

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

Spring 2014

VOL XXIX NO. 2

## OCTA Board Meets in Independence

## Educational Programs Planned

By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor

The Oregon-California Trails Association continues outreach efforts to engage American Indian tribes in telling their stories of the overland trails and the land they crossed. The Annual Convention in Kearney, NE., will bring members of several tribes to share their stories

Two fall symposiums in Kansas will offer other opportunities for the general public and OCTA members to further explore this aspect of trail history.

"Drama Along the Medicine Road" is the theme for the annual convention that will focus on conflict along the trails in 1864 and involve tours to key sites associated with that conflict, including the Plum Creek Massacre and cemetery. For more complete details see story on page 3.

OCTA will sponsor a symposium in Newton, KS, during the weekend of Sept. 25-28 that will include presentations related to the Cherokee Trail, the Santa Fe Trail, and the Chisholm Trail. These three trails come together

near Newton, located north of Wichita.

The OCTA Board at its mid-year meeting March 13 in Independence, MO, also endorsed an event being planned by Alcove Spring in Marshall County, KS, Sept. 26 and 27 that will involve an Indian Powwow and special dance demonstrations.

Besides learning more about

to trail segments in Minor Park in Kansas City. This park and other trail sites in the Three-Trail corridor project in metropolitan Kansas City were included in a tour held in conjunction with the mid-year meeting. The tour also involved members of the Santa Fe and Lewis and Clark Trail associations, which also held meetings in Independence during the same week.

Other areas that bear watching include Donner Spring in Utah. Although the U.S. Bureau of Land Management denied a permit for potash mining there, the company seeking the approval has appealed.

A power line project in Kansas could have impacts at Alcove Spring and along other areas of the trail in that vicinity, and plans for another power company project in western Nebraska could affect the trail in Roubidoux Pass near Gering.

Other projects in the planning stages are the Chokecherry wind power project in Carbon County, Wyoming, the Gateway



*Trail swales in Minor Park in Kansas City were significantly damaged by vehicles driving through the park earlier this year, but the city quickly took action to repair the area. This is but one of the many recent threats the trails.*

*(Photo courtesy of Travis Boley)*

the trail stories at these types of gatherings, OCTA members are urged to be "ever vigilant" regarding threats to the trail.

During the meeting in March, the Board learned of recent damage

*Continued on Page 4*

# NEWS FROM THE PLAINS

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News from the Plains  
Published quarterly  
P.O. Box 1019  
Independence, MO  
64051-0519  
888-811-6282  
816-836-0989 (fax)  
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**News from the Plains**  
**Summer Issue Deadline**  
**May 25, 2014**

Send materials to  
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## CALENDAR

**OCTA Convention**  
Aug. 5-9, 2014, Kearney, NE

**OCTA Convention**  
Sept. 21-25, 2015  
South Lake Tahoe

## 2013-14 OCTA Officers

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John Krizek, President & ex officio on all committees

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**888-811-6282**



# Fort Kearny State Historical Park OCTA Annual Convention Kearney, Nebraska August 5-9, 2014



## *Drama on the Medicine Road*

### Early Trail Stories To Be Focus of Convention

*By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor*

Often history is written from the white man's perspective, but the viewpoints of American Indians will be part of the 2014 Convention in Kearney, NE. Aug. 4-9 at the Holiday Inn. The theme this year is "Drama on the Medicine Road."

Gordon Yellowbear, tribal historian from the Southern Cheyenne-Arapaho tribe, is a keynote speaker, and Nancy Gillis, a member of the Pawnee Nation, also will give a talk about Indian women.

Joseph Marshall III, a Lakota from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, an author, actor, teacher of his tribe's culture and motivational speaker, will give a presentation about Indian bows.

Also on the program are Nebraska State Historical Society Historian John Carter and David Welch, of Washington, a direct descendent of Ambrose Asher, a boy taken hostage by Indians during the 1864 Oak Grove incident.

Loren Pospisil of Chimney Rock State Historic Site, will talk about people heading both east and west along the trail route during the fur trade, for freighting, and even Indians who traveled both directions.

Jack Hultquist of Minden, NE, will demonstrate making photographs from glass negatives and there will be presentations about music and quilts related to the trail.

This year continuing education credit for teachers can be obtained through Central Community College and the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

The convention will take place at the Kearney Holiday Inn, and will honor descendants of pioneers and Native Americans involved in the 1864 conflicts along the trail. Tours to sites important to the 1864 events including the Plum Creek Massacre near Lexington, the kidnapping of settlers near Oak Grove and The Narrows area near Nelson, NE are planned.

Other tours will take in Mormon Trail sites north of the Platte River, the Plum Creek massacre site and cemetery, Pony Express stations, and trail sites along the Blue River including 32-mile station, Lone Tree station, Spring, Ranch, Pawnee Ranch and Liberty Farm.

Other convention activities will involve Author's Night, and a visit to Fort Kearny, that will involve demonstrations by reenactors.

"Bring extra socks, because they are going to be knocked right off," Loren Pospisil said of the convention plans.

#### ***Have Something of Value You Would Like to Donate to OCTA?***

##### **Nebraska Chapter seeks Auction & Raffle Items**

We are seeking items for the silent and live auctions, and also for the raffle we will hold at the 2014 OCTA Convention in Kearney, NE.

If you have something to contribute, please send a description and photo now and then bring the item with you to the convention, or mail it in advance.

Send the information/item to:

Barb Netherland  
160109 Cherry Lane  
Mitchell, NE 69357,  
308-424-1031  
bjneth49@gmail.com

OR

Nancy Petersen  
553 S Blaine Ave  
Minden, NE 68959  
bilancy@hotmail.com

# Educational Programs Planned

*Continued from Page 1*

Transmission line that could affect trail sections in Wyoming, Utah, and Idaho, and the Keystone XL Pipeline project that would cross trail Nebraska.

Proposed reservoirs in Nebraska's Central Platte Valley would inundate routes of several national historic trails, and also would be very near the Plum Creek Massacre cemetery, said OCTA Board Member Jere Krakow, who has been working on overall trail preservation issues. Even so, there has been no official notification even to the Nebraska State Historic Preservation office.

The Board approved a bylaw change that will restructure the OCTA preservation duties. Under the plan chapters will elect preservation officers and from that group a chair will be selected to serve as National Preservation Officer. Additionally OCTA will hire a consultant who is well-versed in national preservation rules and regulations who can work on specific projects with the preservation team.

