

# **APPENDIX 6**

## **NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL CONDITION CATEGORY DEFINITIONS**

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Mapping and Marking Committee**

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## NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL CONDITION CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

Federal Trail Data Standards (FTDS), developed by the National Park Service, include National Historic Trail (NHT) Condition Categories which have been authorized for government interagency use. Each NHT Condition Category is defined below, along with brief examples intended to illustrate the underlying logic of each category and to assist with the application of the categories to individual National Historic Trails.

### NHT Condition Category Definitions

#### **NHT I: Location Verified, Evident and Unaltered**

*Description:* The trail route is accurately located and verified from written and cartographic records, terrain limitations, and/or archaeological evidence.

The visible trail remnant retains the essence of its original character that relates to the historic period for which the trail was designated and shows no evidence of having been either impacted by subsequent uses or altered by other improvements.

For example, in the case of wagon trails, there is visible evidence of the original trail in the form of depressions, ruts, swales, tracks, or other scars, including vegetative differences and hand-placed rock alignments along the trailside. In the case of more contemporary historic trails, evidence may include constructed road features, sidewalks, railroad grades, etc. if significant to the historic events for which the trail was designated.

#### **NHT II: Documented and Evident with Minor Alteration**

*Description:* The trail route is accurately located and verified from written and cartographic records, terrain limitations, and/or archaeological evidence.

The visible trail remnant retains the essence of its character that relates to the historic period for which the trail was designated, but shows minor evidence of alteration by subsequent use, development, or natural events.

For example, in the case of wagon roads, there is little or no evidence of having been altered permanently by more modern road improvements, such as widening, blading, grading, crowning or graveling. In forested areas, the trail may have been used for logging but still retains elements of its original character during the significant historic period.

**NHT III: Documented with Little Remaining Evidence**

*Description:* The trail route is accurately located and verified from written and cartographic records, terrain limitations, and/or some archaeological evidence.

Due to weathering, erosion, vegetative succession, development, etc., trail traces are insignificant, although some evidence remains (e.g. wagon wheel impact evidence such as rust, grooved, or polished rocks). example, this category includes trail segments that once passed through forests and meadows, across excessively hard surfaces or bedrock (such as on ridges), over alkali flats and sandy soils, through ravines or washes or other environments not conducive to trace preservation.

**NHT IV: Documented and Permanently Altered**

*Description:* The trail route's location is verified from written and cartographic records, or by terrain limitations, although little or no archaeological evidence remains.

The trail has been permanently altered or obliterated by human-caused or natural events, leaving no evidence of its original appearance.

For example, the original trail may have been permanently altered by road construction through widening, blading, grading, etc. Other above or below-ground developments include pipeline installation, utility corridor development, building construction, etc.

**NHT V: Approximate Trail**

*Description:* The trail route's location cannot be accurately verified from written or cartographic records, or archaeological evidence.

The trail is either so obliterated or unverifiable that its location is only approximately known.

In many cases, the trail has been destroyed entirely by development, such as highways, structures, agriculture, or utility corridors. In others, it has been inundated beneath reservoirs. In some, there is not enough historical or topographic evidence by which to locate the trail accurately.

**NHT VI      Historic Reconstruction**

*Description:* The trail route is accurately located and verified from written and cartographic records, terrain limitations, and/or archaeological evidence.

The trail segment has been deliberately reconstructed, at its original location, to appear as it did during the period of maximum historic importance.

For example, the reconstruction of a tow path or lock along an historic canal to simulate trail's original character and use.

Note: Reconstructed trail segments or associated features, not in the original location do not meet the definition of NHT VI Historic Reconstruction, and are considered as recreation, interpretive or other developments.