

AGENDA

INTRODUCTION

APPROVAL OF MINUTES ON LAST MEETING

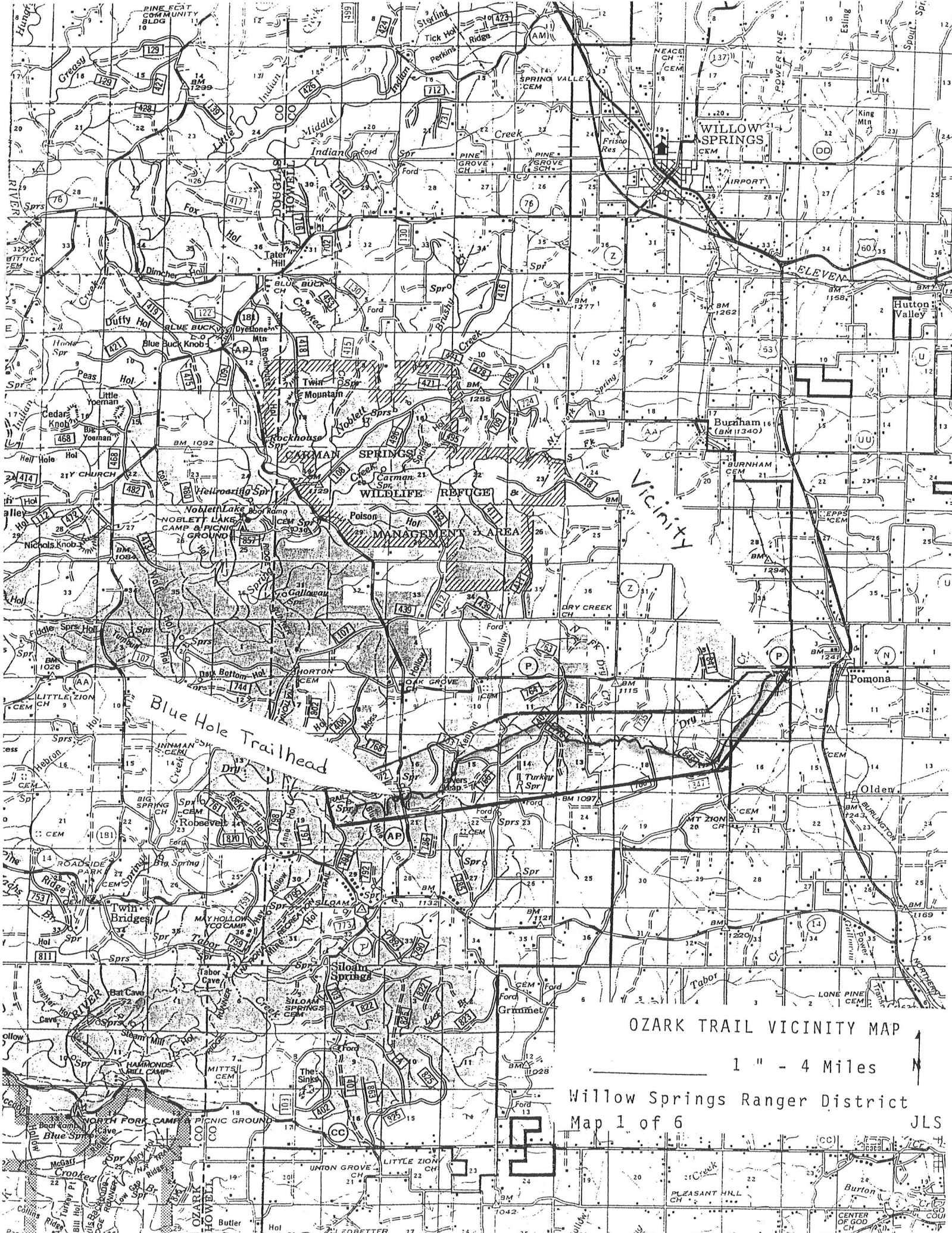
STATUS REPORTS

OZARK TRAIL CONDITION REPORT

OZARK TRAIL DAY

THE NATIONAL RECREATION TRAILS FUND ACT

NEXT MEETING DATE



Blue Hole Trailhead

OZARK TRAIL VICINITY MAP

1" - 4 Miles

Willow Springs Ranger District
Map 1 of 6

JLS

Vicinity

CARMAN SPRINGS
WILDLIFE REFUGE
MANAGEMENT AREA

WILLOW SPRINGS

Pomona

Olden

Burlington

Lone Pine

Burton

Center of God

North Fork Camp

Devils

Hammonds Hill Camp

Little Zion

Union Grove

Plasent Hill

Center of God

Reply to: 2310/1920

Date: 1 May 1992

Dear Council Member,

The Willow Springs Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest is proposing to construct and designate 34 miles of trail through Howell, Douglas and Ozark counties as part of the Ozark Trail system. This trail will showcase beautiful scenery, some of our Ozark cultural, geological, and biological heritage; and some of our National Forest management practices.