Krakow, who also serves as the OCTA representative to the Partnership for National Trails, urged all OCTA members to work with local and state representatives and officials to raise awareness of the trail corridors and resources.

In other action the board:

- Revised the Trail Collection Policy to accept the recommendation that while materials donated to OCTA may be tax deductible, OCTA has no role in obtaining appraisals.

- Approved an annual budget for the newly established OCTA Hall of Fame.
- Approved the disbursement of up to \$3,000 from earnings of the Loomis Fund to cover the costs of production of the revised MET manual.

- Approved a proposal from the Idaho Chapter to host the 2016 convention at Fort Hall.
- Established a committee to evaluate future convention planning efforts and involvement of the association manager in that work.

## NPS Feasibility Study Continues

*By Candy Moulton  
NFP Editor*

The National Park Service has completed evaluation of additional routes under an ongoing feasibility study authorized by Congress. Approximately 75 routes have been evaluated for eligibility criteria under federal law. Two alternates have been developed.

One option looks at all of the routes and their eligibility under the current statement of significance for the Trails. The other is for an expanded understanding of the time frame for the routes. They all still focus on the first groups of emigrants to use the trails, but expand the time to take in such later migrations as the Mormon handcart groups, according to Aaron Mahr, Superintendent of the Long Distance Trails office in Santa Fe.

Using this criteria some 36 routes could qualify for national historic trail status under the older requirements. Under the expanded criteria about 45 routes could be added to the trail system.

Under both scenarios, a large number of the routes

studied would be dropped from consideration, "but for very good reason," Mahr said. "Many simply had no documentation of use, or they did not have enough substantive use to meet that criteria of meeting National Landmark status. Fundamentally they weren't used to go from one point to go to California or to Oregon. They were used for local traffic, or to go to other areas."

Scholars, OCTA members, and landowners provided documentation for the routes under consideration.

"We looked at things like number of emigrants, number of documented sources, numbers of known people who traveled the route," Mahr said. "A route that may not have been used all that much may be included based on importance of the people who traveled that route."

The public will be given an opportunity to review and comment on the study later this year. A 60-day open comment period is anticipated.

For preliminary info visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/FourtrailsFS>.

# Schools Receive OCTA Books

By Bill Hill  
Education Awards  
& Publications Committee

February saw the completion of the Education Committee's first project and the end of March was the deadline for accepting the applications/nominations for the Outstanding Educator Awards. We are again looking forward to some good candidates and the announcement of winners in August during the convention in Kearney, NE.

The lucky teacher for this year's February drawing for a class set of activity books is Gene Matteucci who teaches fourth grade at Tahoe Elementary School in South Lake Tahoe, California.

Thirty-three *Reading, Writing, and Riding along the Oregon-*

*California Trails* will go to help his students learn about the opening of the West, the emigration to California, and the gold rush. Each spring Gene takes his students to Sacramento to visit Sutter's Fort, and the books will provide new resources for their study.

If your school district, or a teacher you know did not enter this year's contest, be sure to tell them about our annual raffle so they can enter this coming fall for next year's drawing.

Our student calendar contest deadline is April 15. The theme for our 2015 calendar is "Plants Along the Trails – Edible, Medicinal & Dangerous." Information and guidelines for the contest are available on OCTA's website.

A limited number of notices were

mailed to various school districts in the fall. Students with their teachers' guidance are asked to research the theme or topic and then submit artwork depicting it. Individual students are also encouraged to participate even if their school or class does not.

Later this spring 14 drawings depicting the different plants will be selected, and each individual student whose work is chosen will be notified. In addition to a copy of the calendar, each student whose entry is selected will receive a check for \$50.

The calendar will be printed and should be ready for the convention in Kearney, NE. Each year the contest has drawn more attention and participation. The calendar is sure to be another eye catcher!

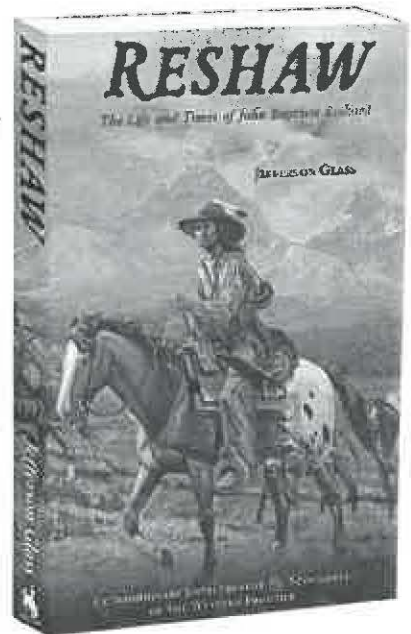
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THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JOHN BAPTISTE RICHARD  
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by Jefferson Glass

John Baptiste Richard was a mountain man, fur trader, entrepreneur, and perhaps the most notorious whiskey smuggler ever to venture West. Richard operated several successful trading posts along emigrant trails, but his greatest contribution to westward migration came from his toll bridge and trading post on the North Platte River near present day Casper, Wyoming. Richard's story is a must read for all those interested in the westward migration.

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## **OCTA Award Nominations Now Sought**

*By Dick Nelson  
Awards Committee Chair*

The OCTA Awards Committee seeks nominations for deserving candidates to receive recognition at OCTA's 2014 Convention in Kearney, NE. Please be aware that recognition comes from the general membership and not from the Awards Committee. **If there are no nominations forthcoming from the membership, no awards will be presented.**

Nominations should be submitted on the Awards forms available on the OCTA web site. To find the form go to [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org). At the bottom of the left hand column, click on Member Resources. Then click on "OCTA Award Nominations" in the list of forms. Scroll through all the forms to find the appropriate one(s). Complete the form(s), print, and email to Dick Nelson, Awards Chair, at [kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kcnelson42@sbcglobal.net).

Alternatively, the forms may be sent via postal mail to Dick Nelson, 12812 W. 100th Terrace, Lenexa, KS. 66215-1704. If you do not have access to the Internet and need a form, contact OCTA Headquarters at 888-811-6282. Be sure to provide sufficient justification and qualifications so that the committee can make informed decisions. The forms direct you to contact the nominees before nomination and the end of the forms mentions follow-up publicity. This is not necessary in order to submit the nomination, especially if it discourages you from submitting a deserving

nomination. You may ignore these steps if you wish. **Deadline for completed nominations is June 1.**

Please use the form best fitting the qualifications of the candidate. The award categories are:

**Gregory M. Franzwa Meritorious Achievement Award**—OCTA's highest award granted for long-term significant contributions to OCTA. Only members qualify.

