### ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE

The NTIR staff in Santa Fe, NM, with branch offices in Salt Lake City, UT, and Albuquerque, NM, administer the following national historic trails: California (CALI), El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro (ELCA), El Camino Real de los Tejas (ELTE), Mormon Pioneer (MOPI), Old Spanish (OLSP), Oregon (OREG), Pony Express (POEX), Santa Fe (SAFE), and Trail of Tears (TRTE). In addition, the NTIR staff administers the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program (ROSI). El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and Old Spanish national historic trails are co-administered with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

## BUDGETS

In FY18, the National Trails Intermountain Region received \$3,584,500 in Operations of the National Park Service (ONPS) funding. In addition, the NTIR team received \$61,787 for planning and \$320,000 for Connect Trails to Parks (CTTP) projects. See table 1 for details on funding by trail.

**TABLE 1.** NTIR Funding for FY 2018.

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Trail or Program</b>	<b>Received</b>
<b>ONPS</b>	Santa Fe National Historic Trail	\$713,000
	Trail of Tears National Historic Trail	\$491,000
	Oregon National Historic Trail	\$434,600
	California National Historic Trail	\$348,500
	Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program	\$289,100
	El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail	\$289,100
	Pony Express National Historic Trail	\$249,500
	Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail	\$242,500
	Old Spanish National Historic Trail	\$242,500
	El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail	\$198,000
	Masau Trail	\$33,700
	Additional NPS Funding from Other Sources	\$53,000
	<b>Total ONPS Funding</b>	<b>\$3,584,500</b>
<b>Planning</b>	Four Trails (OREG, CALI, MOPI, POEX) Feasibility Study Amendment/ Environmental Assessment	\$51,787
	Old Spanish NHT Comprehensive Administrative Strategy	\$10,000
	<b>Total Planning</b>	<b>\$61,787</b>
<b>Connect Trails to Parks (CTTP)</b>	Expand hiking opportunities along SAFE in Comanche National Grassland	\$58,500
	"Going Digital" on the national historic trails" – Digital Jr. Ranger Program	\$98,400
	Design work for Brockliss Bridge (CA) pedestrian bridge – Cooperating with Eldorado National Forest (US Forest Service [USFS])	\$100,000
	NPS Match (with the Midwest Regional Office) for 2018 American Solar Challenge	\$63,100
	<b>Total CTTP</b>	<b>\$320,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,966,287</b>	

## STAFF CHANGES

**Jeff Denny**, interpretive specialist, joined the staff in October 2017

**Steve Burns**, landscape architect/Santa Fe, retired in January 2018

**Sarah Rivera**, cartographic technician/Salt Lake City, converted to GIS specialist, February 2018

**Brian Deaton**, GIS coordinator/Santa Fe, rejoined the staff in June 2018; previously worked for National Trails Intermountain Region from 2010 to 2013

**Kelly Shea**, administrative officer/Santa Fe, transferred in July 2018

**Michael Elliott**, cultural resource specialist and planner/Santa Fe, retired in September 2018

**Gina Hernandez (CHAM)**, interpretation, worked 2 months in 2018

**Maria Nemelka**, UNM Spanish-Portuguese Department, worked throughout the fiscal year

**Cynthia Jacobs**, UNM cultural resources intern, concluded her work in the summer of 2018

**Courtney Brock**, UNM GIS intern, concluded her work in the fall of 2017

**Mariko Harper**, UNM communications intern, January to September 2018

**Kaveh Mowahed**, UNM history intern, January to September 2018

**Diane Weddington**, Student Conservation Association intern, worked throughout the fiscal year

**Madison Vandersee**, Student Conservation Association intern, June to September 2018



Eldorado National Forest,  
California NHT

## SECTION THREE



As an opening event of the Oregon-California Trails Association convention in nearby Ogden, NTIR staff led members on a bicycle ride through Echo Canyon, UT. In this photo, the group stopped at the Supplication Hills interpretive marker, between Echo and Henefer.

# Core Operations

## PARTNERSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

Each national historic trail has a primary partner organization that actively works with NTIR staff to support trail-related research, interpretation, and development, as well as promoting public interest and heritage tourism. The National Trails Intermountain Region provides limited financial assistance to several of these organizations from its base ONPS funding. Table 2 identifies the financial assistance that the National Trails Intermountain Region provided to trail organizations in FY 2018.



**TABLE 2.** NTIR Organizational Support for FY 2018

<b>Partner Organization</b>	<b>Funding Provided</b>
Trail of Tears Association (TOTA; for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail)	\$149,135
Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA; for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail)	\$151,327
Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA; for the Oregon and California national historic trails)	\$133,000
Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA; for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail)	\$82,500
El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association (ELCAT; for El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail)	\$75,050
National Pony Express Association (NPEA; for Pony Express National Historic Trail)	\$59,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$650,532</b>

## TRAIL STUDIES AND PLANNING

For the last several years, the National Trails Intermountain Region has been conducting two feasibility studies and a special resource study in response to provisions in the 2009 Omnibus Public Lands Management Act. In addition, the office has been tasked with completing a comprehensive administrative strategy (CAS), which is an outgrowth of a trail’s comprehensive management planning process. Considerable progress took place in 2018 toward the completion of these projects.

The NPS’s trails office, together with colleagues at the BLM’s Utah State Office, completed the Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail Comprehensive Administrative Strategy. The agencies, in FY 2017, had completed a draft of this document. Based on both internal and partner-generated comments, staff finalized and began to distribute the

document in December 2017 following approval by the Utah BLM director and the NPS intermountain regional director.

The Butterfield Overland Trail Special Resource Study, another major planning document, was given executive-branch approval during the year. Congress, in 2009, had asked the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate the eligibility of this trail as a national historic trail, and in response, office staff had completed draft and final studies in December 2016 and May 2017, respectively.

The regional director approved the final study in early July 2017, and during the ensuing months, officials at both the agency and departmental levels also approved the study. On May 29, 2018, based on approvals from those offices, the study was forwarded to the appropriate congressional committees for consideration as a national historic trail.



On the first day of the annual Pony Express Trail Re-ride, the initial rider was sworn in, pledging to abstain from alcohol, cursing, or “behaving in an unfitting manner.”

Two other studies, both of which were mandated by congressional action in 2009, are under agency review. Congress, in a section of Public Law 111-11 entitled “Revision of Feasibility and Suitability Studies of Existing national historic trails,” asked the Interior Department to evaluate more than sixty potential additions to the

Oregon, California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express national historic trails. During fiscal year 2018 that internal review process was completed, after which the study was submitted for agency review. Another study awaiting agency review is the Chisholm Trail and Great Western Trail feasibility study.

## SECTION FOUR



## Trail Administration

In 2018, NTIR staff helped conduct a viewshed assessment at the NPS's City of Rocks National Reserve, along the California National Historic Trail in Idaho.

### CALIFORNIA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*Congress authorized the California National Historic Trail in 1992. Spurred by James Marshall's gold discovery in early 1848, the trail witnessed the passage of hundreds of thousands of westering emigrants during the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s. The trail's many routes followed a broad corridor (which narrowed as it headed west) from the Missouri River to southwestern Wyoming. Farther west, in Nevada, various routes split and led over various Sierra Nevada passes into California's Central Valley. Along many portions of the California Trail—from the Missouri River all the way to California—the trail is shared with the Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/cali>.*





California Trail Days, held in mid-May at the BLM's California Trail Interpretive Center in Elko, NV, featured local Native basket weavers.

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Oregon-California Trails Association and its chapters, Bureau of Land Management, Harpers Ferry Center, National Pony Express Association and its chapters, Pacific Crest Trail Association, US Forest Service, Oglala Lakota College, Humboldt State University, City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho State Parks, Kansas Historical Society, and the cities of Rossville, KS, St. Joseph, MO, and Topeka, KS.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- NTIR staff worked with the Mid-America Regional Council (the Kansas City-area Metropolitan Planning Organization) and a consulting landscape architecture firm (Vireo) toward formal adoption of the completed national historic trails area plan. A review draft of this document, which encompassed a 46-mile route that roughly parallels the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe national historic trails, was completed and released in December 2017. After incorporating comments, the revised

plan was presented in early March 2018. After receiving additional responses from city and county officials in both Kansas and Missouri, the final document was completed and distributed in July 2018.

- The National Park Service and the Kansas City Transit Authority dedicated the regional Three Trails Transit Center in South Kansas City (along the above-mentioned 46-mile route) on May 31. NPS signage was dedicated at this regional transit hub and a celebration of the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary was observed.
- As a follow-up to a successful charette (for the California and Oregon national historic trails) that was held for the Pappan's Ferry area (in downtown Topeka, KS) in 2016, staff worked to edit and finalize the final development concept plan. In July 2018, staff distributed both hard copies and digital copies to the project stakeholders.
- NTIR staff worked with local stakeholders and city officials to prepare for a St. Joseph, MO design charette, for both the California and Pony Express national historic trails, that will be held in the city in November 2018.
- NTIR staff revised, updated, and improved accessibility of the Nevada Auto Tour Route Guide and Map (for the California and Pony Express national historic trails). The staff communicated with the publishing vendor following NPS policy and evaluated proofs for potential problems. They undertook similar work for the Wyoming and the Nebraska/Colorado Auto Tour Route (ATR)



On May 31, scores of people turned out to dedicate the Three Trails Transit Center in Kansas City.

guides, both of which discussed the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer national historic trails as well as the California and Pony Express national historic trails.

