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# MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

October 5, 1996

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## AGENDA

- Introductions
- Approval of Minutes
- Status Reports
- Ozark Trail Poster
- Next Meeting Date

SIP Practices Eligible for C/S, *Continued*

9

SIP-9, Forest Recreation Enhancement, *Continued*

C

C/S Policy

The following table provides C/S policies for this practice.

IF the component is...	AND the justification is...	THEN C/S is...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● establishment of paths and trails</li> <li>● footbridges</li> <li>● establishment of permanent native vegetative cover</li> <li>● signs</li> <li>● cultural treatment of existing vegetative cover</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● to improve an area for recreation</li> <li>● to protect, enhance, or restore aesthetic quality</li> <li>● to identify and protect significant or historic features</li> <li>● to identify and protect significant natural features</li> <li>● to protect soil from erosion or compaction</li> </ul>	authorized
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● road construction or maintenance</li> <li>● parking lots</li> <li>● commercial recreation development</li> <li>● commercial campgrounds</li> <li>● outbuildings</li> <li>● gates</li> <li>● practice that would directly or indirectly result in adverse effects to a cultural resource</li> </ul>		not authorized

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## SIP Practices Eligible for C/S, *Continued*

### 9 SIP-9, Forest Recreation Enhancement, *Continued*

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#### D

#### Other C/S Requirements

The following requirements are necessary in implementing this practice:

- A Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan is required to be eligible for cost-sharing.
- The practice shall be applied **ONLY** to establish public accessible paths and trails across private land or to establish paths and trails on individual private ownerships that will be used for education and demonstration purposes.
- The area must be protected from domestic livestock grazing and wild fire.
- Chemicals used in performing this practice must be:
  - Federally, State, and locally registered
  - applied according to authorized registered uses, directions on the label, and other Federal or State policies and requirements.
- Fencing will be eligible for C/S **ONLY** where it is determined that the primary purpose of this practice will not be achieved if it is not protected by a fence.
- Practice must be maintained for at least 10 years after establishment.

#### E

#### Program Development

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Cost-share authorized for the following:

1. Permanent Vegetative Cover
  - a. Only permanent native vegetative cover, limited to trees, shrubs, perennial grasses, and legumes, will be allowed for planting. Annual rye or winter wheat may be used for temporary cover. Plant species determination, density, placement, and technique will be determined by the MSF or designee based on site needs

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examination and the landowner's objectives. When developing specifications for species composition, priority should be given to those species that naturally occur within these local habitats.

2. Fertilizer and Lime

- a. Fertilization and lime requirements for the initial establishment of permanent vegetative cover is allowed for cost-share if so recommended by the MSF or designee and justified by a site specific soil test. A soil test conducted within 12 months of application date can be used to satisfy test requirements. Landowner applications for this practice involving fertilizer and/or lime components may be deferred for approval to allow soil tests to be conducted in determining proper application rates which affect cost-share dollar amounts approved. Specification for fertilizer and lime type and rates will be identified by the MSF or designee based on the site specific soil test. Maintenance applications, if required within the MSF or designee's specifications, will be at the expense of the landowner and not cost-shareable.

3. Non-Commercial Thinning

- a. Follow the specifications for non-commercial thinning as they apply to the SIP-? practice.

4. Pruning

- a. Pruning is allowed for visual and aesthetic enhancement purposes only. Pruning shall be limited to areas within 100 feet of existing roads, trails, paths, recreation areas visible to the public as determined by the MSG or designee.
- b. Pruning shall be limited to removal of limbs from trees (greater than 15 feet in height) to a height of 8 feet from ground level. Limbs will be cut close to the tree trunk to minimize stubs and disease problems. Excessively large limbs, needed for screening purposes, limbs necessary for the visual quality of specimen trees, and limbs which, if removed, would adversely damage the tree may be exempt from pruning as determined by the MSG or designee.
- c. Pruned limbs may be removed from the visual area of pruning activity or they may be left where they fall. If left where they fall, all pruned limbs will be lopped so that they extend no higher than 1 foot above ground level.
- d. Pruning is recommended to take place between November 1 and March 1.

5. Trail and Path Establishment

- a. Trail and path establishment will be designed so that key trees and other scenic vegetation will be preserved. Sustained grades shall not exceed 10% unless proper water control structures are

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installed. No trail or path shall run perpendicular to the contour. Straight runs of more than 300 feet should be avoided. Turns should be curves rather than angles. Trails and paths should be located above large trees, seepy areas, gully heads, and below rock outcrops.