**Elaine McNabney Distinguished Volunteer Award**—Awarded to OCTA members who contribute significantly to achieving OCTA shorter term goals and objectives not rising to the level of length of service or breadth of involvement of Meritorious Achievement recipients.

**Distinguished Service Award**—Recognition of organizations, businesses, or individuals who contribute, participate, or share interest in furthering OCTA's programs directly or provide substantial support in a non-affiliated way to trail preservation and education. Non-members may qualify for this recognition.

**Friend of the Trail Award**—Presented to groups, individuals, or organizations that have direct ties to lands over which historic trails pass. Neither property ownership nor current residence on trail property is required, but emphasis is placed on preservation of trail remnants, education of the public about their historic resources, and allowing responsible public access to the

historic resources.

**National Certificates of Appreciation**—Given to individuals and organizations that have made a particular effort in achieving a short-term OCTA goal. These certificates are for efforts of national scope.

**Young OCTAN Award**—Presented to youth 6-21 years of age who have demonstrated particular interest in OCTA and the history and/or preservation of historic emigrant trails. An entire class or group of school-aged children may qualify as one aggregated nominee. OCTA membership is not required.

If you have any questions about the awards program, please contact Dick Nelson at the e-mail and postal addresses provided above. Again, these are awards to recognize your friends and OCTA co-workers; if there are no nominations, there will be no awards! Don't let that happen. There are many deserving individuals in OCTA, but it is up to you to inform the committee who they are.

## **South Pass History Forthcoming from OU**

The University of Oklahoma Press has announced the forthcoming publication of *South Pass: Gateway to a Continent* by Will Bagley. "An American place so rich in historical significance," Bagley argues, "deserves the best of historical preservation efforts."

The hardcover edition of the book will be out in May.

# 2014 Board Elections

## Cecelia Jensen Bell

*Two Board positions will be filled during upcoming elections and there are two candidates.*



Cecelia Jensen Bell, was born and raised in the western panhandle of Nebraska and says she did not realize how much

being able to experience the history of sites such as Chimney Rock, Scottsbluff Monument, Fort Laramie and other nearby sites along the Oregon - California Trail would continue into her adult years. "Now the preservation of

landmarks along the Southern Trail and the sharing of its history is very important to me."

Following high school graduation she attended and graduated from Methodist Hospital School of Nursing in Dallas, TX, where she met and married her husband of 47 years. In 1973, they moved to Silver City, NM, where their three boys were included in the discovery of the history and trails of the Southwest. Bell was involved in Cub Scouts on the local and district level for many years.

She earned a master's degree with emphasis on Southwestern history from Western New Mexico University in 1993. While

adjunct professor at WNMU, Bell included many field trips along the Southern Trail. She served as board member of the New Mexico Historical Society and has presented several papers.

She has also served as president of the Fort Bayard Historic Preservation Society and chairperson of its annual Fort Bayard Days, which includes a School Day for over 500 elementary students.

Bell has been involved in Southern Trails for five years and has attended several symposiums and two OCTA Conventions.

*Endorsed by: Jack Fletcher, David Miller and Reba Wells Grandrud.*

## Jere Krakow



As an OCTA Board member at present, Jere Krakow decided to put his name in nomination for a second term. "During my first term the focus of much of my energy has been on preservation of trail resources, and the role of preservation officer at the chapter level. Chairing an ad hoc committee, we completed

a description of the role and responsibilities of that very important volunteer position. It has been finalized and distributed," he said.

During his first term on the Board, Krakow served on Committee B which

completed several assignments regarding OCTA policies and procedures. "I have undertaken board responsibilities with energy and have attended all board meetings since being elected."

The last six years Krakow has been an advocate for OCTA at the annual Partnership for the National Trails System "Hike the Hill" event in Washington,

D.C. As the representative for OCTA to the partnership this year, he volunteered on the program committee for the 2013 biennial conference, and met with several congressional staff members to thank and encourage them to support the national trails system.

Krakow's qualifications besides what is noted above, include being an active member for many years, a retired historian and trail superintendent of the National Park Service, and a traveler along nearly every route of the Oregon and California National Historic Trails.

*Endorsed by: Camille Bradford, David Welch, and Barb Netherland*

## Marketing Intern On the Job for OCTA

By Travis Boley  
*tboley@indepmo.org*

Kelsy Sackrey, a junior at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, is double-majoring in Urban Planning and Political Science and has joined the Oregon-California Trails Association as a PR/Marketing intern.

As OCTA's intern, she will be responsible for myriad projects that may encompass media relations, marketing, and promotions. Duties may include writing PR materials or marketing copy including press releases, website copy, coordinating program books and specialty publications, managing PR archives and photo resources, coordinating guests for live radio broadcasts, preparing media kits, planning special events or promotions, working with others to improve communication efforts, interacting with outside design vendors and members of the media, outreach to elected officials and government staff at all levels, assisting with social media outreach efforts, and assisting OCTA's overall marketing and PR campaigns.

Kelsy has already completed her first project for OCTA, putting together a database of contact information for Kansas City-area elected officials and their staffs, as well as city and county agency staff responsible for trail resources throughout the entire metropolitan region. This database was used

to reach out to nearly 200 people to invite them to the Kansas City Trails Conference, held on March 14-15. We will continue to expand and use this list as we move forward in building the 40-mile long retracement trail in the Three Trails Corridor from Sugar Creek, MO, to the junction at Gardner, Kansas. This project meshes perfectly with her Urban Planning degree.

She is in the process of setting up other social media pages for OCTA. We already have an active Facebook page, but she has now established a presence on Twitter and will create pages on Pinterest, Instagram, and Tumblr. These forms of social media largely work in tandem with one another, making the updating process time much shorter and efficient.

In the near future, she will begin assembling media plans for the August convention in Kearney, NE, and the symposium next fall in Newton, KS. This will include developing a media contact list and reaching out to local newspapers, radio stations, and television stations.

She brings with her an extensive background interfacing with elected officials, having worked on the campaigns of Senator Claire McCaskill, Governor Jay Nixon, and State Representative Tom Shively. Kelsy has already started regularly attending local city council meetings and getting to know local elected officials. She grew up in St. Catharine, MO, and

graduated from Brookfield High School in 2010. In 2012, Kelsy lived in Ghana and worked as a teacher of local rural children. Her passions include children's rights advocacy and volunteering with the homeless.