- Staff developed two newsletters during the year for the California and Oregon national historic trails.
- Staff completed the multiyear Oglala Lakota filming project, which resulted in a seven-minute film entitled *Oglala Lakota, Early Encounters with the Westward Migration*, which included various student-conducted oral interviews with Oglala Lakota representatives. Project partners included Oglala Lakota College, Humboldt State University, the agency's Harpers Ferry Center, and film director David Scheerer.
- Staff provided technical assistance for a wayside development in Rossville, KS (the

California and Oregon national historic trails). Partners include Oregon-California Trails Association, the city of Rossville, and a graphic designer.

- At Camp Guernsey, a Wyoming Military Department facility in eastern Wyoming, staff worked with the landowner to review, revise, and edit the text for several interpretation panels. Some of the best known, and most visually distinctive, overland trail sites and segments are located on or near Camp Guernsey.
- NTIR personnel provided technical assistance to the Bureau of Land Management for the agency's Wyoming statewide interpretive planning process, including staff attendance at a Casper planning meeting.

- Staff revised a draft sign plan for western Nebraska (California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails) and sent to partners for review.
- Two events were celebrated in connection with the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary: 1) OCTA's California-Nevada Chapter dedicated signage at the Fernley Swales in Fernley, Nevada on April 28, and 2) the celebration of Trail Days, on May 19-20, at the California Trail Interpretive Center, a BLM center in Elko, NV.
- One new partnership certification took place on the California National Historic Trail in 2018: Pershing County Water Conservation District (PCWCD) California Trail Segments, near Rye Patch and Battle Mountain, NV, certified on January 9, 2018. In addition, Minor and Schumacher parks, in Kansas City, MO, had previously been certified for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail but, on May 21, 2018, also became certified on the California National Historic Trail.
- In August, Oregon-California Trails Association—at its annual meeting in Ogden, UT—awarded two NTIR staff members the Merrill Mattes Award for Excellence in Writing for their Spring 2017 *Overland Journal* article on the construction of the transcontinental railroad and its impact on the overland trails system. During the OCTA meeting, NTIR staff gave a presentation of trail-related social media. NTIR staff also maintained an information table, where they interacted with OCTA members, discussed NTSA's 50th anniversary, distributed interpretive materials, and answered trail-related questions.
- NTIR staff conducted a viewshed assessment along a proposed hiking trail at City of Rocks National Reserve, in southeastern Idaho, to assist the park unit and Idaho State Parks in their trail-development and interpretation programs.
- The staff made considerable progress working with various Caltrans district offices on proposed sign plans for the California and Pony Express national historic trails. Trails in anticipation of installing trail-related signs.
- In order to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the 1843 opening of the Oregon Trail, Alcove Springs Park, near Blue Rapids, KS, served as the site for a series of nine photo hikes, which were led by professional photographer Tom Parker between early June and late September 2018. Selected photographs taken on these hikes were tentatively scheduled for a gallery exhibition, to be held during the winter of 2018-2019.
- In September 2018, a National Register nomination prepared by the Kansas Historical Society for the Harmon Park Swale in Prairie Village, KS (California, Oregon, and Santa Fe national historic trails) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of a previous project.

- On August 6, two NTIR staffers led a bicycle tour of Echo Canyon, on the shared corridor of the Pony Express, Mormon Pioneer, and California national historic trails in Utah, for OCTA members. Approximately 15 cyclists participated. Implemented with the assistance of BLM’s Utah State Office, it was the first bicycle tour that the Oregon-California Trails Association has hosted in conjunction with its annual conferences.
- In September 2018, a Ph.D.-level history student at the University of Missouri completed a study analyzing the impact of “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War on the Santa Fe, California, and Oregon national historic trails in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The study began in July 2017.



Caddo Mounds State Historic Site, along the trail in eastern Texas, features the replica of a Caddo house.

## EL CAMINO REAL DE LOS TEJAS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*During the Spanish Colonial era, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail—authorized in 2004—was a “royal road” that provided an overland route from Mexico and across the Río Grande to various missions, pueblos, and land grants across Texas. It terminated at Los Adaes in what now is western Louisiana. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/elte>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** El Camino Real de Los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH), Southwest Border Resource Protection Program, Texas Historic Commission (THC), Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), Friends of the Texas Historic Commission, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Stephen F. Austin State University, and the City of San Antonio, TX.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- At Lobanillo Swales, a trail segment in eastern Texas, NTIR staff worked with El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association to finalize and order directional site signage, a pedestrian distance sign, and a private property sign for the site. This signage completed the site’s development. On April 16, NTIR staff and partnership association members dedicated the site as a National Trails System 50th anniversary event.



Onion Creek, along the trail at McKinney Falls State Park, is a popular recreational spot for Austin-area residents.

- Staff organized and planned the Dos Caminos binational data sharing workshop, which was held in Santa Fe, NM, in March 2018. The workshop’s goal was to develop data sharing options that can provide users with up-to-date information on historic sites associated with El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trails. Three representatives from the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico) joined nine United States (US) representatives

at the workshop. This cooperative effort, which was a goal identified during the June 2016 Dos Caminos workshop held in Laredo, TX, included representatives from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), Friends of the Texas Historical Commission, Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, and Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico).

- NTIR staff presented a paper at an international symposium in Zacatecas, Mexico, on the bi-national initiatives being undertaken on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trails. Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico) was the principal partner.
- NTIR staff completed sign design and installation at Apache Pass, in Milam County, TX and designed improved sign plans for Goliad, Nacogdoches, and San Augustine counties. Partners included the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association, Texas Department of Transportation, and the Texas Historical Commission.
- NTIR staff worked with City of San Antonio staff to install identification signs for two city-managed sites: Las Sabinitas and La Villita.
- The staff completed, printed, and distributed an ELTE rack card.
- The staff worked with staff from El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail Association and the City of San Antonio on a National Trails System Act 50th anniversary event which will be held in San Antonio on October 12-13, 2018.
- The Southwest Border Resource Protection Plan selected an NTIR proposal to research indigenous tribes along the trail in central and southwest Texas. Project work was anticipated to begin in FY 2019.



At Mission Tejas State Park, in east Texas, visitors can walk on an original segment of El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.

## EL CAMINO REAL DE TIERRA ADENTRO NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*The El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail is one of the oldest roads in the United States and was authorized as a national historic trail in 2000. It is a timeless route of trade, cultural exchange, and interaction among Spaniards and other Europeans, American Indians, Mexicans, and Americans. This internationally significant trail is co-administered by the Bureau of Land Management and the National Park Service. For more information, visit the following website:*

<https://www.nps.gov/elca>.

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, UNM School of Architecture and Planning's Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program, UNM Spanish-Portuguese Department, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico), Agua Fria Village Association, New Mexico Humanities Council, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, Southwest Border Resource Protection Program, Texas Historical Commission, Gutiérrez-Hubbell House, Bernalillo County Open Space and Cultural Services, El Paso County, El Paso County Historical Commission, Santa Fe County, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, US Fish and Wildlife Service, El Rancho de las Golondrinas, and the City of Albuquerque.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The multiyear Buckman Road retracement trail project was completed in June 2018. Supported by a grant from both the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and NPS's Connect Trails to Parks fund, the National Trails Intermountain Region was a key contributor to this 15-mile-long recreational construction project, providing wayside interpretation along the trail and both road and pedestrian signage. The new trail connects the Santa Fe River Greenway with the national historic trail and offers visitors an unbroken path for hiking, biking and other activities along the historic trail. The trail was formally opened on National Trails Day (June 2), which was marked with a ribbon cutting, music, children's activities, an NPS information booth and the presence of Spanish re-enactors. Partners in the project included not only the National Park Service and Federal Highway Administration, but also Santa Fe County, the Bureau of Land Management, and the US Forest Service.
- The Oñate Crossing research and documentation project—in El Paso, TX, and Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua—made great strides during the year. The contractor for Phase 1 of the project, AmaTerra Environmental, Inc., began its work in October 2017 and completed a draft of its work (Phase 1 of a larger project) the following March. After receiving comments from NPS staff, the contractor presented the final report in September.



On National Public Lands Day in mid-September, volunteers completed the surfacing of a portion of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in south Albuquerque, NM.

Distribution followed soon afterward. Project stakeholders included the El Paso County Historical Commission and El Paso County. Also, during the year, the NTIR staff and its partners worked to implement Phase 2 of the project, which is funded by the NPS's Southwest Border Resource Protection Program and is scheduled for FY 2019.

- At Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in southern Bernalillo County, NM, NTIR staff worked with the USFWS Refuge Manager on a retracement trail project which would also serve as an event commemorating the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary. NTIR staff obtained funding for a Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) proposal, planned construction details, and laid out the anticipated trail alignment. Much of the

actual trail construction took place on National Public Lands Day, September 29. At this event, scores of volunteers physically laid out an improved mile-long trail, and as part of the project, National Trails Intermountain Region and its partners also provided signage, benches, wayside exhibits, and a shade structure.

- In a separate project, NTIR staff worked with Bernalillo County staff and a FHWA contractor on a sign plan that will mark the historic trail along 2nd Street, which runs along the eastern edge of the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.
- La Bajada North Section and South Section of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, 17 miles southwest of Santa Fe, were listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 19, 2018.





Partners working on El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trails, on both sides of the border, met in Santa Fe, NM in mid-March for a data sharing workshop. They divided their time between meetings at the NPS's Old Santa Fe Trail Building (above) and a field investigation at the nearby, historic La Bajada Hill (below).



Data-sharing workshop participants at La Bajada, NM.

The nominations were prepared under a previous cooperative agreement with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office. These sections are located on the most challenging portions of the historic trail travelled historically because of the 700 feet drop along a volcanic escarpment. In related work, staff met with their USFS counterparts to design a small parking lot, trailhead, and trail at La Bajada.

