



Oregon-California Trails Association

Preservation Training

Lawrence, KS

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Introductions

Dave Welch - National Preservation Officer

Leslie Fryman - Archeologist and California-Nevada
Preservation Officer

Jim McGill – Mapping Committee Chair



Why Are We Here?

- Trail preservation is the responsibility of all OCTA members.
- Success requires an extensive volunteer team
 - More than 12,000 miles of trails
 - Threats from development are widespread
- Issues and solutions are complex
- Your help is needed, but we need to provide the tools.



OCTA's Mission

OCTA is dedicated to the preservation, appreciation and enjoyment of all the trans-Mississippi migration trails to the West – the trails that made the United States an ocean-to-ocean nation.

Preservation Appreciation Enjoyment



Preservation Policy

OCTA hereby affirms its commitment to protect the emigrant trails. Furthermore, OCTA is committed to work with government agencies and private interests to seek solutions considering the interests of all involved parties. Where reasonable compromise is not attainable or established procedures are not followed, OCTA may take appropriate legal steps.

OCTA's expectation is that high potential sites and segments, as defined in the trails management plans, will be protected to the maximum degree possible. Mitigation shall include use of alternate sites away from the trails, careful routing of roads and pipelines, and minimization of visual impacts over the widest possible area. Development activities must include a plan for restoration of the site to its original state after activities cease.



Summary: Preservation Policy

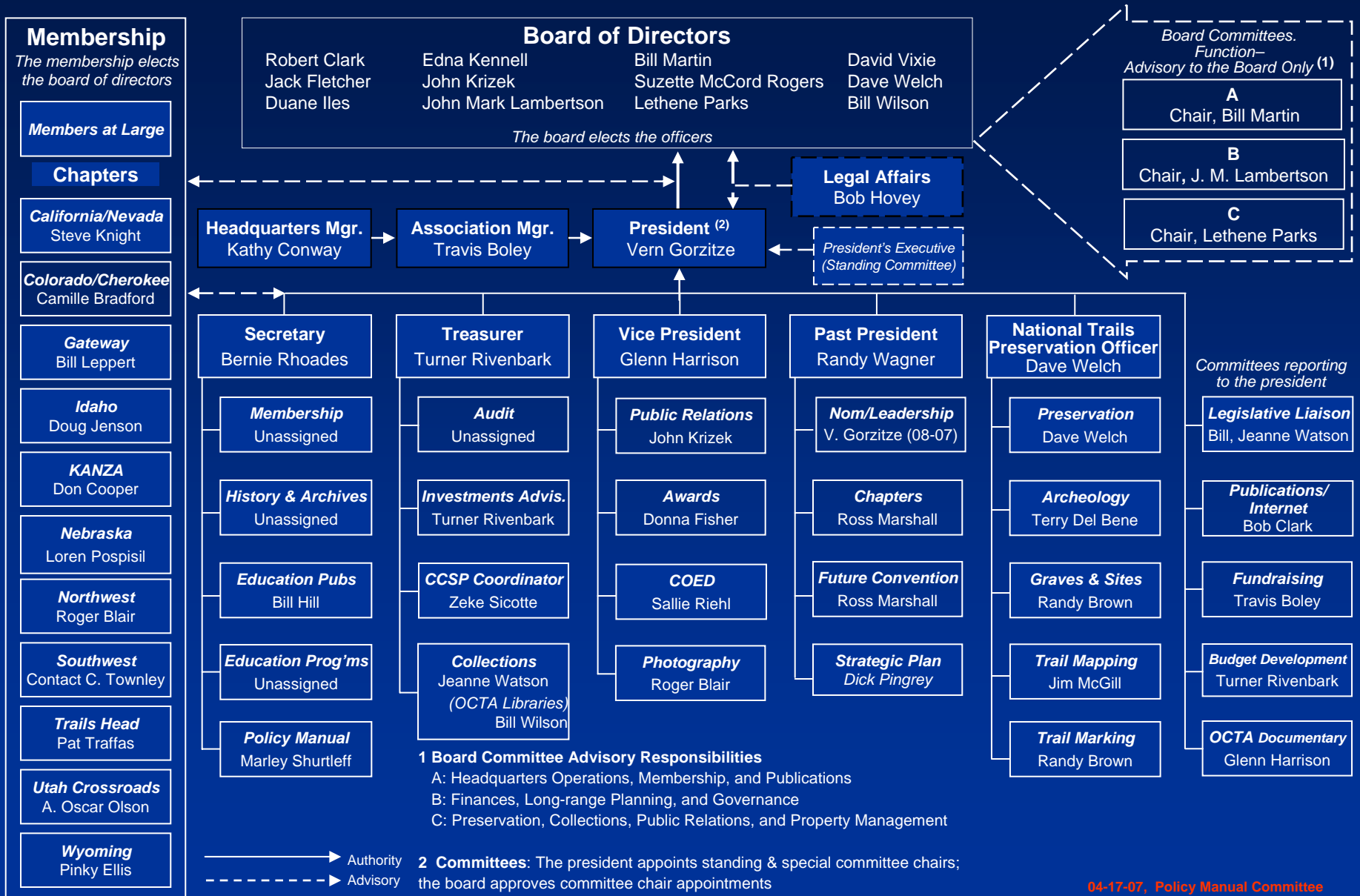
- Commitment to trail preservation
- Cooperative efforts to find solutions
- Willing to take legal action
- Focus on best-preserved sites and segments
- Require mitigation for loss of trail and setting
- Require restoration and reclamation