The development of the Ozark Trail is an ambitious project that has been undertaken by the members of the Ozark Trail Council, which includes state and federal land management agencies, trail user groups, and landowners. The trail is envisioned someday to extend from St. Louis through the Ozarks to the Arkansas state line. From there it will connect with the Ozark Highlands Trail and proceed west to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. Since you have indicated an interest in forest management issues, we are requesting a moment of your time to review the project description that follows and to give us your specific comments regarding project design.

In the first phase of this proposed project we will construct 14.3 miles of trail starting from a site one mile east of Pomona on Forest Service Road #835 (T.25N., R.9W., Sec 4, SESE) to an intersection with the Ridge Runner National Recreation Trail 1.4 miles west of the Blue Hole Trailhead (T.25N., R10W., Sec 20, SWNE). This trail shall be built to accommodate hikers, horse use, and mountain bikes. Motorized use will not be allowed. Eventually a trailhead will be constructed at the eastern terminus of the trail.

In the second phase of this proposed project the segment of the Ridge Runner National Recreation Trail from the Blue Hole junction south to the North Fork Trailhead, and from there through the Devil's Backbone Wilderness to the Collins Ridge Trailhead will be incorporated into this Ozark Trail system. Eventually a segment of trail from Collins Ridge Trailhead to a point in the south part of

the Devil's Backbone Wilderness T.24N.,R11W.,Sec 33, S1/2SE) will be designated as the final part of the Ozark Trail within the Willow Springs Ranger District boundary. All of the trail within the wilderness will be maintained for hiking and horse use, but not mountain bikes.

It is expected that the Ozark Trail Council will officially adopt this segment of the trail contingent upon completion of trail construction. The Little Rock District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is actively planning to construct their segment of the trail from Quarry Cove and Dam site in Arkansas to Tecumseh, Missouri (Norfolk Lake Project). The eastern segment of this trail system has been completed to the Eleven Point Ranger District of the Mark Twain National Forest.

Forest Plan standards and guides will be implemented on the construction, maintenance of the trail, and for other resource activities adjacent to the trail. Appendix F (page F-2) directs the district to consider all designated portions of the Ozark Trail as Sensitivity Level 1, within an area that has a Visual Quality Objective (VQO) of 'Retention'. While there will continue to be a variety of management practices adjacent to the trail, there are a number of mitigation measures to minimize visual impacts from management activities. A primary one to consider is residue treatment heights for designated travelways. By working through the Forest Plan matrix (page IV-34) the near foreground (0-300 feet) will have slash scattered to within 18 inches of the ground up to 300 feet away from the trail. This width is variable and determined for each project on a site specific basis. The actual depth of this zone must consider actual seen area based on landform and vegetative screening (page IV-33).

That portion of the trail within the Devil's Backbone Wilderness will be managed to maintain wilderness characteristics. The portion of the Ridge Runner National Recreation Trail to receive dual designation will be managed by Forest Plan direction and the approved Ridge Runner Trail Establishment Report.

Again, if you have any site specific comments we are requesting that they be received by our office no later than 22 May, 1992. Should you have any questions, concerns or comments, please direct them to either myself or Thomas Peters here at the Willow Springs Ranger Station, phone: 469-3155.

Sincerely,



DAVID M. SCHMIDTMAN
District Ranger

Enclosure

MINUTES OF THE
MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 2, 1992

PARTICIPANTS

Larry Furniss	U.S. Forest Service
Nick Donze	Missouri Park & Recreation Association
Barbara Muhlack	Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter
Craig Stubblefield	Ozark National Scenic Riverways
Greg Iffrig	Pioneer Forest
Mark Rowland	Department of Corrections
John Kurtzborn	Missouri Rambler
Rick Magnus	U.S. Forest Service
Bill Alden	U.S. Forest Service
Lynn McClure	U.S. Forest Service
Ramon D. Gass	Volunteer/ Dept. of Conservation
Jerry Viau	Volunteer
Andrew Jefferson,	Corps of Engineers, Wapappello Lake
Rebecca Hays	Corps of Engineers, Wapappello Lake
Tom Peters	U.S. Forest Service
Darsan Wang	U.S. Forest Service
Debbie Schnack	DNR Trail Coordinator

The May 2, 1992 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 am at the Fort Davidson Restaurant. 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, 1991 were approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

Debbie announced that agencies needing Ozark Trail Registration Cards could contact her and she would send the negative. Each agency will be responsible for printing their own cards just as they do the maps.