- In order to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act, National Trails Intermountain Region joined with numerous partners for a healthy variety of trails-related events. These included 1) the Spring Festival and Fiber Fest, held on June 2 and 3 at El Rancho de las Golondrinas near Santa Fe, NM, 2) the Monuments to Main Street Festival, held by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and the City of Las Cruces on September 8 in the Mesquite Historic District of Las Cruces, 3) the Camino Real Trail Association's annual meeting, held on September 29 in El Paso, TX. Several other NTSA anniversary-related events took place in early fiscal year 2019.
- Team members worked with Bernalillo County and other partners on the Camino Real Trade Fair, held at Albuquerque's Gutierrez-Hubbell House in October 2017, and participated in many planning meetings for the October 2018 trade fair, which will be a trail-related event marking the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary. This event features musical performances, workshops on the history of the region, textile displays, historic re-enactors, arts and crafts sales, activities for children, demonstrations of weaving, bread making and blacksmith work, and food trucks. NTIR staff also worked with Bernalillo County and the New Mexico Humanities Council on a binational trail map, funded by the National Park Foundation and which will be unveiled at the October 2018 fair, which features *parajes* and other historical sites on both sides of the border.

- Through a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) agreement with the University of New Mexico Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program, over 30 historic ELCA-associated buildings in the greater Albuquerque area were surveyed by students of the program. National Trails Intermountain Region, Bernalillo County, and the City of Albuquerque will use this documentation for the development of the Bernalillo County El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail. In conjunction with this project, National Trails Intermountain Region and UNM officials met with other stakeholders (community members, along with officials from the City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County) to share the collected information and to keep partners current on the project's progress.
- Given the 2016 closure of the Socorro-area El Camino Real Historic Trail Site, NTIR officials met with their counterparts at the Bureau of Land Management, New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs, and the Texas Historical Commission to collaborate on future trail interpretation and development. The parties are also preparing a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the cooperation.
- A CESU-sponsored Spanish-language translation project, with a UNM Spanish-Portuguese Department graduate student, included translation of the most recent ELCA map and guide.



A major community event, held in conjunction with the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary, took place in early June at Rancho de Las Golondrinas, near Santa Fe, NM. The Morada de la Conquistadora, below, is located on the rancho property.



- Several actions also took place on the international level—actions that impacted both El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and El Camino Real de los Tejas national historic trails. These actions, which included a March 2018 data sharing workshop, a reprint of the 2016 Laredo workshop proceedings volume, and participation in a symposium in Zacatecas, Mexico, are noted in greater detail in the ELTE section (above).

## MORMON PIONEER NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*The Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, which Congress authorized in 1978, commemorates those Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints who left Nauvoo, IL in 1846 and continued on to the Great Salt Lake Valley the following year. Along many portions of the trail—from the Missouri River all the way to Utah—the trail is shared with the California, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/mopi>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Iowa Mormon Trails Association, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Van Buren County (Iowa), and the University of New Mexico.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- NTIR staff collaborated with the Iowa Mormon Trails Association to install and dedicate route markers and site identification signs on a portion of this trail. This action took place in the wake of a site visit by NTIR staff on September 17-21. This event, which will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act for trail supporters, will take place at Richardson’s Point, in Van Buren County, on October 13.
- NTIR staff worked with Iowa Mormon Trails Association partners to develop, finalize, and order a sign plan for Van Buren County. This sign plan will be highlighted as a 50th anniversary Trails Event in October.

**Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail**

The company, crossing the Des Moines river at Bonaparte, succeeded in reaching a point of timber 20 miles above called Richardson's Point March 7, 1846. ... There they were compelled to remain for a time as it rained almost incessantly and the roads were nearly impassable.

As the Camp of Israel waited at Richardson's Point for more favorable weather before proceeding, cannon balls, shot, and other ordnance were discarded to lighten their wagons. More significant, however, was the death Mar. 17, 1846 of 15 month old James Monroe Tamm, who died probably of pneumonia. George Treggan and William Riley were asked to build his coffin and help bury the toddler. The following day, the corpse of Bro. Edwin Lisle (nephew of Brigham Young) was brought into the camp and interred, he was taken sick here a few days ago, probably as a result of having fallen into the fever while transferring his under wagons across the Mississippi river. There were three deaths at Richardson's Point as Sister Spencer passed away as well. These were the first of approximately 6,000 (18,449-18,666) deaths crossing the Trail. (The Trail became known as the longest graveyard in the world.)

I cried when you passed away,  
I still cry today,  
Although I loved you dearly,  
I couldn't make you stay,  
A golden hearse stopped breathing,  
Hard working hands at rest,  
Good by for my heart to grieve,  
To me he only takes the best.

The weather remained stormy through the day till evening when a heavy rain fell. The camp at Bro. Edwin Lisle was brought into camp and burned today. He was taken sick here a few days ago and conveyed here the company in order to have the advantage of medical treatment that he be enabled, from the sickness of the weather, but notwithstanding all care done for him that the hearse did not afford the final relief which in the night he was taken to the camp. His disease was quick consumption. He appeared to be miserable at his death, and during the full day of the funeral (conducted by Bro. K. Whitney, on 1, 18 May) 1846, Friends and Church History Department Archives, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1846-1847.

These excerpts, selected from thousands of faded pioneer journals, tell us how it was on the trail for the Mormon Pioneers. (1846 in space of daily toil, hardships, and death, left us a thousand windows into the past.

The project was co-funded and produced by the Iowa Mormon Trails Association



The Iowa Mormon Trails Association partnered with the National Park Service on signage and interpretation at Richardson's Point, IA, where the Mormon emigrant party endured continuous rain—and suffered several deaths—in the spring of 1846.

- NTIR staff met with partners from the trail association, the church, and local community members to visit trail sites and segments along the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail between Nauvoo, IL and Omaha, NE. Worked with partners to document potential future design and signage projects.
- The Iowa Mormon Trails Association held a yearlong coloring contest in the state's grade schools in honor of the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary. Children focused on

the wagons and handcarts which played a significant part in the trail crossing.

- A UNM History Department graduate student prepared seven historical vignettes for important historical personalities that were thematically related to the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail. NTIR staff reviewed and commented substantively on the vignettes, after which they were finalized.
- Several other NTIR projects and/or partner projects addressed both the Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail and other overland trails. The following projects are described in more detail in the “California National Historic Trail” section above.

- » Two NTIR staff were awarded the *Overland Journal's* Merrill Mattes Award for Excellence in Writing for a 2017 article on transcontinental railroads
- » Substantial work took place to update and reprint the Wyoming and Nebraska/Colorado Auto Tour Route guides
- » Staff planned, organized, and led an August 6 bicycle tour of Echo Canyon, in eastern Utah, in conjunction with the annual Oregon-California Trails Association meeting.



Staff worked with partners on trail interpretation at Mission San Gabriel, near the trail's western end.

## OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*The Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service jointly administer this historic trade route, which was active between Santa Fe and Los Angeles, CA, during the period from 1829 to 1848. Congress authorized the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in 2002. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/olsp>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Old Spanish Trail Association, Bureau of Land Management, US National Park Foundation, Interpretive Association of Western Colorado, Aztec Ruins National Monument, Grand County (Utah), San Juan County, Garfield



A cannon was fired as part of Mexican Heritage Day, which was held at Colorado's Fort Uncompaghe in mid-September.

County, Kane County, Old Spanish Trail Arena, Backcountry Horsemen, Chemehuevi Indian Tribe, US Department of Energy, Colorado Department of Transportation, El Pueblo de los Ángeles Historical Monument, and the City of Barstow.



Santa Rosa de Lima de Abiquiú ruins, Old Spanish NHT

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- As noted in the Trail Studies and Planning section above, NTIR staff collaborated with colleagues in the BLM’s Utah State Office to complete the Old Spanish Trail National Historic Trail Comprehensive Administrative Strategy. The agencies, earlier in 2017, had completed a draft of this document. Based on both internal and partner-generated comments, staff finalized and began to distribute the document in December 2017.
- NTIR staff partnered with the BLM to develop a recreation strategy for the trail in Grand and San Juan counties, UT, which would serve as a template for these documents in the future. Other partners included the City of Moab, Grand County, San Juan County, Arches National Park, Old Spanish Trail Arena, Backcountry Horsemen, and the Moab BLM field office. Staff helped develop the document by creating the planning maps, conceptual level perspective images, and document text. Also, staff helped to edit the document, which was completed in April 2018.
- A document similar to the recreation strategy for Grand and San Juan counties (as discussed above) was also prepared for the Utah Counties of Sevier, Piute, and Garfield. Staff reviewed and compiled office feedback on various document drafts and submitted it to the Bureau of Land Management. A third such document, which is focused on Grand and Mesa counties in western Colorado, began in April 2018 but has not yet been completed.

- The National Trails Intermountain Region and other NPS entities participated in development of the Grand Staircase-Escalante/Bears Ears Resource Management Plan (RMP) Revision, led by the BLM Utah's Kanab Field Office. The resource management plan, which addresses boundary changes ordered by the President, affects management of significant segments of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Officials with Garfield and Kane counties, in Utah, contacted National Trails Intermountain Region and requested assistance about the possibilities of developing the Old Spanish National Historic Trail in that area for visitation. This is the first such outreach to the National Trails Intermountain Region from any Utah county. Consultation is underway.
- The Old Spanish National Historic Trail corridor witnessed several new development proposals during the year, all of which required monitoring by NTIR staff. The BLM-administered Gemini Solar Project, for example, proposes the construction and operation of solar modules and associated facilities on 7,115 acres of public land 25 miles northeast of Las Vegas, NV. On a more regional scale, the NTIR staff actively participated in the DOE-administered Section 368 process (mandated by the Energy Policy Act of 2005) to designate corridors in the 11 contiguous western states for oil, gas, and hydrogen pipelines and electricity transmission and distribution facilities. Both efforts are ongoing.
- NTIR staff created and finalized a sign plan to mark a stretch of historic route between Delta and Grand Junction, CO. Staff worked with partners from the Old Spanish Trail Association and the Interpretive Association of Western Colorado (IAWC), to create and finalize the plan and obtain Colorado Department of Transportation approval.
- NTIR staff worked with an OSTA volunteer and a new partner, the General Manager of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, to create, order, and install three signs that mark the historic route and the Old Spanish National Historic Trail's western terminus in downtown Los Angeles, CA.
- NTIR staff worked with an OSTA volunteer to create a sign plan for Alamosa, Costilla, and Saguache Counties (San Luis Valley) in Colorado. Staff presented, reviewed, and finalized the plan with local partners at an April 12 meeting.
- NTIR staff worked with an OSTA volunteer on a sign plan for Rio Arriba County. Staff helped create a draft sign plan and discussed the approval, ordering, and installation process for the signs.
- Staff presented an illustrated talk on NTIR's sign standards and the partnership signing process to approximately 35 OSTA members at their annual meeting in Barstow, CA, in October 2017.



