

Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council

2004 Annual Report



**Lewis and Clark Hiking Trail from
Hat Rock to McNary Dam near Hermiston, Oregon
October 2004**



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council

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Introduction

In 1998 the Governor established the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council to oversee and provide advice on sixteen designated historic trails in Oregon. We are nine volunteer citizens, working together to advise the Governor and locate, preserve and encourage the use of these historic trails by Oregonians and visitors alike. Ex-officio members from a variety of state, federal, and related organizations provide the Council advice and technical information.

We meet approximately three times a year. One of our meetings is our annual business meeting and the other two meetings are trips to explore various historic trails each of which is followed by an open public meeting to discuss the trail we just visited and any other pending impact of the sixteen trails. Guided by local resident and public agency experts, we evaluate and record trail conditions and discuss opportunities for marking and interpretation of the trails with our goal to include collecting and sharing information on locating and marking trails; encouraging local communities and agencies to develop directional and interpretive signage, brochures and maps, and helping them find the resources to protect and share these corridors of history.

This report covers the activities of the Council through the 2004 calendar year. It is organized as an executive summary with pertinent documents attached for documentation and details. The main points of action are summarized in the summary letter.

This annual report is prepared and submitted to the Oregon Parks and Recreation Commission as an objective of the Procedural Rules adopted by the Council when it was formed.

OHTAC

Summary of Action in 2004

1. Ann Rogers appointed as Chair, Marcia Morse appointed as vice-chair, Eileen Fitzsimmons is Past Chair. These three serve as the "Executive Committee" of OHTAC.
2. OHTAC helped the Nature Conservancy to obtain an agreement with the leaseholder of the Threemile Canyon Farms to place signage on a hiking segment of the Oregon Trail. **Signage was completed and installed.**
3. **Procured funding** from the National Park Service to send an OHTAC member to the Oregon California Trails National Convention in August to be held in Vancouver, WA. (Keith May attended.) Also, funds were earmarked to send a member to the Partnership for the National Trails System in October in Austin, Texas. (Jim Renner attended.) SHPO did not set up the funds as per the requests by NPS and Ms. Sullivan did not submit receipts as per her instructions. Jere Krakow assured OHTAC that the money would not disappear by 10-1-04 but that showing activity in the fund was important. State Parks was directed to pay for the expenses for the Conventions and then seek reimbursement from the NPS as OHTAC members cannot be reimbursed directly per the Governors executive order that created OHTAC. Mr. James Hamrick is seeking to have this order amended.
4. **Established an OHTAC Library of Historic Trails Reference Materials** catalogued by Virginia Durost and housed at SHPO. Items may be checked out by council members when researching individual trails. (This request had not been completed since DeAnne Sullivan was terminated and materials have been misplaced?)
5. Assigned tasks:
 - a. John Chess will monitor the proposed Housing development near the Nez Perce Cemetery in Wallowa County. The council wrote a letter to the Wallowa County Planning Commission stating their recommendation that there be a visual buffer to any development near the Chief Joseph Cemetery.
 - b. Keith May will monitor the proposed storage facility on the Oregon Trail in Malheur County. The deal fell through and no construction is planned at this site.
 - c. Keith May will contact Marge Dryden about a proposed vineyard on the west side of the Deschutes River Crossing of the Oregon Trail.
 - d. Asked DeAnne Sullivan (SHPO staff) to put OHTAC minutes, field trip reports, meeting announcements, etc onto the website and Heritage List serve. (This request was not completed.)
6. Cancelled the field trip to Klamath Falls in April when staff inadequately prepared for the trip and less than a quorum could attend.
7. Completed one field trip to view Lewis and Clark Historic Trail from Hat Rock to Boardman, Oregon and Oregon National Historic Trail Cut-off ruts near Irrigon, Oregon.