STATUS REPORTS

Forest Service

Darsan Wang reported that 70 miles of trail in the Eleven Point Ranger District are all in good condition, all received maintenance this past winter and the green and white Ozark Trail marker is being used to replace the gray diamond. Approximately 1/4 mile of trail on the Eleven Point River Section was rerouted to make better contact with the forest road 3152 trail head. The entrance was improved, but there is still a need to enlarge parking. The Dogwood Trails Girl Scout Council did light maintenance on the trail and adopted a four mile segment. The trail appears to be getting more group use and a fair amount of horse use.

currently seven access points to the trail starting at Highway 143 and continuing to Highway FF. The Corps has been reconstructing trail and rerouting segments that are a safety concern. These areas include Joe Bill Bluff and the Clarks Creek crossing. Andrew noted that they had gotten some good publicity on the trail from Bob Todd in the River Hills Traveler. An attempt will be made by the next meeting to have a recommended name for this section.

National Park Service

Craig: There will be a YCC program again this year with 8 students enrolled. They will be spending one week maintaining existing trail and putting up Ozark Trail signs. The park service plans some rehabilitation in the Rocky Falls area by building a parking area and restricting vehicles. The Roads and Trails Plan is complete and approved. It allows horses on all roads or trails unless prohibited. Therefore horse use is allowed on the Ozark Trail in park service boundaries. There have been requests from mountain bike users to use the trail but the park service is not allowing such use. There has been no new construction on the east loop this year, but it is included in the Roads and Trails Plan.

Sierra Club

Barb: The club has been working on the Courtois Creek Section of the trail and will continue to do so, in addition they have been maintaining the Blair Creek Section through Pioneer Forest. There has been a poor turn out for building and maintenance outings. The trail seems to be in good shape. Barb reported a concern about the trail in Peck Ranch. Apparently the trail was somewhat overgrown near an old pond with a dam crossing and several hikers had a hard time finding their way.

Larry (Popular Bluff District): Unlike the Willow Spring District there has been no significant opposition to trail construction, and seven miles of the Victory Section have been developed. The last construction effort linked the USFS with the Corps of Engineers at Lake Wapappello. They have also agreed on a designated spot to hook up with Ozark Scenic Riverways. Larry presented a map showing the planned route that is approximately 12 -15 miles long with an equal amount of landowners involved. It was pointed out that the USFS and NPS cannot obtain rights-of-way outside their boundaries so some other entity will need to assist in making the connection. Larry requested that the Victory Section be included on the priority list for a trail brochure. USGS maps and text need to be sent to Deb so she can prepare the camera ready copy. Bill indicated several other maps were needed. Larry brought up the issue of signing on the Forest Service portion of the trail. His primary concern was the gray diamond and its durability. There was much discussion concerning the use of the gray diamonds vs. the Ozark Trail marker vs. using paint blazes. No conclusions were reached but it was decided that the issue would be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

Corps of Engineers:

Andrew: No new trail was constructed, but all previously constructed areas were maintained. They will be constructing 3 - 5 miles this fiscal year. The Corps has reached a verbal agreement with a church in Piedmont, MO to do maintenance on the trail near Highway 34 bridge. Volunteers from the Mingo Job Corps will be assisting with new trail construction. The Corps will be attempting to secure a trail easement on the Woods property. There are

Rick presented maps showing the 12 mile trail the District is constructing around Council Bluff Lake. The trail will tie into the Ozark Trail at DD Highway about half way into the Trace Creek Section. Rick reported that the crossing on Highway 8 that will connect the Berryman Trail with the Trace Creek Section has been negotiated and will involve a land trade with the USFS. The route is attractive and should get a lot of horse use. The district is also developing a loop trail from Silver Mines campground to Patterson Hollow. It will eventually be connected to The Marble Creek Section. The Courtois Creek Section west of Berryman Trail is now connected to the Huzzah Wildlife Area. Rick is seeking permission to cross a piece of private property that will eliminate a mile of county road use. The owners want access to the trail for equestrian use so they may be willing to provide an easement.

Tom Peters (Willow Springs District): The district is proposing to construct 14.3 miles of new trail from Forest Service Road 835, west of Pomona, to connect with the Ridge Runner Trail near the Blue Hole Trailhead. The trail will continue along the Ridge Runner Trail, tie into Blue Hole to Collins trailhead and eventually tie into the Corps of Engineers trail at Norfolk Lake. The trail has been flagged and a cultural resource survey completed. It is hoped the contract can be awarded this fall. Tom presented maps and a letter (enclosed) to the council that described the concept and the proposed route. He indicated that there would probably be some opposition to the proposal by some commodities groups. He explained that if the council wished to comment on the proposal it should do so by May 22, 1992. The council discussed the project and voted to send a letter of support from Council Chairman, Wayne Gross, to the Willow Springs Ranger District. Tom inquired about the process for naming the section and was asked to make recommendations to the council which could then be discussed and voted on. The total section would be approximately 34 miles.