The Old Spanish Trail is easily visible near Emigrant Pass, in eastern California near Tecopa.

- NTIR staff scheduled and attended an April meeting with OSTA chapter members, local interested community members, Sangre de Cristo National Heritage Area staff members, and Fort Garland staff, to review and finalize a sign plan for the trail in Alamosa, Costilla, and Saguache counties, and to discuss a future effort for an Old Spanish National Historic Trail conceptual strategy in the San Luis Valley of Southern Colorado.
- Three new partnership certifications were finalized for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail during the year. The partnerships included the following: El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument, in downtown Los Angeles, CA, certified on January 17, 2018; the John Wesley Powell River History Museum, in Green River, UT, certified on April 27, 2018; and the Juan Matias Sanchez Adobe in Montebello, CA, certified on June 23, 2018.
- Progress developed during the year on the following three wayside projects:
  - 1) Aztec Ruins National Monument, in northwestern New Mexico,
  - 2) Fort Uncompahgre, in western Colorado, and
  - 3) San Gabriel Mission, CA, on a National Park Foundation-supported project.
- Old Spanish National Historic Trail supporters worked with trail partners to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act at Old Spanish Trail Days, which will be held October 5-7, 2018. Partners included the Old Spanish Trail Association, the National Park Service (Mojave National Preserve), Bureau of Land Management and the City of Barstow. The celebration was marked with mule-packing demonstrations, a mountain man encampment, lectures by members of the Chemehuevi Tribe, flamenco and mariachi performances, and events for children where they learned weaving, spinning, and rope making. Additional National Trails System Act 50th anniversary events, all in California, will include Old Spanish Trail Day, on October 6 (both at San Gabriel Mission and Agua Mansa Cemetery) and October 7, at El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument.



Trail staff during the year finalized a sign plan for the area surrounding Boise, ID. In this photo, trail ruts are seen near Bonneville Point, southeast of Boise.



## OREGON NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*Congress authorized the Oregon National Historic Trail in 1978. This iconic trail, which runs between Missouri and Oregon, witnessed the passage of hundreds of thousands of westering emigrants during the 1840s, 1850s, and 1860s. Much of the trail—from the Missouri River all the way to Idaho—is shared with the California, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express national historic trails. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/oreg>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Oregon-California Trails Association and its chapters, Oglala Lakota College, Humboldt State University, Harpers Ferry Center, NPS’s Midwest Regional Office, Innovators Educational Foundation, Environment for the Americas, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Guide One Mobile, City of Boise, Mid-America Regional Council, Wyoming Military Department, Alcove Springs Park, Kansas Historical Society, and the University of Missouri.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- The most iconic trails-related event for the Oregon National Historic Trail during the year was the American Solar Challenge, a competitive event between university-sponsored solar-powered vehicle teams, from several countries, that followed the approximate route of the Oregon Trail from Omaha, NE to Bend, OR. The National Trails Intermountain Region, designated to play a major support role in interpreting the ten-day July event, set up a booth at various checkpoints along the route, and answered thousands of trail-related questions from the press, the various solar-car team members, and the general public across four states. This event, which was sponsored by the Innovators Educational Foundation, is held every two years, and the NTIR staff began work on the upcoming event shortly after the completion of the 2016 event. Coordinating partners included



Staff played a major supporting role in the American Solar Challenge. The staff set up an interpretive tent at each of ten sites along the route, where visitors— young and old—enjoyed playing the game, “Can You Survive the Oregon Trail?”

the Oregon-California Trails Association, the agency’s Midwest Regional Office, and Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. A key learning tool related to the event was the Oregon Trail game, which was based on the vintage computer game and customized for the event by NTIR staff. Also, staff developed site bulletins, plus sandwich-board posters, for each of the ten checkpoints along the route. The event was extensively covered on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter social media platforms.

- Staff completed and released the Oregon Trail Smartphone App—an interactive directory on both Android and IOS systems of 72 trailside points of interest—during the summer of 2017. Since the app’s release, staff has made significant improvements to it, including the following: created multisite app categories and tours for visitors to participate in; selected revisions of the tour stop text; created alt text for images;

developed an icon for the app; and created a rack card brochure in order to publicize the app. Partners on the project have been Oregon-California Trails Association, the NPS’s Harpers Ferry Center, and the contractor, Guide One Mobile.

- NTIR staff finalized sign plans during the year for Ada County, ID, and considerable progress was made for a similar plan for a segment of the Barlow Road in Oregon. The National Trails Intermountain Region worked with partners from the City of Boise on the first plan and with both the Oregon-California Trails Association and the US Forest Service on the second.
- National Trails System Act 50th anniversary events for the Oregon Trail were held in conjunction with the American Solar Challenge (see above), and also at the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City, which held a celebration of the act on August 25-26.

- Major progress developed toward revising and reprinting the Oregon National Historic Trail Map and Guide, which was first published in 1987 and was first released as a full-color brochure in 1993.
- During the summer of 2018, work was revived on the Oregon ATR guide, which was started in 2013, when NTIR staff visited Idaho and Oregon in order to field check sites, and directions to the sites, for placement in the guide.
- Several other NTIR projects and/or partner projects addressed both the Oregon National Historic Trail and other overland trails. The following projects are described in more detail in the previous California National Historic Trail section:



Oregon Trail ruts are plainly visible in this September 2018 photo at Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument in Idaho.

- » The completion and distribution of a national historic trails area plan for the Mid-America Regional Council in the bi-state Kansas City metropolitan area.
- » The May 31 dedication of the regional Three Trails Transit Center in South Kansas City. Park Service signage was dedicated at this regional transit hub at this event honoring the National Trails System Act's 50th anniversary.
- » The completion and distribution of the Pappan's Ferry Development Concept Plan, for a site in downtown Topeka, KS.
- » The revision and reprinting of the Wyoming and Nebraska/Colorado auto tour route guides.
- » Development of two newsletters for the Oregon and California national historic trails.
- » Staff worked with Oglala Lakota College, with Humboldt State University, and other partners to complete a film about the impact of the overland trails on Oglala culture and lifeways.
- » Technical assistance to partners for a wayside development in Rossville, KS.
- » At Camp Guernsey, WY, the NTIR staff reviewed, revised, and edited interpretive text for several interpretation panels.
- » Participation with the Bureau of Land Management on Wyoming trails-related interpretive planning.
- » Staff completed a sign plan for the overland trails in western Nebraska

- » The following two sites in the Kansas City area were certified for the Oregon National Historic Trail in 2018: Minor and Schumacher Parks (Kansas City), which had previously been certified for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, and the Archibald Rice House, which had previously been certified for the Santa Fe and California national historic trails. These new partnership certifications took place on May 21 and May 18, 2018, respectively.
- » The Oregon-California Trails Association, at its 2018 conference, awarded two NTIR staff members the Merrill Mattes award for “excellence in writing” for their 2017 *Overland Journal* article. The construction of the transcontinental railroad had a major impact on Oregon Trail traffic. NTIR staff, at the OCTA conference, gave a talk on social media and maintained an information booth.
- » Trail supporters in Alcove Spring, KS, sponsored a series of photo hikes between June and September.
- » The Harmon Park Swale in Prairie Village, KS, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in September 2018.
- » A graduate student completed a draft historical narrative on the impact of “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War on the Oregon and other long-distance trails in eastern Kansas and western Missouri.

## PONY EXPRESS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*Congress authorized the Pony Express National Historic Trail in 1992. The route connects St. Joseph, MO, to Sacramento and San Francisco, CA. Along many portions of the trail—from the Missouri River all the way to California—the trail is shared with the California, Mormon Pioneer, and Oregon national historic trails. The Pony Express rider and his galloping horse have become one of the mythic icons of the American West. The Pony Express, as an enterprise, lasted just 19 months during 1860 and 1861, but its fame endures. Many Pony Express enthusiasts enjoy re-creating the thrill of this cross-country ride by participating in the annual re-ride along the route. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/poex>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** National Pony Express Association, Marysville Original Pony Express Home Station Association, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon-California Trails Association, NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program (RTCA), Douglas County (Nevada), National Park Foundation, US Forest Service, Boy Scouts of America, Western Archeological and Conservation Center (National Park Service), Wyoming Military Department, Caltrans, and the City of St. Joseph (Missouri).



The trails office worked with local partners to obtain a grant to repair the roof of the Marysville, KS, Pony Express Barn. Later, workers are seen taking measurements inside the building.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- NTIR staff worked with the NPS RTCA program staff and other partners to complete a recreational planning document for the Kingsbury Grade area, between Genoa and Stateline in western Nevada. Staff completed a final draft in September 2018 and presented the document to Douglas County officials, who forwarded it to the county’s Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Regarding the Brockliss Bridge project—in the Eldorado National Forest, east of Pollock Pines, CA—NTIR staff worked with the US Forest Service and NPS Financial Assistance to prepare an interagency agreement for a CTPP project. The agreement was signed in June 2018.
- In order to repair the Marysville (Kansas) Pony Express Barn, staff assisted board members of the Original Pony Express Home Station No. 1 in securing a \$45,000 National Parks Foundation Grant. These funds, awarded in July 2018, will be directed toward

roof stabilization and toward planning for other stabilization activities on the structure. The work, directed by the property owners, has been contracted and is underway.