- b. All trees, shrubs, and fallen timber (with the exception of occasional scenic specimens) shall be removed a distance of 2 feet each side of a pedestrian trail or path centerline.
  - c. All small stumps and tree roots (<2 inches in diameter) shall be grubbed out of the trail tread zone which is 1 foot each side of a pedestrian trail or path centerline. Stumps from aggressive species such as blackberry should be grubbed out from both cleared and trail tread zone.
  - d. All protruding limbs within the cleared trail zone to a height of 8 feet for pedestrian trails will be removed. All limbs to be removed will be cut back to their base in a fork or to the main trunk, whichever is appropriate, so that no stubs are left.
  - e. All cut trees, shrubs, limbs, brush will be disposed of in an attractive manner. It is suggested that the material be scattered well off the cleared trail zone with butt ends facing away from the trail.
  - f. All surface litter shall be uniformly raked from the trail tread zone and deposited on the downhill side of the zone.
  - g. High and low spots including stump holes shall be leveled and filled in as needed to create a smooth trail tread zone surface. Where trails or paths cross sidehill slopes >12%, the upper side of the trail tread zone should be defined as a smooth even line by cutting with a shovel and should be dug out and the soil placed on the lower side so that a  $\pm 3\%$  outslope is created. The trail zone shall be compacted after grading to firm the soil.
  - h. Water control structures which, in the opinion of the MSF or designee, are needed to control water flow and prevent erosion in the trail tread zone, shall be installed. These structures include broad based dips and water bars. Natural features such as large roots and rocks should be used wherever possible to control water flow and prevent erosion within the trail tread zone.
  - i. Trail maintenance, including suppression of growth, water control structures, obstruction removal, and others from the cleared and trail tread zone, shall be the responsibility of the landowner or his designee for the life of the practice.
6. Footbridges
- a. The purpose is to provide recreational access in wet, soggy or

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hardwood forest should be closely blazed every 30-50 feet. The height for blazing is about 6 feet.

- e. Signs are an alternative to blazing and can be made of masonite, metal, or plastic. They should be nailed to trees following the same guidelines for paint blazes.
- f. In an open, treeless area, cairns or posts should be placed 50-100 feet apart. Cairns should be built with rocks to a height of from 2-4 feet. Posts should be to from 5-6 feet tall and blazed or signed at the top.

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**F**  
Technical  
Components

Eligible cost-share components and cost-share rates

<u>Component Description</u>	<u>C/S Rate</u>
Permanent vegetative cover	33.00/acre
Fertilizer	4.23/100 lbs.
Lime	.75/100 lbs.
Light thinning	30.00/acre
Medium thinning	40.00/acre
Heavy thinning	50.00/acre
Pruning	.40/tree
Fencing	.45/lineal ft.
Trail development	.30/lineal ft.
Footbridge	.75/lineal ft.
Signs	.50/100 ft.

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**G**  
Technical  
Responsibility

Technical responsibility is assigned to MSF.

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5-7-96

**SIP Practices Eligible for C/S, Continued**

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**SIP-9, Forest Recreation Enhancement**

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**A  
Purpose**

The purpose of this practice is to establish and enhance forest recreation.

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**B  
Program Policy**

Apply this practice to forestland with existing or proposed tree cover as recommended in the landowner's Forest Stewardship Plan.

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OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL - PLEASE REVIEW.

MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 5, 1996  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**PARTICIPANTS:**

Deb Schnack, Department of Natural Resources	Fred Stenger, Ozark Trails Club
Randy Clay, DNR/Lake Wappapello	Ted Jones, Interested Citizen
Andrew Jefferson, Corps of Engineers	Bruce Linders, American Youth Hostels
Gary Stilts, Corps of Engineers	Jim McInroe, American Youth Hostels
Doug Eiken, Department of Natural Resources	Terry Laupp, American Youth Hostels
John Kurtzborn, Missouri Rambler	Darsan Wang, United States Forest Service
John Daves, Corps of Engineers	Bruce Bailey, Americorps
Phillip Weston, United States Forest Service	

The October 5, 1996 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. in the Corps of Engineers Visitor Center at Wappapello Lake. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources. Following the introductions, the minutes of the May 11, 1995 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

**STATUS REPORTS**

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS (Andrew Jefferson):**

Andrew reported that the Wapappello Lake Section is now complete and a brief ceremony would be held in the afternoon to celebrate the completion. He clarified that the trail is 38 miles long and runs north from highway 67 at the Black River (near Hendrickson) to Sam A. Baker State Park. This section is managed by the Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service. Also, two groups have adopted sections of the trail. One is an eco-activist group from Greenville High School and the other group is the WE Syracuse Center.

**MISSOURI RAMBLER (John Kurtzborn):**

John has been making an effort to promote the trail and has talked to in-state outfitters who sell hiking clothes and gear. All were very interested in supporting the Ozark Trail, but not all were interested in spending the money to do so. John thought they would be willing to be a sponsor a certain section of the trail for trail maintenance.

**UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE (Phil Weston and Darsan Wang):**

Phil reported that the Poplar Bluff district had just completed 2 1/2 miles of trail between the parking lot 60 on the Corps of Engineers and Highway F. This makes it a loop of 6 miles. A trailhead parking lot was constructed and made large enough to handle horse trailers. This entire Wapappello Lake Section is open to equestrian use.

The Victory Section, west from Hendrickson, has damage from several tornados that came through the area in the last 3 years. Extensive limbs are down in places and the trail does need work in that particular section. The US Forest Service has been concentrating on completing the Wapappello Lake Section, but will now focus on the Victory Section to get it cleaned up and in good shape.

Darsan shared written status reports from the Salem district and the Eleven Point district as follows:

The Salem district has done a small amount of construction on a new trail between Sutton Bluff and J Highway this summer. Considerable maintenance work has been completed between Sutton Bluff and Highway 72. Much of the maintenance work involved clearing out wind thrown trees in portions of the trail. Some light maintenance work has been completed on the section of trail south of highway 72. There still remains a fair amount of construction work to complete the Sutton Bluff to the J Highway section.

The Eleven Point District still plans to reroute a portion of the Ozark Trail on the Between Rivers Section, near Greer Spring. The reroute was not completed this year due to budget constraints. The SCSEPS participants, which is a program for older citizens, are currently working on the trail. Note: The old Van Buren bridge is being demolished so trail users will have to use the new bridge.

#### THE OZARK TRAILS CLUB ( Fred Stenger):

Fred reported that he has placed information on Microsoft network about the trail and it had generated about 6 responses, which he felt was not adequate, so he is creating a web page for the Ozark Trails Club and to promote the Trail. In response to the Microsoft Network, Fred reported that during the Olympics, three men from Germany hiked part of the trail. They thought it was much more representative of hiking in America than the Appalachian trail.

Fred has been promoting the Trail, and has had 4-5 speaking engagements with local civic groups. He has talked to lots of people in the area who never knew the trail existed. The Ozark Trails Club now has more than 50 members with an active base of just under 25. The club is planning on adopting the Victory Section and hopes to begin work on the section this Fall or next Spring.

Fred gave an update on the Trail Volunteer Coalition, which was launched last year on National Trails Day. He and Barb Payton will be the co-chairpersons. They are still seeking someone to represent Mountain Bike users for the trail. Thirty-four letters were sent out to different groups and individuals who voiced an interest in volunteering on the trail, but they have only received 3-4 responses back. A list is now available that identifies sections of the trail that have been adopted. Note: At the last council meeting, we decided a Coalition would be formed. The idea of the Coalition is to have volunteer groups adopt and maintain all sections of the Ozark Trail. With the Coalition there will be one focal point for volunteers, which makes it easier to coordinate between agencies and volunteers.

A suggestion was made to check with local high schools to see if they would be interested in volunteering.

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

The following written report was provided: Within the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, the Ozark Trail and a spur trail (Big Spring Loop Trail) can be found running northwest of Van Buren between Powder Mill and the Big Spring area. Due to a meager budget year, services and operating budgets were cut park-wide. Akers campground was closed and hiring of seasonal maintenance and ranger personnel was significantly reduced as well. Consequently, maintenance of the park's portion of the Ozark Trail has been minimal at best. Overall, the trail is in reasonably good condition. One complaint was received regarding "rerouting" of the trail away from the river. Apparently a social trail began receiving more use than the trail itself and became visually predominant, redirecting some travellers away from the river.

#### AMERICAN YOUTH HOSTELS (Bruce Linders):

Bruce announced that the 8th annual AYH backpack trip on the Ozark Trail will be next weekend. They will be hiking the Victory Section of trail and then the new Wapappello Lake Section. The same people are going each year, but they would like to get more people to participate. They feel more promotion is needed. Fred, John and Debbie offered to help promote the event if they new in advance the scheduled dates.

#### MISSOURI EQUINE COUNCIL:

Debbie reported that Barb Payton had called and said the MEC is still very interested in the trail and had discussed a possible promotional activity for next year. The idea would be to ride the entire route of the Ozark Trail. This of course may not be feasible since some portions of the trail are closed to equestrian use, but perhaps alternate routes could be used. This concept is in the early planning stages.

#### AMERICORPS (Bruce Bailey):

Bruce reported that they have been working with the US Forest Service in the Potosi area. Since the last meeting, the Marble Creek Section has been totally maintained. The only area that hasn't been addressed is a little loop trail on the south side of Crane Lake and that will happen later in the Fall. The Americorps has also been involved with trail development around Council Bluffs Lake. The 12 mile trail will eventually tie to the Ozark Trail. Approximately 5 miles of trail is complete. The next project will be to work out a maintenance agreement with the DNR on the Taum Sauk Section from Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park to Highway A.