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NEW MEMBERS

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Cynthia Barker, Seattle WA  
Jason Bogstie, Cheyenne WY  
Kevin Campbell, Glenrock WY  
Shelly Covert and James McCoog,  
Grass Valley CA  
Tom Ellis, Topeka KS  
Susan Gardner, Beaverton OR  
Lesley Gaunt, Scottsbluff NE  
Amanda Gibbs, Gering NE  
Jefferson Glass, Evansville WY  
Helen Hankins, Spring Creek NV  
Michael Haynes, San Antonio TX  
Diane and Peter Hecht, Boise ID  
Tom Kiniry, Fairfield PA  
Gerald and Rosette Koch,  
Concord CA  
Paula J. Lazzarini, Seattle WA  
Hunter Mathews, Austin TX  
Keith McDowell, Livermore CA  
Bruce and Jane Myers, Topeka KS  
Stephen Ray Olsen, Orem UT  
Scott Parker, Dahlgren VA  
Cathy Peppers and Robert Picard,  
Idaho Falls ID  
Walter Schumm, Manhattan KS  
Richard Steers Eugene OR  
Lee Vestal, South Lake Tahoe CA  
Kathy White, Omaha NE  
David and Roz Wright,  
Pleasanton CA

# LEGISLATIVE LIAISON

*By Bill and Jeanne Watson  
Legislative Liaisons*

Many thanks to the rest of you Active Trail Volunteers. Collectively we donated travel totaling 210,000 miles and invested nearly 95,000 hours in our trails-related work. These significant volunteer contributions plus our NPS staff's effective projects were received "On The Hill" in Washington, D.C., with great appreciation and admiration.

With the help of Hunter Mathews, our grandson, we had 12 meetings with key House and Senate staff members and gained several new supporters for our trails. We also met with new BLM Director Neil Kornze, our friend and a former key Senate staffer.

This was our 17th OCTA Report to Congress written and began our 29th year on the Hill on behalf of our trails. The final evening, we both spoke at the retirement dinner for our Park Service friend Steve Elkinton - their first National Trails System Coordinator.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of Jere Krakow, OCTA's Representative to the Partnership for the National Trails System, and Greg McEachron, Southern Trails Chapter, who made a number of visits during the annual "Hike the Hill" event.

Travis Boley helped by attending some of the Federal Agency meetings. We greatly missed Vern and Carol Osborne, our Co-Vice Chairs.

The Compromise 2014 Federal Budget quietly restored some cuts to our Trail programs although the

overall Federal Agency budgets were not increased. Because of OCTA's 2013 Achievements and our Agency Partners' very effective use of every federal dollar received, our House and Senate contacts assured us they will continue the same level of funding in the 2015 Fiscal Budget. Subsequently, the new budget provides for funding at 2012 levels, but there is no carry-over of sequestration cuts, according to NPS Long Distance Trails Superintendent Aaron Mahr.

It is a good thing that we do not have any trails legislation



awaiting action by Congress. Because of the House and Senate differences apparently no trails bills will pass during the remainder of this Congress. All bills that were introduced and not passed before the end of this two-year session will automatically die. We remind you that it took us three Congressional sessions to get the California and Pony Express National Historic Trails designated and four sessions to get the currently ongoing Additional Routes Feasibility Study authorized.

We talked with Congressional contacts about our Four

Trails Additional Routes Study that the Park Service Intermountain Region Trails staff expects to complete later this year. Each National Historic Trail is authorized by Congress and must meet the National Trails Act criteria including a specific theme and time period. Oregon's theme is Westward Expansion and California's is the Gold Rush. It appears that Congressional support can be mustered for those study routes that meet the Trails Act criteria including each trail's theme and time period. Congress is aware that many of these study routes do not add more trail miles but add another National Trails logo and expand the interpretation for that segment of an existing

National Trail. Our Park Service Intermountain Trails team is planning for public review of the study package later this year. Congress assigned them final responsibility to recommend those study routes that they determine meet these criteria.

Krakow and McEachron made good headway with congressional contacts regarding the Southern Trail. A sponsor must be found to introduce the study authorization bill for these routes. After a bill number is assigned, OCTA can mount a full campaign to gain Congressional support utilizing full Legislative Committee members' contacts and launching an OCTA membership letter writing campaign. With continued persistence and patience, in time this will occur.

# “Hiking the Hill” to Support Trails Initiatives

*By Jere L. Krakow  
OCTA Board Member*

From February 7-15, 2014, several OCTA members participated in the latest version of “Hike the Hill” in Washington, D.C. Along with Bill and Jeanne Watson, Greg McEachron, and Travis Boley, I called on several offices of members of Congress, and attended a congressional committee meeting and one with managers of several Department of Interior agencies. I represented OCTA in the Congressional meetings, while Boley attended meetings with federal agency partners.

Some 25-30 contacts were made with congressional staff, members of Congress, House and Senate committees, and federal agencies. It was a very busy time, complicated by a snowstorm that dropped 10 inches of snow on the city.

On Sunday the Partnership for the National Trails System (OCTA is a member) Board and leadership committee met in a business session from 9-4:30 p.m. President Liz Bergeron (Pacific Crest Trail Association) moved the agenda along in a timely manner. For the 2013 calendar, the Partnership after expenses had a net income of \$13,209.21.

Governance of the Partnership remains static with the Leadership Council role still uncertain as the report recommending changes in governance in 2012 has yet to be implemented. The report will be revisited in 2014.

The Financial Sustainability Work Group: Dues Structure and Membership is preparing

recommendations to make changes in the formula for Partnership dues. A ratio based on member organization income and number of members will be brought forth and dues for member organizations will increase, some quite significantly. As a member organization OCTA's dues will likely be substantially greater and will require our careful consideration of cost and benefits.

This year in calling on staff of members of Congress, attention to the compilation of volunteer hours and dollars served well as demonstrating the partnership of OCTA with federal agencies, and dozens of other organizations and governments along thousands of miles of trails.

In 2013, OCTA members donated 94,697 hours valued at \$2,096,592, and \$489,389 of private contributions. Preliminary totals for member organizations of the Partnership totaled 1,111,506 hours valued at \$24,608,743, and private contributions of \$10,684,851. Collectively we make a huge difference in multiplying congressionally appropriated dollars. Please continue to report your volunteer hours, miles and dollars contributed.

