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**MISSOURI OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 1995
MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

PARTICIPANTS:

Kris England, USFS; Ken Haberl, USFS; Dean and Jenny Hodapp, Sierra Club; John Kurtzeborn, Missouri Rambler; Diane Oliver, USFS; Barbara Payton, Missouri Equine Council; Deb Schnack, Division of State Parks; Darsan Wang, USFS; Mark Weaver, Ozark National Scenic Riverways; Dan Wedemeyer, Division of State Parks; and Mary Westrich, Missouri Equine Council

The September 16, 1995 meeting of the Ozark Trail Council convened at approximately 10:00 a.m. at the Meramec State Park dining lodge. The meeting was called to order by Debbie Schnack, Trail Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources. Following the introductions the minutes of the May 13, 1995 Ozark Trail Council meeting were approved as written.

STATUS REPORTS:

U.S. FOREST SERVICE (Ken Haberl, Kris England, Diane Oliver and Darsan Wang):

- Ken reported that the district's request to re-route a portion of the Eleven Point Section near Greer Spring had been approved. This re-route will eliminate a set of switchbacks and make a very nice route. Ken also informed the council that the district had received a request for a permit to provide professional guide services on the Ozark Trail. This issue was discussed later in the meeting. Kris had just returned from a conference out East, part of which included a llama packing trip on the Appalachian Trail. Kris shared with the council some of the unique habits of the llamas and noted the minimal impact the animals have on the trail. Kris reported that the USFS trail construction budget was completely cut and the maintenance budget was cut by 50%. Diane reported that the Potosi District would be doing some maintenance this month. At this point there had been little coordination with the AYH volunteers who offered their services at the last meeting, but Diane plans to follow through on contacting the group as well as working with the Missouri Equine Council. There is nothing new to report on the highway 8 crossing, the trade is still being negotiated. Darsan reported on the status of the trail for the Salem and Poplar Bluff Ranger Districts. The Salem District is starting to work on the section of trail between Sutton Bluff and Oates. They are beginning at Sutton Bluff and heading north and west. They hope to complete this work in the next fiscal year but it will depend on the budget and the work force. Some minor maintenance south of Sutton Bluff is also being planned for this coming fiscal year. The Poplar Bluff Ranger District will be completing two miles of trail near Fox Den Mine. With the completion of this segment the trail will be connected with COE property and run from Hendrickson on the Black River, north to Sam A. Baker State Park. The COE is anxious to dedicate the trail and develop a brochure for the section. Darsan reported that Al McPherson, who is writing a guide for trails in the Ozarks, was going to be back in the area soon and may need some shuttling assistance. Darsan distributed some of Al's notes.

Darsan also shared with us the sad news that Jerry Viau had passed away. Jerry was a devoted Ozark Trail volunteer who loved the trail and spent many hours working on it and enjoying it. An Ozark Trail Memorial fund, in honor of Jerry, was established by the Conservation Federation of Missouri. The council requested that Debbie send a certificate of appreciation to Jerry's family. There was also some discussion of recognizing Jerry at one of the trail heads. Debbie suggested that perhaps something could be incorporated into the future interpretive display at the Taum Sauk Mt. trail head. John also offered to include, in the next issue of the "Missouri Rambler", an article about Jerry.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (Mark Weaver):

- Mark informed the council that two areas that connect by spur trail to the Ozark Trail received attention this summer. A landscape architecture intern completed a major portion of the cultural landscape inventory of structures and spaces within the original Big Spring State Park. Included in the study is the inventory of trails which identified original trail construction and their present condition. This information will eventually be incorporated into the Big Spring Cultural Landscape Report. The other area of attention was Rocky Falls. The day use area has been redeveloped providing for accessibility to the lower falls as well as to selected picnic sites, information boards, restrooms and primary trail. While a comprehensive trail program may not be in the near future for the ONSR, incremental improvements will allow users the opportunity to discover a few historical and natural gems that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. Mark also noted that reorganization of the ONSR staff may have a positive affect on trail development and maintenance on ONSR properties.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (Dan Wedemeyer and Debbie Schnack):

- Dan indicated that there had been no significant change on the Taum Sauk Section. Some maintenance work had been done on the Mina Sauk Falls loop and there had been some sign vandalism in that area. Dan and Debbie distributed the new Taum Sauk Section map. This brochure is in the new format approved by the council. The next brochure to be developed will be the North Fork River Section. DNR will design the brochure and produce negatives for other agencies to use for printing. Debbie shared two letters she had received concerning the trail. One was a letter thanking Mr. Drey for allowing use of his land for the trail, complementing Pioneer Forest on the condition of trail and the assistance Pioneer Forest staff afforded their boy scout troop. The other letter was from an individual who indicated that they were interested in starting a volunteer organization. Kris will contact this individual and see what type of potential exists. Debbie announced that DNR was under contract to purchase approximately 620 acres adjoining the Goggins Mt. area of Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park. The property would be used to provide equestrian trails and possibly an equestrian campground. The trails could tie into the Ozark Trail in the Bell Mt. Wilderness Area. Debbie mentioned that the Division of State Parks was going through some reorganization and she had requested that one of the new park districts take a more active role concerning the Ozark Trail. No decision has been made at this time if that is an appropriate activity for the district staff.

