

AGENDA

OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
MAY 18, 1991

- I. INTRODUCTIONS
- II. APPROVAL OR MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
- III. STATUS REPORTS
- IV. TRAIL CONDITION ASSESSMENT AND USER COUNT
- V. OZARK TRAIL DAY
- VI. OZARK TRAIL SIGN ORDER
- VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

MINUTES OF THE  
MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
May 18, 1991

PARTICIPANTS

Barbara Muhlack	Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter
Ramon D. Gass	Mo. Dept. Conservation (Forest)
Jim McInroe	American Youth Hostels
Bruce Linders	American Youth Hostels
Rick Magnus	U.S. Forest Service
Bill Alden	Mark Twain National Forest
Jim Roles	U.S. Forest Service
Craig Stubblefield	NPS Ozark Riverways
Dan Wedemeyer	DNR Johnson Shut-Ins State Park
Debbie Schnack	DNR Trail Coordinator

The May 18, 1991 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 am at the Meramec State Park dining lodge. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, who was representing Council Chairman, Wayne Gross.

Following the introductions, the minutes of the last meeting of October 3, 1990 were approved as written.

STATUS REPORTS

**Sierra Club:** Barb stated that the club held three maintenance outings on the Trace Creek Section, two on the Pioneer Forest and one in the Crane Lake Area since the last meeting. They also began construction work on the new Courtois Creek Section this spring. The Pioneer Forest segment is in good shape and probably will not receive additional attention until the fall.

**National Park Service (NPS):** Craig announced that the road and trails plan was in final printing and should be available soon. He will once again be receiving the services of the YCC who will be doing Ozark Trail maintenance in the riverways. Craig also reported that the new highway bridge at Van Buren had no pedestrian walkway planned. He thinks however, that the old bridge may be secured by the city. Craig will keep the council informed.

**US Forest Service (USFS):** Jim reported that the Current River and Between the Rivers Section are both in good shape, they both received a fair amount of work during the summer. The Eleven Point River Section still needs some general maintenance, primarily brush clearing, that will be done during the summer.

Five new vistas were created along the trail. The Girl Scouts are still maintaining the segment from Greer to McCormick Lake. Some improvements were made to the trail head at Highway 60 in the Between The Rivers Section. Jim informed the council that a Springfield television station had a feature on

trail volunteers and that he had gotten pretty good individual response, but when it came down to a real commitment, there were very few takers. Several council members stated that was a normal occurrence.

Bill reported that the Poplar Bluff district had constructed six miles of the Victory Section last year and would be constructing another six miles this year. The trail will be extended east toward Lake Wappapello. There is still an easement that is necessary to complete this segment. There was some discussion by the council that the Department of Natural Resources would be the logical agency to focus on securing the easements between the United States Forest Service boundary and the National Park Service boundary along the Current River. The Salem district did some trail head improvement at Sutton Bluff and at Highway 72. They also reconstructed approximately two miles of the Karkaghne Section to reduce some of the steepness. Bill stated that their districts were being encouraged to better identify the Ozark Trail crossings at all roads. This increases recognition for the trail and encourages shorter hikes. Everyone agreed this was a good idea. Rick reported that he had placed signs where the Ozark Trail crosses Highway 32, DD, and C. He has also done some investigating of potential crossings on Highways 49 and J although numerous easements are still needed in this area. On the Courtois Creek Section there are renewed efforts to link the Berryman Trail to the Huzzah Wildlife Area and attempts are still being made to secure the Highway 8 crossing. It was announced that Forest Recreation Opportunity Guides are available from the office which gives detailed information on each district. It was also noted that funds for trail construction and other recreation developments may be made available this year as a result of a special incentive being promoted by President Bush.

**American Youth Hostels (AYH):** Bruce informed the council that AYH would be sponsoring a week long hike once again on the Ozark Trail. The hike will be held October 13-19.

**Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC):** Ramon reported that efforts have been made since October, 1990 to gain access across private property to connect the Ozark Trail from the Forest Service to Huzzah State Forest to no avail. MDC is presently working on a possible connection from Forest Service Boundary to the Narrows Trail on Huzzah State Forest and has marked a tentative route for the trail on Huzzah State Forest.

