

# NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 2019, 1:00 pm Mountain Time (12pm PT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET)

## MEETING AGENDA

### 1. **Welcome & Introductions** (Ryan Cooper/Peter Bosnall)

Meeting Attendees:

1. Ryan Cooper - Lewis and Clark
2. Peter Bosnall - National Trails System
3. Don Owen
4. Kristen Weil - TPL
5. Sandra Broncheu-McFarland - OCTA and TPL
6. Jill Jensen - Nat. Trails Intermountain
7. Mitchel - TPL
8. Kenny Wawsczyk -
9. Ron Tipton -
10. Gita Urban-Mathieux - USGS
11. Matt Rowbotham - North Country Trail Assoc.
12. Sarah Rivera - Nat Trail Intermountain
13. Jake Leizeur - Captain John Smith
14. Mary Tano -
15. Stafford Hazlett - Oregon
16. Reese Hirth - NPS Midwest Region
17. Gary Werner - PNTS
18. Tiffany Stram - Ice Age Trail Alliance
19. David Fothergill -
20. Matt Robinson - Appalachian Trail
21. Ben Richardson - Overmountain Victory
22. Jeffrey Alleby - Captain John Smith
23. Charlyne Smith - North Carolina State University / Overmountain Victory
24. Greg Matthews - USGS
25. Naomi Torres - Juan Bautista
26. Laura White - USFS, Arizona Trail
27. Noelle Bovio -

### 2. **Announcements & Information from Audience**

- a. Partnership for the National Trails System has a new address: 306 E Wilson, Suite 2E, Madison, WI 53703
- b. Other announcements?

### 3. **Discussion Topic**

**Presenters: Don Owen, Partnership for the National Trails System; Mitchel Hannon and Kristen Weil, Trust for Public Lands**

#### **A Corridor Protection Gap Analysis and Connectivity Assessment for National Trails.**

The Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS), in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land, will utilize an integrated Geographic Information System (GIS) approach to identify, map, and prioritize trail protection projects throughout the National

Trails System. This effort will dovetail with the Interactive Map of the National Trails System, which utilizes the ArcGIS Online platform to create a single online map for all 30 National Scenic and National Historic Trails and their publicly available data.

## Notes:

- Need advice and guidance on this project from network.
- Reality is different from the original purpose of the National Trails System. Permanent land protection is greatest obstacle. Many ways to protect trails and many partners: land managers, non-profits, partners.
- Key is identify what needs to be protected.
- Examples of incomplete: Ice Age, Florida NST
- No one holds interest. Looks complete on paper.
- For NHT's, congress directed to protected HPHS and HPRS
- Example Lewis and Clark NHT
- Of 60,000 miles of the NTS just over half is protected. 23,000 is in need of protection.
- This project hopes to address the issue of gaps in protected lands along NST and NHT corridors
- What is most important to protect and who is responsible for identifying and protecting these gaps?
- Grant from DOT received to analyze and to identify missing pieces. TPL has one of the most powerful GIS shops in the country.
- TLP - identify data, collect data, analyze data, develop database by segment (protected vs non-protected), ID threats, and created web map to show results.
- Gaps in PADUS and NLCD will be supplemented and leveraged with internal TPL data
- Ex. ParkServe
- Comments – Jill – not just HPHS and HPRS need to be protected; Gary - under authorities of NTSA – Fed agencies can only purchase land (from willing sellers) for HPHS and HPRS.
- Don shares email – djowenhome@gmail.com
- Report – no specific format that has been dictated.
- TPL creates parks and protects land for people
- Over 5,000 places; 3 million acres; 68 billion dollars
- Going to create conceptual trail plans and prototype websites; create tools for managers to input info and help guide analysis
- Going to compile trails data, padus, supplemental datasets to define what is protected and what is not.
- Will work with individual trails to bring for existing info that might not be available in a single place.
- Characterize trail segments by threat level and look at other intangible benefits of protecting segments.
- Analysis will break up trails into 1 mile analysis segments, examine protection, threat level, characterize importance, etc.
- Pilot trails – 1 historic, 1 scenic trail
- Develop ranking or scale of segments.
- Build a site/viewer that allows managers to view information.
- Limitations: accuracy of data; conserved lands data is incomplete
- Next steps: Contact GIS managers, find pilot trails.
- Captain John Smith Chesapeake volunteers as pilot National Historic Trail.
- National Trails Intermountain Region will volunteer as a pilot National Historic Trail
- Appalachian Trail will volunteer, but may not be the best example as the trail and corridor is already protected
- Gary nominates Ice Age, North Country or Florida. They have the bulk of gaps in protection and offer the widest range of land ownership patterns.
- Ice Age volunteers as pilot
- USGS has been aggregating trails (not NTS) and data is available in the public domain in National Map Viewer and Amazon. Also working on trails decision support tool. Identify where new trail segments could be built to connect trails together. Create cost surface and automate connections.
- Data Downloader: <https://viewer.nationalmap.gov/advanced-viewer/>
- Is this project intended for just NST and NHT - Yes
- Trails are not just single footpath but as a corridor. Is corridor defined by trail managers?
- Gary – BLM and USGS policies are to treat trails as areas of special management with corridors of significant width, protect full resources and quality of experience of landscapes. Relatively new policy for agencies.
- Jill – not as easy as slapping a buffer down and calling it good.
- Noelle with BLM – land use planning decisions and take time to formulate. A lot goes into this. We don't make unilateral decisions.
- Gary – hats off to Noelle. Protective corridor and setting a high bar.
- Cultural staff needs to be involved in identifying what is sensitive.
- Consultation with tribes is imperative and needs to be part of this process.
- Census bureau consults with tribes on boundaries; BIA does not.

#### 4. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

- a. May 21, 2019 – Greg Matthews, USGS, increasing connectivity with the network of trails on public lands
- b. June 18, 2019 – Matt Able, US Forest Service, Survey 123 app for trail maintenance
- c. July 16, 2019 – TBD

**We always welcome suggestions for additional topics for discussion or presentations. Please contact Ryan Cooper, Peter Bonsall, and/or Derek Nelson with your suggestions!**

**NTS GIS Email Address:** [ntsgis@nps.gov](mailto:ntsgis@nps.gov)

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**NTS GIS Network Website:** <http://pnts.org/new/national-trails-system-gis-network/>

#### **NTS GIS Network Mission:**

*We established the NTS GIS Network as a way to connect the diverse array of National Trails System staff and partners who use GIS systems and products in their work. One of our goals is to facilitate the sharing of information and tools that help us do our jobs more efficiently and innovatively. Because the national trails system is managed as a collaboration of agencies and partner organizations, the NTS GIS Network is open to anyone.*