SIERRA CLUB (Dean and Jenny Hodapp):

- The eight miles of trail through Pioneer Forest that were maintained last spring are in good shape. The remaining six miles were walked yesterday and will require some mowing in the old fields. Dean and Jenny noted that the most of the carsonite signs through the old fields were missing. Debbie will coordinate with Greg on the installation of new signs.

MISSOURI EQUINE COUNCIL (Barb Payton and Mary Westrich):

- Barb and Mary expressed their interest in assisting with trail maintenance on the Trace Creek and Courtios Creek Sections. Diane will be in contact with their group to work out some type of maintenance agreement. Debbie will send Diane a copy of DNR's maintenance agreement. Mary pointed out that maybe the answer to some of the erosion control concerns on some of the equestrians trails is simply to reduce the amount of users by providing more trail opportunities in other areas.

GUIDE SERVICES:

- Ken explained that the USFS had received a request from an individual to provide equestrian guide service on the Ozark Trail. Guide service involves leading groups on the trail and not outfitting a group. A scoping document has been sent out to all interested parties to see if there are any concerns. Those responses are being evaluated at this time. Ken wanted to know if the council would support such an activity on the trail. After discussion a vote was taken and the Ozark Trail Council approved the concept of allowing commercial guide service on the Ozark Trail on USFS property, provided the USFS regulates use and location through its permit system. Ken requested that the council formally acknowledge their approval with a letter. Debbie will prepare a letter. It was also suggested that if commercial guide services on the Ozark Trail become popular maybe the council should develop some general guidelines for use that all the agencies could adopt. This would be less confusing for the public and guides.

OZARK TRAIL PROMOTIONS:

Debbie reminded everyone that at the last council meeting we had discussed ways to promote the trail and decided that we would all come to this meeting ready to share ideas and make some commitments. After much discussion the council decided to focus on the following activities:

*Organize an equestrian ride on the Ozark Trail in conjunction with National Trail Day. (Barb and Mary)

* Develop a list of good day hikes along the Ozark Trail. (John)

* Send out new section brochures, like the Taum Sauk Section, to outdoor stores, tack shops and bike stores for distribution. (Deb)

*Develop a list of outdoor stores, bike shops and tack stores and send to Deb so information can be distributed. (Everyone)

- *Visit local stores to see if Ozark Trail brochures are being distributed. Give them a supply of brochures or have them contact DNR. (Everyone)
- *Work with the Bass Pro Store to include the Ozark Trail in a display that the USFS and Bass Pro are developing. (Kris)
- *Request that the Ozark Trail be shown on the official state highway map. (Deb)
- *Produce a glossy general Ozark Trail brochure. Approach the Bass Pro Store to see if they would be interested in providing funding for such a brochure. (Kris)
- *Develop a poster or posters to promote the Ozark Trail. Include an 800 number on the poster. (Deb)
- *Develop an Ozark Trail T-shirt. (This will not be attempted immediately. Everyone will check with friends or associates who may be willing to provide a design. If no appropriate design is produced then a contest may be considered.)
- *Sign the Ozark Trail at all road crossings and trail heads. Agency personnel should work with local Missouri Highway and Transportation Department staff.

NEXT MEETING:

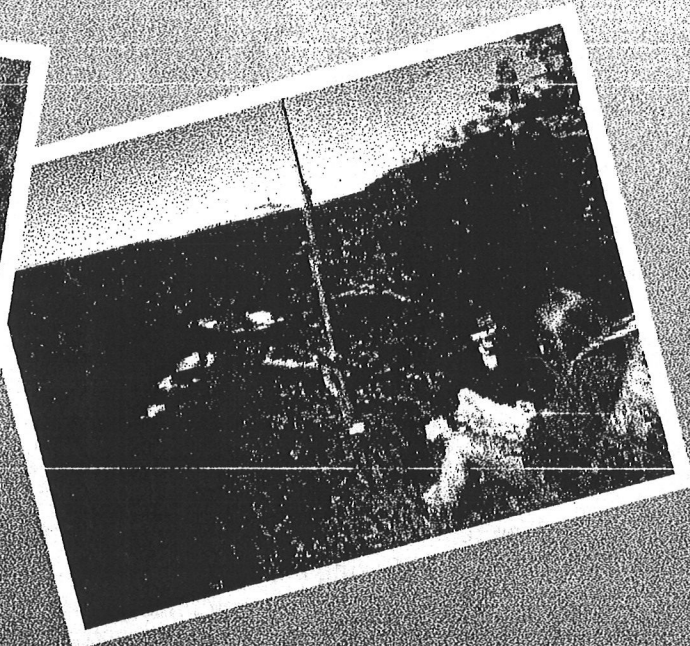
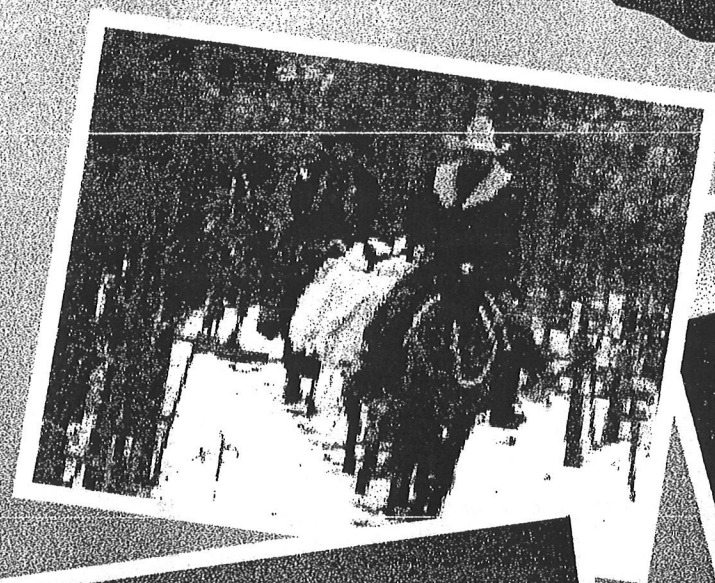
The next meet of the Ozark Trail Council will be held at Johnson's Shut-Ins State Park on May 11, 1996. The meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the picnic shelter. Bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the park.

Prepared by: *Deborah Schrack*

Approved by: *Kathy Eichen*

Director, Division of State Parks
Chairman, Ozark Trail Council

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TAKE A WALK ON
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For information call the Missouri Ozark Trail Council • 1-800-334-6946



THE OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (314) 751-2479

October 23, 1995

Ms. Ginger Esmond
224 W. Bruton
Centralia, MO 65240

Dear Ms. Esmond and Family:

As you know, Jerry was dedicated to the development of the Ozark Trail. He spent many hours on the trail, both for his own pleasure and maintaining it for the benefit of others. Without devoted volunteers like Jerry, the Ozark Trail could not exist. As a small token of our appreciation, the Ozark Trail Council would like to present the family with the enclosed certificate in memory of Jerry's contribution to the Ozark Trail.

Sincerely,

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

Douglas K. Eiken, Director
Chairperson, Ozark Trail Council

DKE:dsw

Enclosure

STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Mel Carnahan, Governor • David A. Shorr, Director

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176 (314)751-2479

FAX (314)751-8656

September 25, 1995

Dear Ozark Trail Supporter:

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources has just produced a new map for the Taum Sauk Section of the Ozark Trail. I have enclosed 25 copies of this brochure for your distribution. The department will be happy to supply additional copies of this brochure or any of the other Ozark Trail section maps. If you would like more maps, please fill out the enclosed pre-addressed order form. Thank you for your assistance in promoting the Ozark Trail.

Deborah Schnack

Deborah Schnack
Trail Coordinator

OZARK TRAIL MAPS ORDER FORM

Quantity
(Limit 100 each)

Available Maps

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | The Ozark Trail (General Brochure) |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Between the Rivers Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Blair Creek Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Current River Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Eleven Point River Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Karkaghne Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Marble Creek Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Taum Sauk Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Trace Creek Section |
| _____ | The Ozark Trail, Victory Section |

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE. SIMPLY FOLD THE FORM IN HALF AND TAPE THE ENDS TOGETHER PRIOR TO SENDING.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FROM THE MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF STATE PARKS, P.O. BOX 176, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65102



THE OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, MO 65102 (314) 751-2479

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September 22, 1995

Mr. Ken Haberl
U.S. Forest Service
Eleven Point Ranger District
Box 1908
Winona, MO 65588

Dear Mr. Haberl:

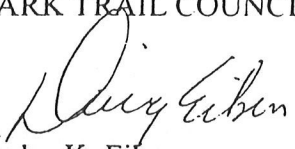
At the September 16, 1995 Ozark Trail Council meeting you informed the Council that you had received a request, from an individual, to provide equestrian guide services on portions of the Ozark Trail.

As you know, the Council discussed this issue and voted to support this concept provided that the U.S. Forest Service regulates the use and location through its permit system. The Council believes that such services will help to promote the Ozark Trail and make more people aware of this great recreation opportunity.

Please consider this letter as your official documentation from the Ozark Trail Council approving the concept of guide services, on United States Forest Service property, on the Ozark Trail.

Sincerely,

OZARK TRAIL COUNCIL


Douglas K. Eiken
Chairman

DKE:dsv