- NTIR staff, once again, assisted the National Pony Express Association with its iconic annual Re-Ride, which in June 2018 took riders from Sacramento, CA east to St. Joseph, MO. As in previous years, NPS GIS staff collaborated with association members, who placed a Global Positioning System transmitter into the mochila (mailbag). This device allowed thousands of trail enthusiasts to electronically follow the progress of the equestrian relay via an interactive map. In addition, NTIR staff partnered with NPEA to host the re-ride’s opening day, in Old Sacramento, where activities included a lecture by a renowned Pony Express historian, the opportunity to meet costumed riders, a blessing of the horses, speeches by dignitaries and a cannon salute sendoff of the first rider.

- Members of Boy Scout Troop 1813 from Riverton, UT (just southwest of Salt Lake City) spent considerable effort in the spring of 2018 digging post holes and preparing sites for the erection of new site markers on the Pony Express National Historic Trail. Then, on June 2–National Trails Day–National Pony Express Association members joined with Boy Scout troop leaders and others to install these markers.
- In late May, staff visited, inventoried, and photographed Pony Express station sites in four states. This effort, combined with similar work undertaken in 2015 and 2016, has resulted in the gathering of key data and photographs for virtually all the 176 station sites.
- National Pony Express Association members celebrated the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act at its annual convention and meeting in Torrington, WY, in early September.
- Several other NTIR projects and/or partner projects in 2018 addressed both the Pony Express National Historic Trail and other overland trails. The following projects are described in more detail in the California National Historic Trail section, above.
  - » Staff made considerable progress working with various Caltrans district offices on proposed sign plans for the California and Pony Express national historic trails, in anticipation of installing trail-related signs.
  - » Staff completed the revision and reprinting of the Wyoming, Nebraska/Colorado, and Nevada auto tour route guides.
  - » At Camp Guernsey, WY, NTIR staff reviewed, revised, and edited interpretive text for several interpretation panels.
  - » Staff participated with the Bureau of Land Management on Wyoming trails-related interpretive planning.
  - » Staff completed a sign plan for the overland trails in western Nebraska.
  - » National Pony Express Association, Oregon-California Trails Association, and other partners celebrated the National Trails System Act’s 50th anniversary at Echo Summit (in California’s Eldorado National Forest) on August 25.
  - » Staff worked with local stakeholders and city officials to prepare for a St. Joseph, MO, design charrette, for the California and Pony Express national historic trails, that will be held in the city in November 2018.
  - » Staff planned, organized, and led an August 6 bicycle tour of Echo Canyon, in eastern Utah, in conjunction with the annual Oregon-California Trails Association meeting.

## SANTA FE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*Between 1821 and 1880, the Santa Fe Trail was primarily a commercial highway linking various Missouri River communities with Santa Fe, NM. Today, this well-known trail attracts many visitors and partners and enjoys the support of a very active trail association. Congress authorized the Santa Fe National Historic Trail in 1987. Portions of the trail in eastern Kansas and western Missouri are shared with the California and Oregon national historic trails, while in Santa Fe, the Santa Fe National Historic Trail meets El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro and Old Spanish national historic trails. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/safe>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Santa Fe Trail Association and its chapters, City of Santa Fe, University of Missouri, Fort Larned National Historic Site, Fort Larned Old Guard, Kansas Historical Society, Middle Tennessee State University, Pecos National Historical Park, US Forest Service (Cimarron and Comanche National Grassland), Boy Scouts of America, Mid-America Regional Council, and the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority (RideKC).

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- NTIR staff completed SAFE historic building survey projects in Missouri and Kansas to identify and record historic buildings within the trail's period of significance along the trail corridor. Surveyors documented 68 buildings

in Kansas and 213 in Missouri. Project partners included Middle Tennessee State University, Kansas Historical Society, and the Santa Fe Trail Association.

- NTIR staff completed work for four interpretive waysides at SAFE's Little Arkansas River Crossing. After an October 2017 site visit, staff worked with Santa Fe Trail Association (SFTA) Quivira Chapter representatives through the review and comment process. Staff sought images and worked with GIS to create map and aerial images. Project has been completed. Partners included the contractor, landowners, and SFTA Quivira Chapter representatives.
- After an April 2018 site visit, NTIR staff worked with a SFTA volunteer (Douglas County Chapter) to design a small site plan for the Black Jack Ruts Site that will include the following: 1) a sustainable trail system that follows the historic route of the Santa Fe National Historic Trail, 2) a new trailhead, and 3) site elements to protect the ruts from further degradation.
- NTIR staff made considerable progress on the Burlingame to Council Grove (Kansas) retracement trail document, which was initially developed by two NTIR landscape architecture interns in 2016. They conducted an April 2018 site visit, made revisions based on stakeholder feedback, and emerged with a revised document that has one preferred trail alignment. In conjunction with this document preparation, staff worked with Santa Fe Trail



In late April, a major Santa Fe Trail event took place at Rock Creek Crossing, east of Council Grove, KS. In this photo the landowner, Della Orton, converses with staff while local historians (right) read about the site on a temporary message board.

Association to finalize and order a sign plan for five counties along the Burlingame-to-Council Grove route.

- A National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Willow Springs Santa Fe Trail District (Douglas County, KS) was approved by the State Board of Review and forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register for possible listing.
- In November 2017, the Santa Fe (NM) Parks and Recreation Department installed a new wayside at Amelia White Park, which lies astride the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.
- NTIR staff worked with partners to compile a dual language story map for the Santa Fe National Historic Trail segment between Great Bend and Dodge City, KS. A history graduate student from Emporia State University worked on the project with

Fort Larned National Historic Site staff (National Park Service) and the Fort Larned Old Guard; she completed a series of historical descriptions in January. Since then, NTIR staff edited the text, after which it was translated into Spanish. The final story map is nearly completed.

- The US Forest Service contracted with Alpine Archaeological Consultants and conducted fieldwork on a preservation plan for approximately twenty miles of Santa Fe National Historic Trail on the Cimarron National Grassland in southeastern Kansas and Comanche National Grassland in southwestern Colorado. This plan was made possible through an NPS-USFS interagency agreement, which NTIR staff prepared in June 2018, utilizing CTPP project





Staff worked with their Forest Service counterparts on a preservation plan for the Cimarron National Grassland, in southwestern Kansas near Elkhart. The top photo shows a well-incised Santa Fe Trail rut, while the photo below was taken at the Point of Rocks interpretive overlook.

funds. The final report is due in spring 2019. In conjunction with the preservation plan, NTIR staff worked on a series of interpretive waysides for the Cimarron National Grassland; at the end of the fiscal year, these waysides were nearly complete.

- NTIR staff, working with partners, continued to expand and improve the Santa Fe National Historic Trail’s media tour. A revised version of the tour was released to the public in April 2018 at the SFTA Board of Directors meeting in Council Grove, KS.

- Staff created two newsletters for the SFTA Board of Directors during the fiscal year, which were completed prior to the spring and fall board meetings. Staff obtained and placed content, created the layout and formatting, finalized and arranged it for publication.
- Three new properties, all in western Kansas, became certified trail partners during the fiscal year. The properties included the following: Charlie’s Ruts, near Deerfield, certified on October 23, 2017; the Charlie’s Ruts Access/Information Area, also near Deerfield, certified on October 18, 2017; and Indian Mound, near Lakin, certified on November 14, 2017.
- NTIR staff provided trail-related assistance to Pecos National Historic Park staff, including work on the park unit’s mobile tour and a revision of the park’s map and guide.
- NTIR staff compiled a list of comments that SFTA members had generated at three mapping workshops in 2013-2015, and then forwarded these comments to appropriate SFTA members. The goal of this project is to gather updated mapping information from SFTA researchers.
- NTIR staff worked with the land managers of a large tract (Camp Stoney) southeast of Santa Fe, NM, to inventory historical resources on that property. Partnership certification of the property is anticipated.

- A historian collaborating with SFTA commenced work on the “Hell on Wheels” project, which will identify and describe twelve different railhead towns along the Santa Fe National Historic Trail.
- Two major Santa Fe National Historic Trail events marked the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act. In late April, six SFTA chapters from the western end of the trail gathered in Council Grove, KS, and hosted three days of activities, including a Blue Hawk Trappers exhibit, dances by the Kaw, a tour of Terwilliger House, Travel the Santa Fe Trail passport activities, and groundbreaking and hiking at the Rock Creek Crossing. Then, in early June, three SFTA chapters from the eastern end of the trail gathered at Lone Elm Park in Olathe, KS, to celebrate the anniversary on National Trails Day. NTIR staff plan to assist with a third anniversary event, which is slated to be held in three towns (Elkhart, KS; Boise City, OK; and Clayton, NM) in early October 2018.
- Several other NTIR projects and/or partner projects in 2018 addressed both the Santa Fe National Historic Trail and other overland trails. The following projects are described in more detail in the “California National Historic Trail section, above.
  - » The Harmon Park Swale in Prairie Village, KS, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in September 2018.
  - » A graduate student completed a draft historical narrative on the impact of “Bleeding Kansas” and the Civil War on the Oregon and other long-distance trails in eastern Kansas and western Missouri.
  - » Staff played a major role in the completion and distribution of a national historic trails area plan for the Mid-America Regional Council in the bi-state Kansas City metropolitan area.
  - » The May 31 dedication of the regional Three Trails Transit Center took place in South Kansas City. NHT signage was dedicated at this event honoring the National Trails System Act’s 50th anniversary.

