

Marking and Preservation Workshop Attracts 26

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Members of OCTA's Mapping and Marking Committee, and staff of the National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and University of Utah met in Salt Lake City from October 30 through November 1 to plan mapping activities and an update to the OCTA's Mapping Emigrant Trails Manual.

Thirty-eight individuals participated in the three-day workshop led by Dave Welch (OCTA) and John Cannella (NPS). Aaron Mahr, superintendent of the National Trails Intermountain Region Office in Santa Fe, also participated in the sessions. Funding for the workshop was provided by the NPS through a task on the cooperative agreement with OCTA and OCTA's Loomis Preservation Fund.

Highlights included presentations by the NPS on their trail mapping program and associated resources, an overview of the current MET Manual by Don Buck, one of the manual's principal authors, and a discussion of the use of Terrain Navigator Pro mapping software by Stafford Hazelett and John Winner. Winner also presented a description of the California-Nevada chapter's guide "Planning and Executing a Mapping Project." Ron Hall described the many capabilities of Google Earth.

The BLM was represented by Ray Kelsey, a recreational planner in the BLM Salt Lake City Office. He described two new manuals that the BLM has published describing their management

approach for historic trails. The manuals (NSHT Administrative Manual 6250 and NSHT Management Manual 6280) are a significant step forward in the BLM's management of trails and their setting. The manuals may be viewed and downloaded at the Google workshop site noted below.

OCTA's mapping committee has been working with the NPS to determine the status of mapping activities across the trails. The NPS provided a summary map that illustrates which USGS 7.5 minute quads have been mapped to MET standard. Conversely, it may be used to identify areas where mapping is needed.

OCTA also maintains an inventory of completed maps. Copies are at the NPS Salt Lake City Office and the Mattes Library in Independence, MO. Please contact Dave Welch at welchdj@comcast.net for further information.

A central issue of the meeting was the how to handle sensitive trail-related information. Sensitive information in this context is historic and prehistoric archaeological information. It was agreed that in most cases the trail location and condition did not fall under these constraints, but artifacts associated with the trail do.

OCTA's existing archaeological policy with respect to this issue was discussed and confirmed. It was noted that OCTA members who are using metal detectors to find artifacts have been following that policy, the main feature of which is the prohibition of removing artifacts from the trail. All such activities must be

conducted under the supervision of a professional archaeologist.

The last day focused on organizing the update of the MET Manual. The effort was divided into three pieces: (1) the core text of the manual, (2) old material that may be deleted or modified, and (3) new material. In the latter category are descriptive material on GPS units and mapping software.

Another new item will be a "how to" guide based upon the CA-NV chapter's "Planning and Executing a Mapping Project." The goal is have most of the revision completed by February 1, 2013. The changes to the core text and basic MET methodology will be minor. There will be some refinement, but no major changes.

Workshop presentation materials are available at

<https://sites.google.com/site/oregoncaliforniatrail/home/salt-lake-workshop>.

Other reference material like the existing MET Manual is available at OCTA's website www.octa-trails.org in the preservation section.

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