Land Ownership

- Public Lands (BLM, NPS, USFS, USF&W)
 - Agency regulations
 - Federal laws and regulations
 - State laws
- Private Land
 - Local and State Laws (if any)
 - Education and cooperation

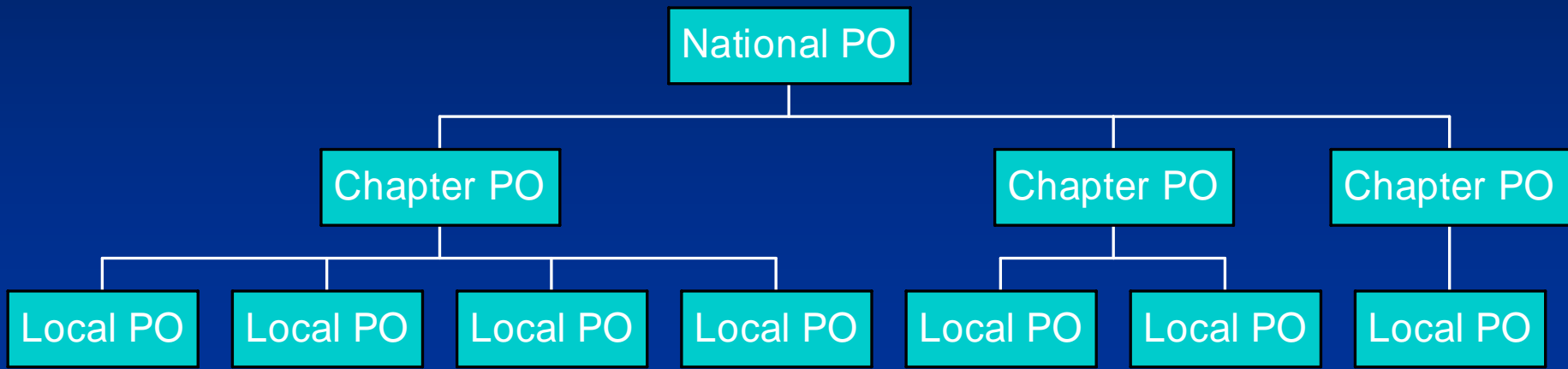


OCTA Organization





Preservation Organization



PO – Preservation Officer



Preservation Activities

Mapping

Marking

Monitoring



Mapping Activities

- Historic research (maps, diaries, studies, etc.)
- Field research and mapping using the MET manual
- GPS (Global Positioning System) documentation of trail routes
- GIS (Graphic Information System) displays of data.
- Publication and archiving of map data



Mapping Emigrant Trails (MET)

Emigrant trail classification categories:

- Class 1 – Unaltered trail
- Class 2 – Used trail (used by motor vehicles)
- Class 3 – Verified trail (physical evidence may be minimal)
- Class 4 – Altered trail (verified but permanently altered)
- Class 5 – Approximate trail

Level of preservation effort is defined by the trail classification.





Training Requirements: Mapping

- MET manual techniques
- GPS operations
- Historical research techniques

Automated Mapping and Data Collection

- Mapping Software
 - Maptech USGS map series (quads)
 - National Geographic map series (quads)
- GPS data collection and plotting
 - Manual transfer to maps
 - Direct download to computer mapping software
- Hornbuckle examples
 - Oregon Trail in Oregon
 - Cherokee Trail





NPS GIS Database Project

- Graphic Information System (GIS) based product
 - Maps with supporting database
- Apply MET methodology to the development of a database with maps of all trails
- Trimble mapping GPS units (hand-held computer)
- Research to substantiate field work
- Training has been provided to selected individuals to act as trainers of other participants
- Challenge cost-share funds available to support work (travel expenses and supplies)



Marking Activities

- Inventory of current trail markers
- Development of marking plans and site selection
- Choice and design of signage and markers
- Install signs and trail markers
- Maintain markers and signs
- Develop self-guiding tours

Training Requirement: OCTA Trail Marking Policy



Monitoring Activities

- Adopt trail segment
- Monitor trail segment
- Review and have input in trail-related activities
- Document trail or trail sites for listing in national, state and local historic registers
- Help maintain trail, trail markers and signage



Training Requirements: Monitoring

- Applicable laws and regulations
- Methods of land ownership research
- Working with other interests
- Monitoring techniques



Let's Get Started!