Through OCTA participants our message to Congress expressed thanks for present support and for continuing support. Once again we urged them to continue to increase the amount of funding in the Land and Water Conservation Fund generated by royalties from offshore oil production. These funds provide for public projects in every state across the country in the amount capped by law at

\$900,000,000 annually, from a total income to the United States of approximately \$16 billion each year.

The most repeated message we delivered continues to be asking for a sponsor in the House or Senate for a Feasibility-Suitability Study of the Southern Trail routes. Once again we did not persuade anyone to sponsor, however more interest seemed to be expressed, in particular by Sen. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico. This serves as motivation to continue seeking a sponsor in Congress and underscores the importance of each OCTA member developing a relationship with staff in their home district. An invitation to tour them along the trail routes and attend chapter meetings is also very, very important. The work continues.

OCTA representatives and others of the Partnership continue to express the need for resuming funding for the quite successful Challenge Cost Share Program in the federal agencies, and the need to remove restrictions on travel by federal agencies, especially the National Park Service. Partnerships are maintained and developed through face to face meetings and heavily restricted travel works against that goal.

In summary the “Hike the Hill” event reinforced the idea of citizen participation in matters of significant concern for OCTA members, and the concern of the trail associations that are members of the Partnership for the National Trails System. The national trails system is strongly supported in a bipartisan way by the congress.

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# FROM THE PRESIDENT

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## Making History Attractive

By John Krizek  
[jkrizek33@gmail.com](mailto:jkrizek33@gmail.com)

There are two bellwether events this Spring that I hope portend the future for OCTA and trail preservation.

One is the multi-million dollar, 40-mile historic and recreational trail project through the metropolitan Kansas City Area, from the Wayne City Landing on the Missouri west into Kansas. By the time you read this, those of us attending the Mid-year Board meeting in Independence will have had the tour of this project, which has been touted in detail by Association Manager Travis Boley in previous issues of the NFP. This unprecedented project to bring together many municipalities and agencies in a cooperative effort to celebrate a common legacy will become, we hope, a shining example for other urban areas where multiple trail resources overlap.

Boley has played a key leadership role in bringing this project to fruition.

The other event is the grand opening of the New Fork River Crossing park near Pinedale,

Wyoming, June 21. This we hope will be a shining example of a successful mitigation project in the rural, energy-driven West.

From its inception as an OCTA-facilitated acquisition of the site along the Lander Road, the New Fork River Crossing project has

to develop the sites with access, parking, signage, interpretation, foot and vehicle traffic flow in mind—all with the goal of improving public access to, and appreciation and consumption of the trail history experience.

In the case of Alcove Springs, the

process included meetings with local citizens and other stakeholders to get their input on design and implementation strategy.

In Kansas City, the project included years of involvement by the Park Service experts. As in many urban areas, our historic trails, and scenic and recreational trails, frequently follow the same corridors. It makes sense to let all those hikers and bikers know they are following

historic paths.

Making history attractive and accessible to the public—in our urban areas as well as out in the rural West—is essential if we are to succeed in our long-term goal of preserving and honoring our trail history.

Bravo to all concerned and a special thank-you to Superintendent Aaron Mahr and his staff at the Long Distance Office of the National Park Service.

### WANTED

Someone to fill the vacant role of OCTA Fundraising Committee chair.

Should be familiar with terms like Planned Giving, Estate Planning, and Charitable Trusts and have a desire to help people help their favorite cause.

If you are interested contact OCTA President John Krizek

[jkrizek33@gmail.com](mailto:jkrizek33@gmail.com).

been shepherded by Clint Gilchrist of the Sublette County Historical Society and encouraged by the Wyoming chapter.

To this I should add the revamping of Alcove Springs Park in Kansas, which is continuing under the watchful eye of OCTA Past President Duane Iles.

At all three sites, the National Park Service sent in its team of planners, landscape architects, designers, and marketing experts,



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**[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)**

## Members Respond Generously to Annual Fund Drive

By Kathy Conway  
Headquarters Manager

Our Annual Fund Drive will conclude late this spring – we are hoping to reach our goal of \$23,500 and we are getting so close.

If you haven't contributed yet, please consider making your donation soon. Send by mail to:

OCTA, PO Box 1019,  
Independence MO 64051; or  
contribute on-line at: [www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

Our progress report as of  
February 25, 2014:

|              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| General Fund | \$11,386        |
| Education    | 500             |
| Endowment    | 960             |
| Preservation | 5,710           |
| Designated   | 1,000           |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>\$19,556</b> |

Contributors since the printing of  
the last *NFP* issue):

Hank Abraham  
Barbara Abrahamer  
Paul Ackerman  
Jay and Susan Aldous  
Eva Allen  
Carol Bachhuber  
Jim Barr  
Todd and Betty Berens  
Tom and Dee Birch  
Joyce Bolerjack  
Frank and Laurie Brown  
Margaret Bowen  
Bonnie Breen-Wagner  
John and Roseann Carpenter  
Barbara Cogorno  
Lynn A. Corson

Connie Crump  
Ruth Davis  
Leona and Donald Davis Fund  
Ronald Downs  
Douglas Duncan  
Raymond and Maura Egan  
Peg Espy  
Bob Evanhoe  
Cathy Galbraith  
Robert Gibbs  
Clint Gilchrist  
William F. Gloy  
John P Harman  
Walt and Margaret Hauter  
Richard Herman  
Cheryl Hoffman  
Robert Hovey  
Herbert Hunn  
Robert A Iverson  
Doug Johnson  
Billie Johnson  
Leon Jones  
Robert and Hedy Jones  
Garth Kendig  
Polly Kennison  
Jerry and Jane Kirkpatrick  
Carol Koroghlanian  
Jere and Jan Krakow  
Eric A Laura  
Kalista Lehrer  
Hugh and Carol March  
Ross and Shirley Marshall  
Bill Martin  
A. Ford Maurer  
Don McCarter  
Carole McClellan  
Carolyn and Gordon McGregor  
LaDene Morton  
Amy Murphy  
Shirley Myers  
Jud Mygatt  
Dave and Donna Newberry  
Hiko Oda  
James Owen

Lethene Parks  
Jerry Peppers  
Dick and Penelope Peterson  
Henry and Glenna Pittcock  
James and Sallie Riehl  
Louis Ritten  
Sue Salt  
Marley Shurtleff  
Nancy Sicotte  
Donald Siebert  
Gibbs Smith  
Malcolm Smith  
Mrs Leo Stovall  
Allen Stultz  
Linda Turner  
Cam Wade  
Gary Werer  
Allen and Sandra Wiechert  
Kirke Wilson  
Dick and Joan Young

Thank you OCTA Members – your  
generosity is tremendous!

