Trail Mapping/Marking

The Trail Mapping/Marking Committee Chair reports to the National Preservation Officer.

Mapping

The purpose of Trail Mapping is to lead OCTA and local Chapters in the mapping of the historic overland trails to support trails preservation activities. The Committee works closely with National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service, plus any other agencies that administer public lands containing trail remnants. The Committee works to ensure accurate mapping following the guidelines and symbols of the Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET) Manual.

The Committee is responsible for the maintenance, update, and distribution of the MET Manual, and for providing finished maps to government agencies and the public to further knowledge of the trails and trail history. Distribution of completed maps is considered a priority because trail remnants cannot be protected unless their location is known.

The Committee consists of the Chairman and chapter mapping leaders and other interested OCTA members. The Committee works in close cooperation with other committees including those with responsibility related to graves, historic sites, and trail marking. The objective is to ensure that maps are as accurate as possible.

Mapping is done on 7.5-minute quad (24 K) maps or computer-based maps of that scale of the areas encompassing each trail. As mapping proceeds, the Chairman will maintain direct and expedient communications with the NTPO and the NPS. Progress reports will be made to the President of OCTA and others as appropriate.

Marking

The primary function of Marking is to oversee the placement of markers along the trail routes, with emphasis on remaining visible segments so as to make the public aware of the trails and their historical significance. This function involves the following:

- 1. Working closely with the Graves & Sites Committee to ensure that activities are coordinated and consistent.
- 2. Working with the local Chapters, the BLM, the US Forest Service, the NPS and other agencies to promote and coordinate marking efforts.
4. Maintaining a record of which trails or trail segments have been marked and the location of installed markers.

5. Keeping the National Preservation Officer apprised of current and proposed activities.