

APPENDIX 4

TRAIL TERMINOLGY

**Prepared by the
Mapping and Marking Committee**

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TRAIL TERMINOLOGY

The definitions of terms used in the MET Manual to describe segments of emigrant wagon trails are standardized as follows:

Trace General term for any original trail remnant.

Depression Shallow dip in the surface, often very faint and difficult to see.



Swale A depression, but of deeper dimensions and with sloping sides.



Rut Deep depression, without a center mound and having steep sides.



Erosion Feature A trace of any sort that has been deepened and altered by subsequent wind and/or water action. Sides and bottom often irregular.



Track Visible trace caused by compacting of surface or discoloration due to salt evaporation on alkali flats. Little or no depression. Often seen as streaks across an alkali flat.

[Continued]

Scarring

Irregularly wide flat surface, devoid of vegetation, that no longer shows any wagon depressions or swales. Often seen trailing through sagebrush flats in an uneven pattern.

Two-track

Parallel wheel tracks separated by center mound. Typically an unimproved ranch road used by motor vehicles.



**Improved-Road
or
Secondary Road**

Bladed, graded, crowned, graveled, oiled, or blacktop roads usually having side berms, curbs or gutters.



Note: On open sagebrush plains and alkali flats, depressions, swales, scarring, and tracks may be much wider than the width of a wagon (approximately five feet wide). This is due to emigrants either moving their wagons over to a parallel trace or fanning out to avoid heavy dust and deep, loose sand.