## TRAIL OF TEARS NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

*In 1838, the United States government forcibly removed more than 16,000 Cherokee Indian people from their homelands in Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, and Georgia, and resettled them in Indian Territory (now Oklahoma). The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail recognizes the removal of the Cherokee and the paths that 17 Cherokee detachments followed westward. Today, the trail encompasses over 5,000 miles of land and water routes, and traverses portions of nine states. The Trail of Tears National Historic Trail was authorized in 1987. For more information, visit the following website: <https://www.nps.gov/trte>.*

**KEY PARTNERS/COOPERATORS:** Trail of Tears Association and its chapters, Cherokee Nation, City of Paducah, KY, Fort Defiance State Park, Fort Massac State Park, Middle Tennessee State University, Missouri Department of Transportation, Missouri Humanities Council, Tennessee Valley Authority, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service (Cherokee National Forest), Western Carolina University, City of Sheffield, Alabama State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Trail of Tears Association and its chapters, City of Steelville (MO), Steelville Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Tennessee Development District, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Meramec Spring Park, Tennessee State Parks, and the Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- In August, the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University submitted to the National Trails Intermountain Region, a base-funded cultural landscape inventory and assessment for the Courtland-Leighton (Alabama) railway segment of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. The draft study identifies characteristics, features, and association that recognizes both the linear corridor defined by the tracks and the historic Tuscumbia, Courtland & Decatur Railroad right-of-way as a historically significant Trail of Tears National Historic Trail landscape. The final report is anticipated in FY 2019.
- A researcher from Western Carolina University is concluding a multiple-year NTIR project at the Fort Cass Emigration Depot near present-day Charleston, TN, in which he has conducted archival research coupled with an archaeological survey. Research has identified multiple land parcels in the Charleston area as components of the Cherokee Indian emigration encampments on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail during the summer of 1838, and also identified archaeological deposits that are attributable to the 1838 Cherokee encampments. This project produced the first focused effort to locate and identify physical evidence of the Cherokee internment camps. Cherokee people, local residents, school children nationally and the general public will soon have more



The Rockdale Plantation is an important Trail of Tears site in northern Georgia.

information available to better understand this important part of the nation’s history. Results of the project are being compiled and will be available in early 2019.

- At Tuscumbia Landing, Alabama, NTIR staff partnered with the City of Sheffield, Alabama State Historic Preservation Office, and the Tennessee Valley Authority to create a new, revitalized document based on the 2011 charrette developmental concept plan. Staff finalized and sent the document to project partners and stakeholders in May 2018.
- The Arkansas Chapter of the Trail of Tears Association hosted a Five Tribe history gathering in Russellville on August 18, honoring the history of tribal presence in the region and celebrating the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act.



Trails staff worked with their Cherokee National Forest counterparts on a Unicoi Turnpike project in eastern Tennessee.

- Wayside projects in downtown Paducah, KY, and at Fort Defiance (Cairo) and Fort Massac, IL, are nearly complete after an internal review and consultation with local TOTA members.
- Two new sites became certified trail partners during 2018. The Webbers Falls (Oklahoma) Historical Society Museum was certified on January 12, while the Museum of Native American History, in Bentonville, AR, was certified on July 7. An additional partnership certification, for the Henry E. Davis Homestead in Steelville, MO, was recognized as a Trail of Tears National Historic Trail 50th anniversary event on June 2, National Trails Day, and was attended by NTIR staff. Sponsors of the event, which was held at the Steelville City Park, include the City of Steelville, the Missouri Humanities Council, and the Steelville Chamber of Commerce.



Costumed keelboat operators were a highlight of a Five Tribes gathering, which was held near Russellville, AR, in mid-August.

- In late 2017, staff completed the draft Fort Armistead Charette Development Concept Plan. Staff later received substantial CTTTP funding for a partnership with Cherokee National Forest (US Forest Service) to undertake an archaeological survey, documentation, and limited testing along Old Furnace Road, on the historic Unicoi Turnpike, and to develop a trail restoration and visitor retracement trail plan. Field reconnaissance by the USFS personnel, along with recently acquired Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data, have revealed several locations on USFS lands where the modern road is not superimposed on the historic alignment. The project plans to physically locate and document these intact trail remnants.
- Staff created two newsletters for the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail.



As part of a remote sensing project at Charleston, a key Trail of Tears site in eastern Tennessee, NPS staff are seen with Dr. Brett Riggs (Western Carolina University) and consultant Chet Walker discussing the results of research findings.

- NTIR staff prepared an agreement with Middle Tennessee State University for a project focused on Trail of Tears National Historic Trail transportation methods. The project was funded, a historical consultant has been selected, and project work will begin in early FY 2019.

- At Blythe Ferry, TN, NTIR staff has been working with Tennessee Valley Authority and Southeast Tennessee Economic Development District on a CTTTP project that was funded in FY 2017. Staff selected Stantec, an A&E firm, to complete construction documents for 0.5 miles of retracement trail. Construction drawings were finalized in October 2018.
- Received and reviewed three Trail of Tears National Historic Trail-related products from Middle Tennessee State University with regard to NTIR's historic building database and Heritage Development Plans and Historic Structure Reports.
- During the Cherokee Nation's annual Remember the Removal bicycle ride, in which Cherokee youth participated, NTIR staff presented an education session, the goal of which was for riders to understand the NHT system, understand how the National Park Service fits in, express the significance of the trail to the US, how the participants function as emissaries of both the Cherokee Nation and the US, and potential career opportunities.
- NTIR staff held a mini workshop for Trail of Tears Association Arkansas members as part of the development of NTIR's interpretive media planning document.
- Sign development work is in progress along several segments of the trail, including the following: 1) the Bengie Route in Washington County, AR (partner is TOTA volunteer), 2) at New Echota State Historic Site in Georgia (partner is Georgia Department of Natural Resources), 3) Murray County, GA, 4) Wolf Creek Stand, Gilmer County, GA (partners are TOTA volunteers), 5) Meramec Spring, Phelps County, MO (partner is Meramec Springs Park), 6) Wilson-Erwin House Site, Charleston, TN (partner is landowner), 7) Franklin County, TN (partner is TOTA volunteer), and 8) Red Clay State Historic Park, Bradley County, TN (partner is Tennessee State Parks).
- New Echota State Historic Park staff hosted a celebration of National Trails Day and the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System Act on June 2.
- As part of a base-funded CESU agreement with Middle Tennessee State University, NTIR staff reviewed two National Register of Historic Places nominations for State Road – Hill Cemetery in Kentucky and the Old Jefferson Road in Tennessee. These nominations have been forwarded to the respective Kentucky State Historic Preservation Office and Army Corps of Engineer Preservation Officer for review before being forwarded to the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

SECTION FIVE

# NTIR Trails Project Summary

See table 3 for new and completed ONPS base-funded projects for FY 2018.

**TABLE 3.** New and Completed ONPS Base-Funded Projects, Fiscal Year 2018

Trail(s)	Partner(s)	Project Description
All trails	University of New Mexico	Develop/Implement UNM Trails Course
CALI	City of Rocks National Reserve (National Park Service), Idaho State Parks	Assistance with trail development and interpretation programs
CALI/MOPI/OREG	Oglala Lakota College, Humboldt State University, Harpers Ferry Center, David Scheerer	Completion of <i>Oglala Lakota, Early Encounters with the Westward Migration</i> (7-minute documentary film)
CALI/MOPI/OREG/POEX	Bureau of Land Management/Wyoming	Assistance with agency's statewide interpretive planning process
CALI/MOPI/OREG/POEX	Innovators Educational Foundation	American Solar Challenge—providing trail interpretation along the race route
CALI/MOPI/OREG/POEX	Wyoming Military Department	Interpretive Development at Camp Guernsey, WY
CALI/OREG	City of Rossville, Oregon-California Trails Association	Rossville (KS) wayside development
CALI/OREG	City of Topeka, Shawnee County, Topeka Riverfront Authority, Oregon-California Trails Association	Completion of final Pappans Ferry (KS) development concept plan
CALI/OREG/SAFE	Mid-America Regional Council	Kansas City Area Historic Trails Area Plan
CALI/OREG/SAFE	Kansas City Transit Authority	Three Trails Transit Center interpretation
CALI/OREG/SAFE	Kansas Historical Society	Harmon Park Swales (KS) National Register of Historic Places listing
CALI/OREG/SAFE	University of Missouri	"Bleeding Kansas" historical study
ELCA	Bernalillo County, New Mexico Humanities Council	Camino Real Trade Fair planning, completion of binational trail map
ELCA	UNM Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program	Continuation of Albuquerque-area (NM) Historic Building Survey
ELCA	New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office	La Bajada (NM) – two National Register of Historic Places listings
ELCA	El Paso County, El Paso County Historical Commission	Oñate Crossing (TX) Research and Documentation Project
ELCA	Federal Highway Administration, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bernalillo County	Valle de Oro NWR (NM) Retracement Trail Project
ELCA	Federal Highway Administration, Santa Fe County NM	Buckman Road Retracement Trail Project