Don't forget we have many trails  
items for sale in the OCTA store  
including books, back issues of  
the *Overland Journal*, and other  
products. Your support of the store  
is an outstanding benefit to OCTA.

Another way you can support  
the association is by obtaining an  
OCTA credit card. If you sign up  
and obtain a card, then use it just  
once, we receive a \$50 bonus fee.  
Contact us for details at 888-811-  
6282.





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The **National Frontier Trails Museum** in Independence, Missouri brings the pioneer experience on the trails to life. The only museum in the nation certified to interpret the Lewis & Clark, Santa Fe, Oregon, California and Mormon Pioneer trails, the **National Frontier Trails Museum** offers:

- A unique collection of original artifacts and special exhibits
- Firsthand written accounts, travel diaries and journals
- Interactive displays, audio guides and gallery walks
- Children's programs and activities
- A robust research library
- A gift store with the region's largest selection of trails books and merchandise

Pack your provisions, circle the wagons and saddle up for a visit to the **National Frontier Trails Museum** where the West welcomes you, the journey begins and your adventure awaits.

318 W. Pacific • Independence, MO 64050 • [www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org](http://www.FrontierTrailsMuseum.org)

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|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
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| Little Hap's Bar and Grill   | 211 2nd St            | Home, KS        |
| Lewis Seed & Fertilizer, Inc | 208 2nd St            | Home, KS        |
| Wagon Wheel Café             | 703 Broadway          | Marysville, KS  |
| Weaver Hotel                 | 126 S Kansas          | Waterville KS   |
| Trails N Rails               | 400 Broadway          | Marysville KS   |
| Heritage Inn Express         | 1155 Pony Express Hwy | Marysville, KS  |
| First Commerce Bank          | 902 Broadway          | Marysville KS   |
| Y Loop Road Trips            | PO Box 222,           | Wapiti WY       |
| American Fire and Safety     | PO Box 272            | St Joseph, MO   |

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- OCTA Trail Map

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[www.octa-trails.org](http://www.octa-trails.org)

## Colorado Chapter Shares Trail Stories

*By Berl Meyer  
Chapter President*

Dr. Gary Roberts, Emeritus Professor of History, Abraham Baldwin College, presented “Colorado and the Burden of Sand Creek” at our first chapter meeting this year. The lecture was sponsored by the Tesoro Cultural Foundation at the Denver Public Library.

Last fall we presented an award to Sharon Danhauer for her fine service to our chapter.

I will be making a presentation in Gatlinburg, TN, in April, “Cherokee Trail: The Rest of the Story.” It will contain some of the presentation that I gave in Colorado Springs last summer and will include new details about the Cherokees after they settled in Oklahoma and traveled on to the California Gold Rush.

We had very successful meetings last summer in Pueblo and Colorado Springs. In Pueblo, our new by-laws were adopted. To read the minutes of both these meetings, please visit our website and click the link to Cherokee Trail Chapter News. On the same page is a link to the information on the Mariano Medina plaque dedication in May, and the Virginia Dale event in June.

This summer, we plan to have Mike Olsen, vice president of the Santa Fe Trail Association, attend

an event at the Pioneer Museum in Colorado Springs to speak about his new book *That Broad & Beckoning Highway: The Santa Fe Trail and the Rush for Gold in California and Colorado*.

We are also planning a joint meeting with the folks at the 17 Mile House near Denver.

Other plans are for a chapter excursion on the Highway of Legends beginning near Walsenburg, CO.

From the byway, you can see views of the Spanish Peaks as you travel through the San Isabel National Forest.

We also plan to visit Fort Garland near Alamosa, CO and tour the Trinidad History Museum which includes the Bloom and Baca houses in Trinidad. Both these attractions are run by History Colorado. If you are a member of this organization, the admission is free.

## Chapter Seeks New Mapping Committee Members

*By Bruce Watson*

We are seeking interested members to assist in mapping trails. The only requirement is a desire to be actively involved in locating and mapping the trail. This involves research, translating the same into either software or topographical maps, and boots-on-the-ground to locate and document the trail.

Knowledge of mapping (townships, ranges, sections, etc.) and GPS usage are helpful, but not necessary. We can bring you up to speed.

Our six members presently cover the following areas:

- ❖ One member lives in Canon City and has Otero and Pueblo County; Bent’s Fort to the El Paso County line.
- ❖ Another lives in the Black Forest and has El Paso County.
- ❖ Two members live in the Parker area, and have from the El Paso County line north to Cherry Creek Reservoir.
- ❖ Two members cover the area from Cherry Creek Reservoir north to the Wyoming state line.

Limiting ourselves to specific areas reasonably close to our homes allows relatively short-distance field trips. If you have an interest in this endeavor, please contact me: [bgwatson@comcast.net](mailto:bgwatson@comcast.net). We hope to have an all-day mapping meeting in the spring, but don’t wait until then to link up.

We promise you a challenging experience!