On the Taum Sauk Section MDC has rerouted approximately one and three quarters miles from the Russell Mountain--Claybaugh Creek segment to the picnic area on Taum Sauk Mountain. This is a very scenic route and will be interesting to build.

Royce Flowers, Resource Forester, and Ramon have constructed a short section of trail from Claybaugh Creek Trailhead to the saddle (road) on the north boundary of Royal Gorge Natural Area. This area has been signed but will eventually need some digging, however it is usable as is.

They also opened the trail previously built on the west side of Ketcherside Mountain last December (1990), removed leaves, branches, and cut tree trunks. This spring they signed this stretch from the railroad tracks to the top of Ketcherside where the trail presently terminates.

Ramon and Rick have been looking into routing the trail from Chloride Road to Little Creek then up Little Creek to Ketcherside Mountain. Since there has been no response from two of the three land owners (contacted two times) the original route does not seem feasible. Royce Flowers knows the three owners that we will have to cross going up Little Creek so MDC is still working on permission to go that way.

One obstacle to building trail within the Department of Conservation, is funding. None of the districts involved have budgeted for trail construction. Therefore, if any trail is built it will be built by volunteers.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Debbie reported that she had attended an Arkansas Trail Council meeting on April 13, 1991. Arkansas has recently completed the trail through a state fish and wildlife area and along the Buffalo River. The Corps of Engineers is very interested in developing the trail in the Norfork Lake area but feels it would assist them if some of the Missouri Ozark Trail could be developed closer to their boundaries. Bill agreed to try to set up a meeting with the Corps to discuss a possible connecting point between the USFS and the Corps. Debbie announced that funds has been appropriated for the purchase of the Brawley property on Proffit Mountain. This purchase will close the final gap between Taum Sauk Mountain and Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park making the Ozark Trail secure in this area.

#### Trail Condition Assessment and User Counts:

At the last meeting some discussion was initiated on how to audit trail conditions equally on the entire Ozark Trail and how to conduct user counts. Members were to bring ideas to this meeting for continued discussion. Debbie passed out a sample trail assessment sheet that was patterned after the one used the Appalacian Trail Conference. Members reviewed the form and generally agreed it should be utilized. Ramon has committed to testing the form this fall by hiking the entire trail. He will report back to the council when he has completed his hike. Each agency will also receive a copy of the completed assessment form. In regard to the counting of trail users, Debbie passed out DNR plans of trail registration boxes and registration cards used to count trail users in state parks. There was some discussion if USFS could use DNR's cards as they exists or if there would need to be some changes. Bill will check the requirements. Ramon thought MDC could utilize the exiting cards.

#### Ozark Trail Day:

The council decided to once again sponsor Ozark Trail Day. It was decided that the event would be held October 12, 1991 at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. Debbie asked for a committee to help arrange the event. Bill Alden, Ramon Gass, Craig Stubblefield, and Dan Wedemeyer agreed to be on the committee. A committee meeting will be held some time in July.

#### Ozark Trail Signs:

Debbie requested that any agency that needed additional plastic Ozark Trail signs please provided her with the number needed and she would place the order. Invoices will be sent to each individual agency.

Other Business:

A request was made by Jim Roles that he be allowed to print the Ozark Trail symbol on tee shirts and polo shirts. The council approved the request.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council will be held on Thursday October 3, 1991 at 1:00 pm at the St. Charles Convention Bureau and Visitor Center.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 1:00 pm.

Prepared by: Debbie Schnack  
Debbie Schnack

Approved by: Wayne E. Gross  
Wayne E. Gross, Chairman



STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

ATTENTION:

THERE HAS BEEN A REQUEST TO CHANGE THE  
DATE OF THE NEXT OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
TO MAY 18, 1991. PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY  
FEBRUARY 8, IF THIS FITS INTO YOUR SCHEDULE.

DEBBIE SCHNACK

314-751-2479