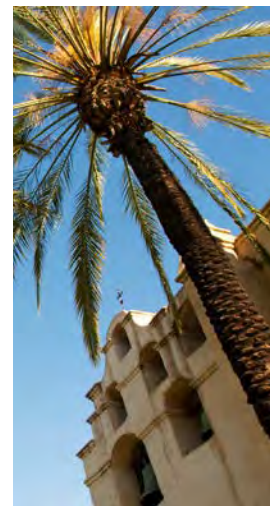
Trail(s)	Partner(s)	Project Description
<b>ELCA/ELTE</b>	Bureau of Land Management, Texas Historic Commission, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, ELCAT, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (Mexico)	Sponsorship of Dos Caminos Binational Data Sharing Workshop, Santa Fe, NM
<b>ELTE</b>	ELCAT	Signage at Lobanillo Swales, TX
<b>MOPI</b>	Iowa Mormon Trails Association	Richardson's Point sign installation, and Van Buren County (IA) sign plan
<b>OLSP</b>	BLM Utah, City of Moab, Grand/San Juan Counties	Recreation Strategy for Grand and San Juan Counties, UT
<b>OLSP</b>	BLM Utah, county governments	Recreation Strategy for Sevier, Piute, and Garfield Counties, UT
<b>OLSP</b>	BLM Colorado	Recreation Strategy for Grand and Mesa Counties, CO
<b>OLSP</b>	BLM Utah	Revision of Grand Staircase-Escalante / Bears Ears Resource Management Plan
<b>OLSP</b>	Old Spanish Trail Association, Western Colorado Interpretive Association, Colorado Department of Transportation	Delta-to-Grand Junction (CO) Sign Plan
<b>OLSP</b>	City of Los Angeles, CA	El Pueblo de Los Angeles (CA) Historical Monument Sign Plan
<b>OLSP</b>	Old Spanish Trail Association	Sign Plan for Alamosa, Costilla, and Saguache Counties, CO
<b>OLSP</b>	Old Spanish Trail Association	Rio Arriba County (NM) Sign Plan
<b>OLSP</b>	National Park Foundation	Mission San Gabriel (CA) Signage
<b>OREG</b>	Oregon-California Trails Association, Harpers Ferry Center (National Park Service)	Completion of Oregon Trail Smartphone App
<b>OREG</b>	City of Boise	Ada County (ID) Sign Plan
<b>OREG</b>	Oregon-California Trails Association, US Forest Service	Barlow Road (OR) Sign Plan
<b>POEX</b>	Douglas County, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (National Park Service)	Completion of Kingsbury Grade (NV) Recreation Plan
<b>POEX</b>	US Forest Service	Brockliss Bridge (CA) Trails Project
<b>POEX</b>	Marysville Original Pony Express Home Station Association	Marysville (KS) Barn Roof Stabilization
<b>POEX</b>	National Pony Express Association	Annual Re-Ride— Geographic Information Systems Assistance
<b>POEX</b>	National Pony Express Association, Boy Scouts of America	Preparation and Installation of Pony Express National Historic Trail-Utah site markers
<b>SAFE</b>	Middle Tennessee State University, Kansas Historical Society, Santa Fe Trail Association	Santa Fe National Historic Trail/Missouri—Historic Building Survey
<b>SAFE</b>	Santa Fe Trail Association / Quivira Chapter	Little Arkansas River (KS) Interpretation
<b>SAFE</b>	Santa Fe Trail Association / Douglas County Chapter	Black Jack Ruts (KS) Site Plan



Trail(s)	Partner(s)	Project Description
<b>SAFE</b>	Santa Fe Trail Association, Boy Scouts of America	Burlington to Council Grove (KS) Retracement Trail Document
<b>SAFE</b>	Kansas State Historic Preservation Office	Willow Springs National Register of Historic Places Listing
<b>SAFE</b>	Santa Fe (NM) Parks and Recreation Department	Amelia White Park interpretive improvements
<b>SAFE</b>	Fort Larned Old Guard, Fort Larned National Historic Site (National Park Service)	Dual Language Story Map, Great Bend to Dodge City, KS
<b>SAFE</b>	US Forest Service	Cimarron National Grasslands / Comanche National Grassland Preservation Plan
<b>TRTE</b>	Middle Tennessee State University	Cultural Landscape Inventory/Assessment, Courtland-Leighton (AL) Roadway Segment
<b>TRTE</b>	Western Carolina University	Archival, archeological, and air photo analysis, Fort Cass (TN) Emigration Depot
<b>TRTE</b>	City of Sheffield (AL), Tennessee Valley Authority, Alabama State Historic Preservation Office	Charrette Development Concept Plan—revised document
<b>TRTE</b>	Trail of Tears Association	Paducah (KY), Fort Defiance and Fort Massac (IL) interpretive waysides
<b>TRTE</b>	US Forest Service	Fort Armistead Charette Development Concept Plan
<b>TRTE</b>	Tennessee Valley Authority, Southeast Tennessee Development District	Blythe Ferry (TN) Retracement Trail Project
<b>TRTE</b>	Cherokee Nation	Remember the Removal Bicycle Ride interpretation and education



Mission San Gabriel



## TRAIL WEBSITES

Personnel currently manage ten websites: one for each of the nine national historic trails that the National Trails Intermountain Region either administers or co-administers, plus the NTIR website.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- NTIR staff developed a plan of action to overhaul and redesign nine trail websites. Staff solicited and filled a position for temporary detail employee, who created a new navigation scheme for websites. This scheme was completed in July.
- NTIR staff spent considerable time on accessibility-related issues, given recent assessments and mandates to make all website pages and associated content Section 508 compliant. In 1998, Congress added Section 508 to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Its purpose is to "...require Federal agencies to make their electronic and information technology accessible to people with disabilities." In order to address Section 508-related issues, staff uploaded accessible documents, corrected links, and fixed spelling and formatting issues on webpages as needed. Staff also used SiteImprove to track accessibility issues on all ten websites and worked with a contractor to address other Section 508-related issues.
- NTIR staff established a social media plan and began to implement it. The NTIR social media program included nine Facebook pages, as well as NTIR Instagram and Twitter pages. (Several trails had their first Facebook postings during the year, and the Instagram account was newly established in 2018.) Staff conducted social media-related outreach to interpretive chiefs, leading trail partner organizations, federal agencies and others. Also, staff created and monitored posts and statistics to obtain feedback. They used these new and/or improved social media platforms to inform followers, provide historical details about the trails, advertise upcoming events, and solicit news and comment from followers.
- During the year, substantial growth in social media usage has taken place on all nine trails; by the end of the fiscal year, the SAFE Facebook page had become highly popular, second only to the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Facebook page among trail Facebook pages. Several hundred participants now follow each of NTIR's Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. See tables 4 and 5 for FY 2018 national historic trail website statistics and social media statistics.

**TABLE 4. NTIR Website Statistics, FY 2018**

Trail(s)	Page Views	Users (Visitors)	Total Hours Visitors Spent on Website
CALI	90,168	41,103	998
ELCA	39,338	18,144	765
ELTE	53,381	21,154	730
MOPI	114,960	48,559	2,139
OLSP	33,728	13,339	378
OREG	275,584	116,621	4,665
POEX	157,318	68,876	2,368
SAFE	115,628	48,417	2,114
TRTE	328,401	157,047	5,088
ROSI	32,261	15,998	432
NTIR	8,680	4,053	162
<b>Total</b> <i>(nine trails + ROSI + NTIR)</i>	<b>1,249,447</b>	<b>553,311</b>	<b>19,839</b>

**TABLE 5. NTIR Social Media Statistics, as of Sept. 30, 2018**

National Historic Trail Facebook Page	Number of Followers	Change in FY 2018	Number of Posts
CALI	221	+221	58
ELTE	441	+181	65
ELCA	324	+324	70
MOPI	299	+299	52
OLSP	2,629	+324	63
OREG	878	+673	75
POEX	1,167	+525	58
SAFE	3,242	+905	97
TRTE	757	+757	64
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,958</b>	<b>+4,209</b>	<b>602</b>

NTIR	Number of Followers	Change in FY 2018	Number of Posts
Instagram	920	+920	126
Twitter	306	+306	

## VOLUNTEERS-IN-PARKS (VIP) PROGRAM

Volunteers, most of whom work through NTIR's partner organizations, are the backbone of the national historic trails effort.

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

- During fiscal year 2018, the various partnership associations reported that volunteers had devoted 188,127 hours of time on trail-related matters. This is the equivalent of more than 90 years of full-time volunteer work. Given an assumed hourly rate of \$24.69, that level of effort translated to a financial contribution to the trails of \$4,644,855.60. In addition, volunteers tendered \$353,444 in out-of-pocket (non-reimbursable) expenses on hotels, meals, and incidentals.
- In addition to their work effort and expenses, volunteers drove 843,772 miles on trails-related matters, which is equivalent to almost 34 times around the world. Given the standard government reimbursement rate of \$0.56 per mile, volunteers spent \$472,512.32 on trails-related driving.
- The total financial impact of all NTIR volunteer-related activity totaled \$5,589,880.20. All NTIR staff are deeply thankful to the thousands of trail supporters who, year in and year out, make enormous strides in protecting, interpreting, and developing the National Trails Intermountain Region trails.



A Santa Fe Trail Association meeting, held in Council Grove, KS, in late April, gave NTIR staff the opportunity to sign up a local youth as a Junior Ranger.



Madison Vandersee, a Student Conservation Association intern, helps a prospective Junior Ranger at the Valle de Oro celebration (in Albuquerque) in mid-September.