Bruce also reported that he met with the Lt. Governor's office who coordinates Americorps in the state and there is an opportunity to have a new type of community service program. He will be applying for 12 positions. College students will work 900 hours in exchange for \$2800 in tuition. Plans are to have them work on the Ozark Trail this coming year.

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Debbie Schnack and Doug Eiken):

Debbie Reported that in addition to continuing general maintenance on the Ozark Trail, the DNR's focus had been on developing the Ozark Trail poster. She also has been in contact with Department of Conservation personnel concerning a possible joint promotion of trails, in general, for National Trails Month. The Ozark Trail could be a part of this promotion.

Doug expressed an interest in connecting the existing Lake Wapappello Trail, located in Lake Wapappello State Park, with the Wapappello Lake Section of the Ozark Trail. Randy Clay, the park superintendent, will investigate the feasibility of this connection.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### COMPLETING LINKS

Doug Eiken informed the council that he and the DNR Director, David Shorr, are very committed to the Ozark Trail and to completing the links between the non contiguous sections.

#### ADDRESS LIST

There was a request that an address list of council members and volunteers be provided to all Ozark Trail Council participants. The list will be sent out with the minutes.

#### WALMART

The Council discussed the Ozark Trail label used by the Walmart Company and the implementations that the Ozark Trail and Walmart products are some how related. It was the general consensus of the Council that this situation could benefit the trail and that Walmart should be approached about supporting the trail by contributing funds or through promotions.

#### SCOUTS

There was a discussion about making scout leaders aware of the Ozark Trail. It seems that most scout troops are not aware that the trail exists. One suggestion was to hold a special meeting for scout leaders in the state to inform them about the Ozark Trail. There were no volunteers to organize the meeting at this time.

## INTERNET

Debbie shared with the council some information about the Ozark Trail she found on the internet. This information is being provided by Backpacker Magazine. Debbie had provided trail information to Backpacker but didn't realize it was for the internet. Fred expressed an interest in also promoting the club and the trail on the internet.

## NATIONAL TRAIL DAY MAINTENANCE

Darsan reported that Backpacker Magazine contacted the Forest Service asking for a list of trails that needed maintenance. He responded by suggesting the North Fork River Section of the Ozark Trail. Backpacker will publish what trails need maintenance in hopes that volunteers will engage in a day of work.

## PROMOTIONS

### DIVISION OF TOURISM

Doug expressed how surprised he was that people in Missouri were not more educated about the resources in the state and that those resources were not marketed to a greater extent. A new Division of Tourism Director, Chris Jennings, was recently appointed. Doug believes he is very interested in promoting the natural qualities of the state and would be willing to promote the Ozark Trail. Darsan also noted that the Division of Tourism has a CD Rom available that promotes the state of Missouri.

### RADIO SHOWS

It was suggested that the Department of Conservation could include information about the Ozark Trail on local radio programs that they conduct each week.

### T-SHIRTS

Terry Laupp presented three alternative t-shirt designs for the Council to consider. The council selected a very attractive design that includes: the OT symbol, the Ozark Trail name and Missouri written in script. Terry will have the final design at the next meeting. There was some discussion about the sale of the shirt. It was concluded that the shirt could be sold by anyone willing to do so. DNR agreed to be the supplier. The idea is to get the word out about the trail. Terry suggests putting a hang tag on the shirt which would give information about the Ozark Trail and where to write for more details. Every shirt then becomes a marketing tool. Terry will design the hang tag.

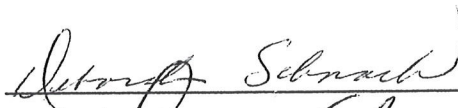
### POSTER

Debbie presented the revised layout of the Ozark Trail poster. The Council approved the design with one addition. It was recommended that Missouri be added at the top of the poster. It was also suggested that a smaller version of the poster be printed for stores that did not have the space to display a full size poster. Debbie will investigate the feasibility and the cost. Once the invoice for the printing is received Debbie will contact the agencies to determine how many copies they would like. DNR will then invoice the agencies. Individuals and organizations can then get copies of the posters from the agencies for distribution to bike shops, tack shops, outdoor stores, etc.

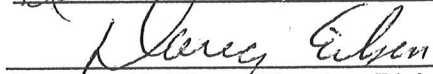
### NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting of the Ozark Trail Council will be held at Dr. Edmund A. Babler Memorial State Park on May 10, 1997 at 10:00 a.m.

Prepared by:

  
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Approved by:

  
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Douglas K. Eiken, Director, Division of State Parks  
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council