

# NTS GIS Network- Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 16, 2021, 1:00 pm Mountain Time (12pm PT, 2pm CT, 3pm ET)

## MEETING AGENDA

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Meeting Attendees:

1. Elizabeth McCartney, USGS, Project Manager (Presenter)
2. Tatyana DiMascio, USGS, Senior Technical Lead (Presenter)
3. Peter Bosnall, National Trails System Program Specialist – NPS (moderator)
4. Ryan Cooper, NPS, Lewis and Clark NHT (moderator)
5. Kerry Shakarjian, NPS AKR GIS (moderator)
6. Brian Deaton, National Trails – NPS (moderator)
7. Taylor Willow - USFS R02 - Continental Divide NST
8. Naomi Torres, NPS Anza NHT
9. Sam Limerick, Tahoe-Pyramid Trail (Reno, NV)
10. Jeremy Wimpey - Virginia Tech Applied Trails Research
11. Scott Elder - Anza NHT
12. Becky Blanchard - USFS - Pacific Northwest NST
13. Carin Farley-BLM
14. Galen Keily - Pacific Crest Trail Association
15. Krista Sherwood
16. Matt Colwin
17. Philip M.
18. R. Ratcliffe
19. Cory
20. Anthony Tridente
21. Matt Schulte

### 2. Announcements & Information from Audience

- a. [Esri Federal Users Conference \(Virtual\)](#), February 22-24, 2021
- b. [PNTS Events page](#)
- c. Additional updates?

### 3. Discussion Topic

**Presenters – Elizabeth McCartney, USGS, Project Manager and Tatyana DiMascio, USGS, Senior Technical Lead**

#### ***National Digital Trails Project Update and Demo***

Trails are naturally inclusive, promote good health, provide economic benefits, and are an important part of our nation's transportation system. The National Digital Trails (NDT) project was developed in support of the Department of Interior's vision to promote access, connectivity, and the expansion of recreational opportunities over our Nation's public lands. In partnership with National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Fish & Wildlife Service, the US Geological Survey is leading the effort in the development of a web-based trail planning support tool and the aggregation of the nationwide trails geospatial dataset. Please join us for a project update and demo of the TRAILS planning support tool.

#### **Notes:**

- National Digital Trails Project Support Tool - <https://www.usgs.gov/core-science-systems/ngp/national-digital-trails>
- Project Overview – This project was developed in response to DOI initiative to expand recreational opportunities. Trying to improve connectivity and access.
- Goal 1 – Trail routing and information linking system – web based interactive tool for geospatial analysis between existing trails and to create connecting routes.
- TRAILS incorporates a cost surface, transportation data, NHD DATA, PADUS Data, and 3D elevation dataset for slope.
- Users can adjustment weights of different datasets for analysis.
- Other data can be viewed but are not taken into account for the analysis. (demographic data etc)
- Once the data is set, analysis is conducted. The analysis results in high medium or low constraints.

- Advantages – Analysis web based, provides analysis from point A to B. Uses national trails dataset so “all” trails are analyzed. Can be used as a collaborative tool for stakeholders.
  - Can export GIS files in order to complete more analysis within your own GIS software.
  - Working to improve the TRAILS tool.
  - Adding Trail use type, increase size of imported files, improve modeling, add custom layers to the analysis ( exclude areas or priority areas), streamline analysis
  - Improve ability to model ½ rule
  - Future – include provisional trails and add related data from other agencies/sources. Provisional trails have not gone through a formal data approval/review. These would be trails to improve the analysis. USGS has to approve the provisional dataset.
  - Create a robust nation wide dataset – 95K of trails added to database. Enhances connectivity and analysis. The data can be used as a feature service and is downloadable. There is still a lot of work to do to make the trails database a truly nationwide dataset. Data varies across states.
- € Trail Explorer:  
<https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d3c32c758316402dbd8292b7ffea720e>
- Current Database – Developer of Trails Data Portal – Portal will streamline data uploads into the database and enabling feedback to partners regarding their data. Future – priority – Federal, State and Local – Looking for funding. Automated spatial data check and providing feedback right away, data visualization and data downloads. Focus on outreach to states.
  - Goal 3 - Mobile Maintenance Dashboard –On Hold – Ability to aggregate data from multiple sources
  - TRAILS Demonstration - Tatyana DiMascio, USGS - We offer monthly workshops explaining the application.
  - Trails Decision Support Tool – This is the application window and the various capabilities within the application window. Layers widget, basemap widget, add data widget from AGOL, service URL, KML, zipped shapefile, etc. The user can add specific data for their project.
  - Create a new project – Project Name, Project Description, Lead Organization
  - Define area of Interest – Zoom to particular area of interest – then click to create polygon of area of interest.
  - Generate Trails – All Existing Trails – Create different scenario setting and create trails option. Can connect all existing trails in the AOI.
  - Can also connect waypoints within the AOI. Runs a cost surface analysis to connect those points. Examples are overlooks where you are interested in particular point locations.
  - New feature allows generating trails by use type. Only want bicycle trails, then the analysis can be run for only this type of trails.
  - Generate Trails Advanced Settings – Advanced setting enables modifying the costs associated with the analysis. Change the weights within the analysis for the various analysis datasets (NHD, PAD-US, Transportation Weight, slope). User can specify minimum and max slope.
  - Explore Trails - When analysis is successful, get the Explore Trails map, trails are displayed low to high trail constraints. Can click on the trail within the map or scroll within window to access trails. Can view the elevation profile for the specific trail.
  - Share Results – Share info from within the application, export all the results to a file geodatabase in order to do further analysis. You can also share the results within a dashboard view. Contains the same info as the application, but this is a public read only URL. You can change scenarios and view the specific info of the analysis.
  - Thanks, Questions?
  - Can you export out a file geodatabase? Yes, the export creates a file geodatabase for the results of the project.
  - Can you delete a project? As many projects can be created, edited, and deleted.
  - Does the elevation profile display the source? The elevation profile source info is not displayed, but this info is displayed during the setup of the analysis.
  - Who has access to app? Federal users are priority, however the app could be expanded to other users. If you want access need to email Elizabeth McCartney, Tatyana DiMascio at USGS.
  - Is there background information being collected such as how many projects currently exist, how many are active etc.? Elizabeth: This kind of data is available but has not been looked at or compiled.

#### 4. Future Meeting Dates & Topics

- March 16, 2021** – Introduction to the draft Federal Trail GIS Schema, Kerry Shakarjian, NPS GIS Specialist
- April 20, 2021** - USFWS Trail Inventory Project, Katie Lyon, USFWS National Trail Inventory Program Project Manager
- May 19, 2021** - Looking for presenters!

We always welcome suggestions for additional topics for discussion or presentations. Please contact us with your suggestions using the email below.

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

NTS GIS Network Email List: [ntsgis@webmail.itc.nps.gov](mailto: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.*