## UNIVERSITY-BASED PARTNERSHIPS

- A digital media intern from Stephen F. Austin State University completed a successful NTIR internship.
- NTIR staff continued, for a fourth year, to work with the University of New Mexico on a successful memorandum of understanding that results in student internships from several university departments.
- NTIR staff continued work with a UNM graduate student on an all-trails vignettes project. In collaboration with the trail associations, the student researched approximately 7-10 people for each national historic trail. The purpose was to tell the stories of the trails through a diversity of voices. The final narratives can be modified, if needed, in order to be used for interpretive exhibits and waysides, podcasts, social media, and web pages.
- NTIR staff worked with UNM faculty to implement an interdisciplinary trails course, which began in August 2018. A UNM History Department graduate student was hired to work with the professor on course development, and another department grad student was hired to research trails-related topics. NTIR staff members served as liaisons with UNM staff.
- Through a CESU agreement with the UNM Historic Preservation and Regionalism Program, over 30 historic ELCA-associated buildings in the greater Albuquerque area were surveyed by students of the program under the direction of the program director.
- Staff from Middle Tennessee State University completed SAFE historic building survey projects in Missouri and Kansas to identify and record historic buildings within the trail's period of significance along the trail corridor. Surveyors documented 68 buildings in Kansas and 213 in Missouri.
- NTIR staff partnered with Humboldt State University and other partners on the Oglala Lakota film project, which was completed this year (see the previous section for the California National Historic Trail).
- NTIR staff partnered with a researcher from Western Carolina University on a multiyear Trail of Tears archeological and historical project based in Charleston, TN, and also on a project focused on the Unicoi Turnpike in North Carolina and Tennessee.
- A history graduate student from Emporia State University worked on the SAFE Dual Language Story Map project with Fort Larned National Historic Site staff (National Park Service) and the Fort Larned Old Guard; she completed a series of historical descriptions in January.



In July, NTIR GIS specialist Sarah Rivera (left) gave a poster presentation at the Environmental Systems Research Institute conference.

- The NTIR neared completion of a project with a University of Missouri graduate student (through the Great Rivers CESU agreement) to determine the impact of the “Bleeding Kansas” and Civil War periods on traffic along the Oregon, California, and Santa Fe national historic trails.
- NTIR staff continued to work with the University of Utah’s Department of Geography Digitally Integrated Geographic Information Technologies (DIGIT) Lab under a multiyear cooperative agreement established between the National Park Service and the university.

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Geographic Information Systems is an integral part of trails programming, as its products are used routinely by in-house and independent researchers, program managers, cultural resource specialists, planners, interpreters, and the public.

The NTIR GIS program, operated by the Resources Information Management (RIM) Team, oversees the development and ongoing maintenance of the GIS data for Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program and nine national historic trails. In addition to the in-house hours devoted by full-time NTIR staff, staff continues to work with the University

of Utah's Department of Geography DIGIT Lab under a multiyear cooperative agreement established between the National Park Service and the university. The DIGIT Lab assists in the management of the geodatabase for the nine national historic trails. It provides technical advice and assistance, as needed.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Became fully staffed with two GIS Specialists as of late June 2018.
- Assisted the National Pony Express Association with their re-ride by collecting their live GPS points from the riders and putting them onto a web map application. This web map was posted on the partner's website, where it was viewed by thousands of people.
- Participated on an agency team to plan the special showcase of the National Trails System display at the 2018 Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) User Conference. NTIR participated at this conference and presented at the showcase, where 17,000+ people were exposed to the National Trails System.
- Assisted on its project with Caltrans to sign the California National Historic Trail in the state of California.
- Published the finalized version of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail's Comprehensive Administrative Strategy alignment to the public by making it available for download on Integrated Resource Management Applications and ArcGIS Online along with its completed metadata.
- Continued CESU agreement with the University of Utah DIGIT Lab. The DIGIT lab assisted the RIM team with creating new story maps of the national historic trails to post on future social media posts and websites.
- Submitted data for the forthcoming ESRI NPS Map Book regarding collaborative partner efforts to sign the national historic trails through interactive ArcGIS Online web applications and specialized sign planning tools to automate sign-planning reports.
- Assisted with creating a legislative map of Route 66.

## RESOURCE ADVOCACY AND PROTECTION

NTIR compliance staff conducted 178 compliance reviews for outside projects across the nine national historic trails. Of those reviews, 77 were reviews for external federal undertakings with potential to affect one or more of the nine national historic trails administered by the NTIR team. Specifically, NTIR staff participated in the following important undertakings with potential to affect the national historic trails:

- Nebraska Public Power District Transmission Line R project through the Sand Hills (the California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails)
- Boardman to Hemingway Transmission Line in Idaho/Oregon (Oregon National Historic Trail)
- Gateway West Segments 8 and 9 in Idaho (Oregon National Historic Trail, cooperating agency); resolving adverse impacts to the California National Historic Trail at Bridger-Teton National Forest in Wyoming
- Skull Valley Solar Farm/Horseshoe Solar in Utah (California National Historic Trail)
- Continental Peak Grazing Fences and Exclosures in Wyoming (California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails)
- Riley Ridge to Natrona Carbon Dioxide Pipeline in Wyoming (California, Mormon Pioneer, Oregon, and Pony Express national historic trails, (cooperating agency);
- Normally Pressured Lance Project in Wyoming (California National Historic Trail)
- Long Canyon Gold Mine in Nevada (California National Historic Trail)
- Centennial Reservoir project in California (California National Historic Trail)
- BLM's 368 Transmission Line Corridors (all nine trails)
- Lander Trail (Wyoming) Mitigation and Programmatic Agreement (California National Historic Trail)
- Tennessee Valley Authority transmission system (in Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky) vegetation management plan (Trail of Tears National Historic Trail)
- Unicoi Turnpike Damage Mitigation in Tennessee (Trail of Tears National Historic Trail)
- Spaceport (New Mexico) mitigation (El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail, cooperating agency)
- Gemini Solar in Nevada (Old Spanish National Historic Trail)
- Crescent Wind Project in Nevada (Old Spanish National Historic Trail)
- Moapa Solar in Nevada (Old Spanish National Historic Trail)
- Grand Staircase-Escalante/Bears Ears/Kanab Field Office RMP Revision in Utah (Old Spanish National Historic Trail)



Many of the undertakings were energy development projects led by the Bureau of Land Management and/or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. NTIR's role was to help the federal lead agency avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse impacts and effects to the national historic trails.

The National Trails Intermountain Region continued its series of monthly "compliance e-blasts" for the Oregon-California Trails Association and continued to communicate with other partners concerning undertakings with potential to affect their trails of interest.



### **ROUTE 66 CORRIDOR PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

Congress created the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program to preserve and commemorate the special places and stories of the American icon, Route 66. The program works with the eight states through which the route passes to raise awareness about the history and significance of the route; to identify preservation needs and strategies; and to facilitate collaboration among the states. The program provides technical and financial assistance to preserve the most significant and

representative historic properties dating to the highway's period of historic significance (1926-1985). It also assists with preservation planning, research, and educational initiatives.

**KEY COOPERATORS/PARTNERS:** Local, state, federal, and tribal agencies, Route 66 associations, statewide preservation organizations, educational institutions, State Historic Preservation Offices, departments of transportation, environmental protection agencies, the Road Ahead Initiative, private individuals, and others.

**KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:**

- Cooperated with the Route 66: The Road Ahead Partnership to develop a national framework for collaboration, including formation of Vintage Motel Preservation Task Force, Green Book Task Force, and support for ongoing research on the economic impacts of historic preservation and heritage tourism on the route (ongoing).
- Co-organized and hosted the annual Research Route 66 meeting in Albuquerque, NM in cooperation with the University of New Mexico’s Center for Southwest Research and the New Mexico Route 66 Association (March 2018). In conjunction with the meeting, organized presentations on research relating to the Hispanic Legacies of Route 66.
- Developed and signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association to undertake projects of mutual interest and benefit.
- Cooperated with Rutgers University School of Planning and Public Policy to update and continue research on the economic impacts of historic preservation and heritage tourism on Route 66.
- Cooperated with the California Preservation Foundation to undertake a California Route 66 Historic Road Alignment and Property Survey in the Los Angeles metropolis area.



Winners of 2018 cost-share Route 66 grant awards included the stabilization of an old trading post in Arizona’s Painted Desert, an engineering study of Missouri’s Gasconade Bridge, and a historic structures report for the Threatt Filling Station complex, a black-owned property in Luther, OK.

**TABLE 6. ROSI Cost Share Projects FY 2018**

<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Partner Match</b>
<b>Ariston Café Rehabilitation, IL</b>	Develop a preservation plan; replace roof, lintels, kitchen hood, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, the ceiling, neon signs, and window trim (continues a prior project)	\$10,250	\$10,250
<b>Bridge Assessment and Prioritization Project (all states)</b>	Develop and implement a framework to prioritize bridges for preservation along the national length of Route 66	\$13,181	\$21,028
<b>Pemco Gas Station Rehabilitation, OK</b>	Undergo repairs to the roof, exterior façade, concrete walkways, pump canopy, and electrical system	\$13,060	\$13,060
<b>Threatt Filling Station Historic Structures Report, OK</b>	Help prepare a historic structures report, which will include a building history, condition assessment, measured drawings, and a preservation plan for the station's restoration	\$5,000	\$5,000
<b>Route 66 Gasconade River Bridge Study, MO</b>	Help prepare an engineering report to document the bridge's condition and to develop options and cost estimates to restore the bridge for public use	\$6,000	\$6,000
<b>Route 66 Green Book Sites National Register Nominations (all states)</b>	Research and nominate eight Route 66 Green Book sites to the National Register of Historic Places	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Painted Desert Trading Post Stabilization, AZ</b>	Stabilize the walls, foundation, and roof	\$20,000	\$20,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$87,491</b>	<b>\$95,338</b>

- Completed a CESU agreement with New Mexico State University to geo-rectify the New Mexico Department of Transportation historic as-built documents for Route 66.
- Cooperated with Ottawa County government (Oklahoma) to initiate development of the Miami Ribbon Road historic preservation planning documents (preconstruction documents).
- In collaboration with Route 66 Associations, continued development of a GIS Route 66 database of historic road alignments and properties.

**ROUTE 66 COST-SHARE GRANT PROGRAM**

The Route 66 Cost-Share Grant program provides financial assistance for eligible historic preservation, research, oral history, interpretation, and education projects related to the highway. See table 6 for details of the 2018 program.