# NEWS FROM CROSSROADS

## Chapter To Learn about Historic Tree Blazes Along Trail

*By A. Oscar Olson*

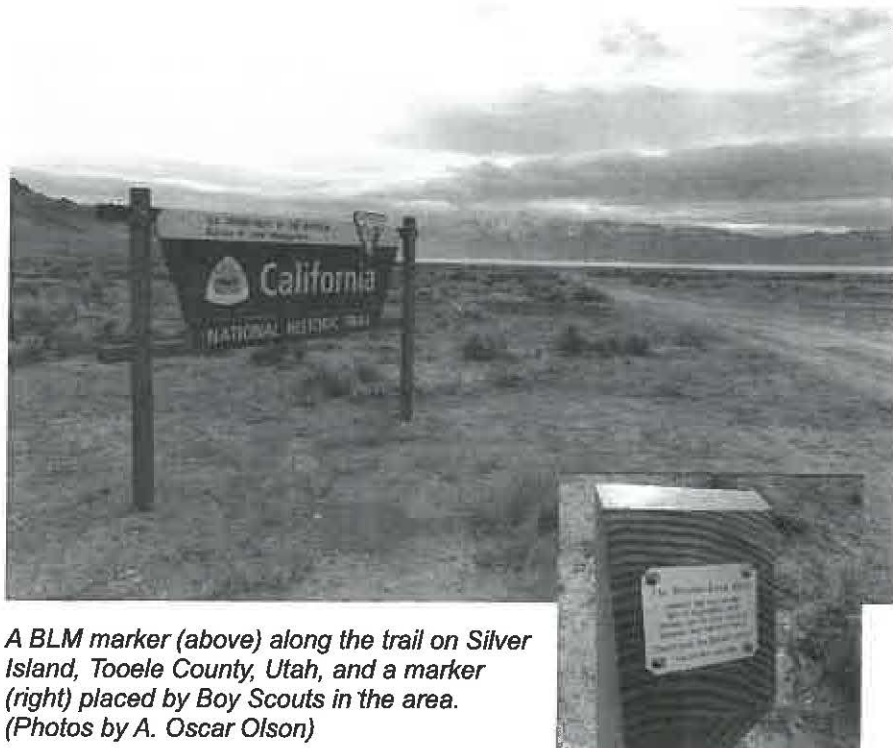
More than 300 historic tree blazes have been identified on the Spanish Trail, which will be the topic Bob Leonard talks about at the Spring Membership Meeting of Utah Crossroads Chapter, to be held April 24 in the County Chambers. Crossroads is showing more interest in the Spanish Trail as it is also a part of the SLSCR (Salt Lake Southern California Route) pioneer emigrant road.

President Gar Elison has reported that Crossroads has been granted access to some emigrant diaries from COED that pertain to emigrants, trails and diaries from this area and should prove interesting.

We also need to sadly report on at least two chapter members who have passed away from our midst recently, H. Rush Spedden and Marie Irvine. We will miss their valuable contributions and efforts to further trail research. If there were others, I apologize for omitting.

Crossroads member Jesse Petersen authored an article in the recent *Utah Historical Quarterly* on Captain Howard Stansbury and his survey out and around the Great Salt Lake, 1849-1850. Good job Jesse.

Ray Kelsey from BLM has done much work to help mark trails in western Utah with official BLM signage. I recently observed a new one on Silver Island, western Utah Donner trail sites. Way to go Ray Kelsey and BLM efforts.



A BLM marker (above) along the trail on Silver Island, Tooele County, Utah, and a marker (right) placed by Boy Scouts in the area. (Photos by A. Oscar Olson)

## NPS Challenge Cost Share Program Changes

*By Marley Shurtleff*

In the early 2000s, OCTA chapters and individuals applied for a large number of National Park Service Challenge Cost Project (CCS) grants, which matched NPS funds with OCTA member volunteer hours.

Many marking projects and specialty work of great benefit such as COED/Immigrant Names, were completed because of the financial support from the National Park Service program.

The change in governmental support for the program because of the recession that began in

2008, plus our membership's more limited ability to tackle large projects in recent years, led to a rapid decline in applications for CCSP projects by individuals or chapters.

Additionally, the National Park Service Challenge Cost Share program, as previously designed, has recently been discontinued.

Now the program will change and be managed by OCTA Association Manager Travis Boley. Contact him at 888-811-6282 or by e-mail at [tboley@indepmo.org](mailto:tboley@indepmo.org) if you have any projects you want to undertake.

## Idaho Tours Introduce Trail to New People

*By Jerry Eichhorst  
IOCTA President and Webmaster*

The Idaho chapter will host the 2016 national OCTA convention at Fort Hall. With a beautiful new hotel and convention center, Fort Hall offers a great location with emigrant trail resources nearby in all directions. The chapter proposal calls for national OCTA to be

responsible for convention activities that do not require local expertise. Such a change in convention planning should yield benefits due to acquired expertise and would greatly assist small chapters such as Idaho.

The Idaho chapter enjoyed another great year in 2013. We had a number of well-attended activities and once again saw trail

areas which the chapter had not visited for a number of years. We were joined by a number of visitors, some of whom have already joined OCTA and IOCTA. We shared a joint tour of part of the Hudspeth Cutoff with the Utah Crossroads chapter and greatly appreciate the effort of Gar Elison to arrange and lead the tour.

Plans are well underway to ensure that 2014 is also an excellent year. I will be teaching Boise Community Education classes in March and of-

fering an Oregon Trail tour for the participants. Our spring meeting will be May 3 at Pocatello with a tour of Oregon Trail sites west of Pocatello. The schedule of activities for the year will be established at the meeting and posted to the website ([www.IdahoOCTA.org](http://www.IdahoOCTA.org)) afterwards.

### Letter to the Editor

### Correction on Trail Site Location in Kansas

Candy,

In the Winter 2014 *NFP* Vol XXIX NO. 1, Page 3: The story "Kansas Trail Sites Recommended for National Historic Register" needs to be corrected. In the second column, the words "Scott Spring, near Wamego, KS, owned by Jim and Marian Bradley, was recently added to the National Register and ...." Please correct this to read "Scott Spring, near Westmoreland, KS, owned by Jim and Marian Bradley, was recently added to the National Register and ...." Also, FYI, our farm has swales on it that are part of that parcel that is on the National Register. The farm is eight-tenths of a mile south of the town of Westmoreland, and 13 miles from Wamego.

Thanks,  
Marian and Jim Bradley  
Scott Farm on The Oregon Trail  
Westmoreland, KS



*Idaho Boy Scouts install a sign along the Oregon Trail as part of a project in cooperation with the Idaho Chapter. (Photo by Jerry Eichhorst)*

# Joint Effort Preserves Historic Trail Rock

*By Frank Tortorich*

In the Sierra Nevada, there are unique rocks with rust stains resulting from thousands of emigrants' wagon wheels rubbing against them. One such rock was located on the edge of California State Highway 88, 1.3 miles west of Carson Pass, at the very edge of the highway pavement. It also happens to be where the Carson River Route of the California Emigrant Trail crosses Highway 88 in the Eldorado National Forest.

Members of CA-NV chapter of OCTA have been keeping a protective eye on this rock for over 30 years. They have been diligent in keeping CalTrans (California Department of Transportation) and the USFS informed about this rock's historic significance for fear of CalTrans damaging this rock during routine highway maintenance.

