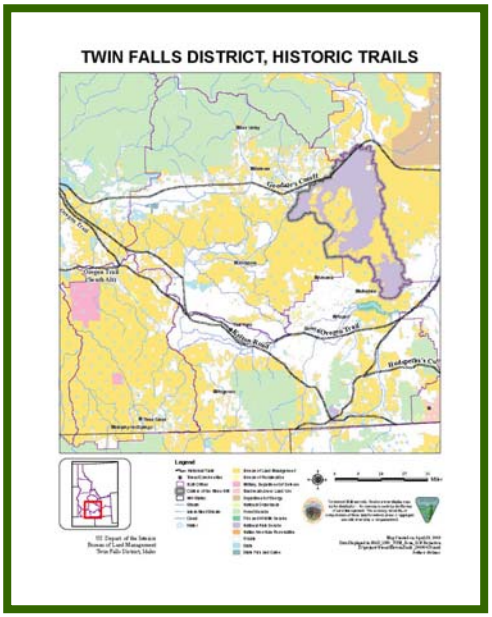
Department of the Interior
Recovery Investments *Investing in America's Economic Recovery*

National Historic Trails Mapping and Monitoring

Need

Many of the several hundred miles of the Oregon/California National Historic Trails (NHTs) in south-central Idaho have been documented, but these efforts did not conform to standards developed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Oregon/California Trail Association (OCTA). This has made holistic management of these Trails difficult. Assessing and classifying the portions of the NHTs in the Twin Falls District to meet NPS and OCTA guidelines will enable the BLM to develop management plans and protection measures for use in ongoing stewardship of these Treasured Landscapes.



Recovery Act Funding

Two teams of archaeologists working under contract will review existing records, including diary accounts and historic maps, to determine where actual trail routes most likely lie. They will then map trail segments on public land using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, enter the data into a BLM Geographic Information System (GIS) database, and classify trail segments by their present condition.

Benefits

In addition to aiding future BLM planning, collecting standardized data will also improve collaboration between the various federal agencies responsible for managing historic trails. The documentation can be adapted into educational materials and maps that can be readily shared with the public.

More Information

BLM Burley Field Office Oregon Trail webpage
BLM Jarbidge Field Office Oregon Trail webpage

Heather Tiel-Nelson, Public Affairs Specialist
Twin Falls District Office – (208) 736-2352
Heather_Tiel-Nelson@blm.gov