

NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, Mar 20th, 2018, 1:00 pm Mountain Time (12pm PT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET)

MEETING AGENDA

1. Welcome & Introductions (Ryan Cooper)

Meeting Attendees:

1. Ryan M. Cooper, National Park Service, Lewis and Clark NHT, Geographer (Webinar moderator)
2. Matt Robinson, National Park Service, Appalachian NST GIS Specialist (Presenter)
3. Rob Chohan, Mobile Architect, π Maps
4. Stafford Hazelett, Oregon-California Trails Association, member
5. Roland Duhamel, Environmental Contractor with Data Center at University of Rhode Island, Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT
6. Greg Matthews, US Geological Survey, Cartographer
7. BriAnna Weldon, National Park Service, Juan Bautista de Anza NHT, Outdoor Recreation Planner
8. Tiffany Stram - GIS/IT Specialist, Ice Age Trail Alliance
9. Dave Vincent - US Geological Survey, Salt Lake City, UT
10. Sarah Rivera, National Trails Intermountain Region, Salt Lake City, UT
11. Laura White – US Forest Service, AZ Trail
12. Dennis Garcia – US Forest Service
13. Candace Bogart - US Forest Service Region 3 GIS Program Manager
14. Lindsey Kiesz, US Forest Service Region 6, Pacific Northwest NST
15. David Fothergill, US Forest Service Region 1, Forest Landscape Architect, Pacific Northwest NST
16. Don Owen, Partnership for the National Trails System
17. Don Briggs, National Park Service, Potomac Heritage NST, Superintendent
18. Matt Colwin, National Park Service, Midwest Geospatial Support Center Geographer

2. Announcements & Information from Audience

- a. This week: ESRI Federal GIS User Conference March 20-21, 2018 in Washington D.C.
- b. BLM National Scenic and Historic Trails Story Map: <https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=44b77f1ef231446a91f912e6c2973fcf>

3. Discussion Topic

Presenter – Matt Robinson, National Park Service, Appalachian NST

Update on National Trails System Web Map and 50th Anniversary Map

An update and discussion on the present National Trails System web mapping effort and 50th Anniversary Map. Please review the web map and be ready to discuss and provide feedback. The web map can be viewed at:

<https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d89951079a374f28ab4a3b9fc41025dd>

Notes:

- Background: GIS Data exists for all trails in the National Trails System but how individual trails are using GIS and their capacity varies greatly. Because of this and other factors, compiling one official dataset for the trail system has been challenging.
- Until recently, this has required manual aggregation (calling each Trail data steward and asking for their data).
- ArcGIS Online has opened up a whole new avenue for sharing data and shown to be quite effective.
- Vision for an interactive map for National Trails is two-fold:
 - Show the entire system
 - Identify a data steward for each trail and ask them to maintain a public version of trail dataset on ArcGIS Online
- First presented this idea to the NTS GIS Network one year ago, along with one follow-up webinar.
- Current status of the project: Matt Robinson and Peter Bonsall have reached out to all 30 Trails in the National Trails System, identified a data steward, and a version of each trail is currently available on ArcGIS Online.
- Two webinars for Trail Administrators have been planned, along with two for partners.

- Need feedback before going public and need your support in keeping the data up-to-date.
- First screen – Disclaimer.
- Click on a trail line on the webmap – get web links to Trail Administrator and Trail Partner websites
- Each trail can be viewed separately. All trails are publicly available. You must be signed in to download data, but everything else is freely available without a logon.
- The webmap will be embedded into the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) website.
- In addition to the 30 national scenic and historic trail, the map also includes 50th Anniversary events and National Recreational Trail point locations. Protected Areas of the United States (PADUS) is also available.
- Users can add data from AGOL, a URL link, or upload a file in a variety of formats.
- Next steps: get feedback over the next month, adjust, post to PNTS website. PNTS is the appropriate place to distribute this map since the organization is dedicated to the National Trails System and not tied to any one agency, trail, or partner.
- Want to maintain connection to data stewards, since they are the ones really responsible for the data updates.
- Consider adding a data portal to the map so users can download data. Consider adding new data or functionality as appropriate but the focus for now is on trail centerlines only.
Please review webmap and provide feedback, especially on the data. Once “live”, please promote and share webmap. Also, please keep your trail data up-to-date.
- Applications/Uses for the webmap: Can use used by public to learn about national trails. Can be used by managers for general planning, view regional scale projects, or see how a particular trail fits within the system. Can be used by the Energy industry for planning and infrastructure projects
- Can also be used to calculate statistics – results are only as accurate as data used though.
- Examples of statistics – 231 million people live within 60 miles of a national trail (74% of the US population).
- What would be most useful and what would people like to see?
- Other things that can potentially be done with the webmap:
 - GAP Analysis
 - High Priority area analysis (most threatened areas)
 - Opportunity analyses – engage more partners

Questions/Discussion:

- Can this be shared? – Yes but want to allow Trail Administrators to provide feedback first. We will share the link once the map is on the PNTS website. Wait a month or so.
- It would be great to have Trail datasets include trailheads and entry points for accessing the trails. This would help raise awareness for the public. – This is something we could consider adding in the future.
- Are the attributes different for each trail? Can we standardize? – In the past this has derailed the process. For now the focus is on geography of trail centerlines only. US Forest Service is working on developing a data standard geodatabase that could be exchangeable for all National Trails. ArcGIS Online Version Editing. Consolidate all trails.
- It is important to have documentation of version/vintage of trail datasets. It is also important to have a standard. – It is, though hard to enforce a standard. This project takes a voluntary and group approach.
- Example issue when Trail Association data differs from agency data.
- What about a statement to contact local agency to get the most accurate information for planning purposes? – This webmap is not intended to be used for detailed planning but can be a first step to identify trails that may be impacted/the appropriate agency to contact. We will look at adding some language somewhere.
- Authoritative data source issues: agencies and trail associations aren’t always in sync.
- Need to keep in perspective what this web map is used for. As long as sources, disclaimers are clear, it should be fine.
- Trail administrators need to weigh in and give advice on how to proceed. So far no negative feedback. Federal agencies are usually official data stewards. Matt and Peter have a list of data stewards.
- Trailheads and access points – more data to potentially add in the future. Different trails have different sets of data right now though.
- This webmap can be used to get people excited about data and maps, increase capacity, etc, which could lead to other things, like getting additional data posted.
- Do we need a charter on how to move this forward? Specify what roles agencies and partners will play?
- Make sure events are listed on www.trails50.org so that they show up on the 50th Events layer. Lisa Ronald is the contact.

4. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

- a. Apr 17, 2018 – TBD

- b. May 15, 2018 – TBD
- c. Jun 19, 2018 – 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

NTS GIS Network Email List: ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov

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.