CalTrans has a master plan to widen all mountain highways with five-foot buffers on either sides of the highway. If, or when, this happens, this rock would be bulldozed, lost forever.

For several years, the CA-NV members have been talking with USFS archaeologists about some way to protect this rock from being destroyed. One suggestion was the possibility of relocating it in front of the USFS Carson Pass Information Station. The plan would include an interpretive sign explaining its historical significance and how the rust stains came to be left on it.

During the past year working

with Erik Whiteman, USFS archaeologist for the Amador Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest, movement of the rock went from discussion to action. Whiteman approved relocating the rock, and CalTrans



*Once hauled to a new location, the historic rock is again handled carefully as it is put into place by CalTrans employees. This is an example of agency cooperation and OCTA involvement.*

provided labor.

On October 18, 2013, eight CalTrans employees from the Caples Lake maintenance station took extra care to move this rock

The first estimate of this rock's size was approximately 2 yards long and about 1½ yards wide. As the work progressed, exposing more of this rock, the size grew to be roughly four times larger than first estimated.

The backhoe operator worked with great caution, with the rest of us bystanders holding our breath, as the rock was slowly lifted from its bottom side. It became obvious upon closer observation that this huge rock had several natural fracture lines and we feared that

the rock would split apart.

The rock did split and as luck would have it, it split in the best possible place. The bottom two-thirds of this rock broke off, leaving the top third completely intact, the section with the rust stains.

Next a tow strap was cautiously placed under and around the middle of the top third of this rock. With the strap acting as a sling attached to the bucket of the backhoe, the backhoe operator carefully and slowly lifted the rock out of its hole. The loader was moved into place and the rock was gently placed in the bucket of the loader.

The rock was slowly transported along what felt like the longest 1.3 miles on the highway to Carson Pass.

The backhoe operator dug a hole just large enough to contain this section of rock and it was repositioned into

its new location. The CalTrans workers shoveled dirt around the rock, giving the appearance of it always having been there.

This event is an example of what OCTA can do if we are patient, continue to monitor our sensitive trail resources, and stay involved with the local agencies, such as USFS, BLM, state and county highway departments, ski resorts or any groups that might impact our Trails by giving them an opportunity to be part of preserving the Trails.

CA-NV will be presenting the CalTrans crew with a picture poster and certificate of appreciation for their good work in relocating this rock.

**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

**AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 AND 2012**

|  | <u>9/30/2013</u>        | <u>9/30/2012</u>        |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b><u>Assets</u></b>                           |                         |                         |
| Cash and Cash Equivalents:                     |                         |                         |
| General Operating Accounts                     | 35,519                  | 17,706                  |
| Restricted Accounts                            | 16,586                  | 9,586                   |
| Accounts Receivable                            | 1,619                   | 9,933                   |
| Prepaid Expenses                               | 1,000                   | 1,813                   |
| Inventory (at cost)                            | 38,039                  | 40,196                  |
| Investments (Endowment Funds)                  | 1,173,132               | 1,048,854               |
| Intangible Asset-Film, net of amortization     | 250,272                 | 286,025                 |
| Furniture and Equipment-Cost Less Depreciation | <u>4,053</u>            | <u>5,052</u>            |
| <b>Total Assets</b>                            | <u><u>1,520,220</u></u> | <u><u>1,419,165</u></u> |
| <br><b><u>Liabilities</u></b>                  |                         |                         |
| Accounts Payable                               | 49,836                  | 41,915                  |
| Deferred Revenue                               | <u>11,596</u>           | <u>4,590</u>            |
| <b>Total Liabilities</b>                       | <u><u>61,432</u></u>    | <u><u>46,505</u></u>    |
| <br><b><u>Net Assets</u></b>                   |                         |                         |
| Unrestricted:                                  |                         |                         |
| Designated by Governing Board                  | 447,535                 | 395,542                 |
| Represented by Film and Furniture & Equipment  | 254,325                 | 291,076                 |
| General  | <u>26,341</u>           | <u>27,740</u>           |
|  | 728,201                 | 714,358                 |
| Temporarily Restricted                         | 291,488                 | 233,078                 |
| Permanently Restricted                         | <u>439,099</u>          | <u>425,224</u>          |
| Total Net assets                               | <u><u>1,458,788</u></u> | <u><u>1,372,660</u></u> |
| <br><b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>    | <u><u>1,520,220</u></u> | <u><u>1,419,165</u></u> |

**OREGON-CALIFORNIA TRAILS ASSOCIATION**  
**STATEMENT OF**  
**ACTIVITIES**  
**FOR THE YEARS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2013 and 2012**

|  | <u>9/30/13</u>       | <u>9/30/12</u>       |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Operating Revenues</b>                                |                      |                      |
| National Park Service                                    | 226,212              | 154,236              |
| Membership Dues  | 73,026               | 75,670               |
| Convention and Symposium                                 | 72,016               | 62,707               |
| Contributions  | 37,455               | 29,068               |
| Investment Income Allocated to Operations                | 10,000               | -                    |
| Book and Mdse. Sales, Net of Costs                       | 9,647                | 13,281               |
| Other  | <u>7,437</u>         | <u>8,698</u>         |
| <b>Total Operating Revenues</b>                          | <u>435,793</u>       | <u>343,660</u>       |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>                                |                      |                      |
| Board and Officers                                       | 20,458               | 17,983               |
| Committees   | 33,672               | 27,341               |
| Administration and Management                            | 186,207              | 183,270              |
| Publications   | 47,795               | 49,819               |
| Convention and Symposium                                 | 63,701               | 47,945               |
| Signs  | 25,000               | -                    |
| Challenge Cost Share Program                             | -                    | 12,090               |
| Other  | <u>57,704</u>        | <u>24,493</u>        |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>                          | <u>434,537</u>       | <u>362,941</u>       |
| <b>Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets from Operations</b> | <u>1,256</u>         | <u>(19,281)</u>      |
| <b>Non Operating Income (Deductions)</b>                 |                      |                      |
| Endowment Fund Investment Income                         | 110,403              | 149,695              |
| Film Amortization  | (35,753)             | (35,753)             |
| Endowment Fund Contributions                             | <u>10,222</u>        | <u>2,844</u>         |
| <b>Total Non Operating Income (Deductions) Net</b>       | <u>84,872</u>        | <u>116,786</u>       |
| <b>Increase in Net Assets</b>                            | <u><u>86,128</u></u> | <u><u>97,505</u></u> |



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