Maintenance on the Current River Section was completed last winter.

Reconstruction work was done on the Between The Rivers Section in selected locations through the use of timber sales monies.

Bill reported a short piece of the Between The Rivers Section in the Donophon District may be rerouted because of its location near an old saw dust pile that is rather unsightly.

Lynn (Salem District): They have been concentrating on reconstructing and relocating trail from Sutton Bluff south and trying to eliminate several grades approaching 40%. Three years ago they reconstructed 5 miles south from Sutton Bluff, last year they relocated and reconstructed 2 miles, this year they will be reworking 5 miles. Lynn presented a map showing the reconstruction. The trail work provides good access to Grasshopper Hollow and good trail to TT Highway and 72. Additional signing around Sutton Bluff has also been provided. The district has been using a dozer to do some of the rough work. This cuts cost and time. They have been working with the Potosi District on the corridor north of Sutton Bluff and have a tentative corridor to J highway. The proposed route north of Highway J would proceed to Doe Run and on to Keith Springs, an estimated 20 miles, where it would tie into the Trace Creek Section.

Rick (Potosi District): The plan has been submitted for the corridor between J Highway and Keith Springs to the IRM team and it is not feasible at this time, but the crossing of J highway is feasible. There is a conflict with the future ATV trail, the ATV committee does not like the closeness of the two trails. Another route will be investigated.

Debbie reported that the Marble Creek Section map has been completed. DNR can supply a small quantity to agencies. She gave a brief report on the National Symposium that she attended in Missoula Montana. She reported that she had sent the letter the council authorized to the Willow Springs Ranger District under the signature of council chairman Wayne Gross. Debbie announced that the new registration cards were available and that negatives for printing had been provided to the Forest Service and are available for the Department of Conservation.

Naming of New Sections and Nomination Procedures:

Debbie distributed a list of the officially named sections and the procedures to nominate new sections. Several sections need to be named. This will be addressed at the next council meeting.

Signing:

Debbie distributed the existing signing policy which presently includes the use of both the diamond blaze and the 3"x4" Ozark Trail marker. At the last meeting there was some discussion if it would be more desirable to use only the Ozark Trail marker. Because there was limited Forest Service representation at the meeting, and they are the primary user of the diamond blaze, the discussion was tabled. It was suggested that the Forest Service discuss this issue in-house and come with a recommendation to the council.

Ozark Trail Day:

The council approved May 1, 1993 as the date for Ozark Trail Day. The event will be held at Taum Sauk Mountain State Park in conjunction with the dedication of the park. Debbie asked for a committee to help plan the event.

Pioneer Forest

Greg: Greg indicated that he had started working for Pioneer Forest in January. He has hiked the Blair Creek Section through Pioneer Forest and has been working with Barb on some maintenance items. The register boxes on the north and south ends have been rehabilitated. Greg said he plans to attend future meetings and noted that Leo is very interested in the trail and would like greater public use of Pioneer Forest and is considering the idea of additional trails. One idea is a loop trail from the tower site to the Ozark Trail giving people an overnight opportunity. Greg will bring some maps to the next meeting.

Department of Conservation

(No Representative) Ramon reported that the department built and installed two register boxes, one at Russell Mountain and one at Claybough Creek. A new trail from Taum Sauk picnic area to the Russell Mt. area has been completed and it is no longer necessary to hike on the highway. Ozark Trail assurance signs have been installed. He invited the council to hike the new trail after the meeting.

Ozark Trail Condition Report

Ramon and Jerry presented their report to the council. It took them approximately a year to complete and is intended for users, the maintainer, and in the daily operations of the trail. The Conservation Department printed and edited the report and extra copies are available if needed. The council thanked Ramon and Jerry for their report. Copies of trail assessment sheets were made available for everyone's use.

Ozark Trail Day

Debbie presented to the council the concept of holding Ozark Trail Day in the spring in conjunction with the dedication of Taum Sauk Mountain State Park. After some discussion it was decided that a spring rather than a fall event would be acceptable. It was suggested that some public notice be provided noting the change. The date of the event will be discussed at the next meeting.

National Recreational Trails Fund Act

Information concerning the ISTEA of 1991 was distributed and a summary of the elements relative to trails was provided by Debbie. She noted that DNR would be responsible for administering the National Recreation Trails Fund portion of the bill and the MHTD the other elements of the bill. Future questions may be directed to Debbie.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council will be held on October 3, 1992 at the Meramec State Park dining lodge at 10:00 am.

PREPARED BY:

Debbie Schnack

APPROVED BY:

W. J. Palmer