

## PART II

# MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND CONSTRAINTS

The Oregon and Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trails will be managed to achieve the following long-term objectives.

The overall goal of BLM management is to manage the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trails in a manner to protect the quality of cultural, natural, and historic values, and to protect certain trail corridors in their natural condition so as to provide for outdoor recreation and public use.

### GENERAL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

1. The BLM will adopt and utilize consistent general statewide trail management guidelines for the historic sites and trail segments on the public lands in Wyoming.
2. The entire length of the primary trail routes and major cutoffs and alternatives will be identified by the placement of uniform trail markers on BLM administered lands.
3. All historic sites and cross-country segments of the trails on federal lands should be managed to protect and interpret their historic values.
4. This plan focuses not only on the primary routes of the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails but other heavily used or well-known cutoffs and alternatives as well. Even though these cutoffs and alternatives are not certified national historic trails, their historic values should nevertheless be safeguarded. Portions of those alternatives or related historic sites should be considered for certification as components of the National Trail System.
5. A continuing inventory and study program will be organized by the BLM, the state of Wyoming, and the National Park Service to complete the knowledge of the trail and its sites and segments. Such information will be used to assist in the protection and interpretation of the trails.
6. All planning and programs for marking the Oregon and Mormon Trails and protecting and interpreting their sites and segments will be coordinated with NPS, the State of Wyoming, and affected private landowners along the trails.
7. Existing land uses within the sites and segments identified in this plan which are compatible with historic preservation and public use will be continued. Existing land uses which may be incompatible with historical preservation of sites and trail segments will be monitored and, if necessary, modified to make them as compatible as possible.
8. Special consideration will be given to the uses permitted along fragile trail resources. Some are too fragile to withstand any use by vehicle or foot travel. Others are more durable. The kinds and extent of uses permitted will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Use of trail resources will be monitored to determine if adjustments in use are needed.
9. Certain sites and segments along the trails will be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
9. The sites and segments of the trail will be managed in a manner that protects the trail as well as the health and safety of visitors.
10. Trail management will not restrict authorized land uses or activities that were existing within the trail corridors at the time of designation as National Historic Trails, unless these uses are or become incompatible with trail preservation or protection.
11. Attempts will be made to stabilize fragile trail remains and historic structures along the trails to ensure their availability for future generations to use and enjoy. Ruts may be stabilized through seeding, construction of natural appearing water bars, or restricting uses that promote erosion or other appropriate measures.
12. Off-road vehicle use guidelines will be identified commensurate with public access needs, the capability of the trails to handle use, and other resource use needs.
13. After appropriate protection measures have been completed, most sites and segments should be accessible and available for public use and enjoyment, to the extent that such accessibility does not impact upon historical values.
14. Actions that facilitate or enhance the public use of the sites and segments identified in this plan should not be made until adequate management capability has been implemented to assure their protection. For example, public

## Management Objectives and Constraints

use and enjoyment, to the extent that such accessibility does not impact upon historical values.

15. Actions that facilitate or enhance the public use of the sites and segments identified in this plan should not be made until adequate management capability has been implemented to assure their protection. For example, public access will not be improved and areas will not be popularized if the result would be damage to trail resources and historic sites.
16. Every effort should be taken to make the visiting public aware that private property rights along the trails are to be respected.
17. A selection of maps and user brochures and other materials interpreting the trails and the component sites and segments will be made available by mail, at BLM offices, and at conveniently located points along the trails. These will be developed in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission.
18. The trails will accommodate hiking, horse-back riding, pleasure driving, limited recreational vehicle use, camping, picnicking, and sightseeing, where compatible with historic and natural resources and intermingled private lands and interests. A continuous route may be identified for trekking purposes on the Oregon and Mormon Pioneer Trails. The route need not always follow the trails, especially in areas of predominately private lands or fragile trail resource. It could follow other roads or other appropriate detour routes.
19. Public use areas will be identified along the trails. These include campsites, interpretive sites, access points, etc. Public use facilities will be simple in design and kept to a minimum, be consistent with sound carrying capacity principles, and be planned and located so as to harmonize with their surroundings. Facilities will be cost effective and constructed only when resource protection needs, safety hazards or significant public use justifies the expenditure.
20. User data will be systematically collected so that the BLM is aware of use patterns and trends along the trails. Monitoring use will allow BLM to respond to problems quickly with management actions.

## MANAGEMENT CONSTRAINTS

A management constraint is something which helps determine or guide BLM management. It is a limitation on what the BLM can do in terms of trail management.

1. The intensity of management will be directly related to funding levels.
2. Land Ownership Pattern -The pattern of land ownership, i.e., private lands intermingled with the federal lands, precludes the establishment of a continuous trekking route on the actual trail from Torrington to Farson. This land pattern also precludes access to certain historic sites.
3. Historic and Cultural Preservation Laws -Will constrain to some degree the development and use of the trails.
4. Potential for Vandalism -This will place some limits on the type and extent of development that could be carried out along the trails.
5. Public Input and Local Concerns -These will affect the contents of the final management plan for the trails. Trail management will incorporate consideration of local concerns such as effects on private lands, level of use, access, etc.
6. Fragile, Nonrenewable Resources -The historic sites and trail segments are very fragile and nonrenewable. Excessive development and improper use could cause irreparable harm to the resources.
7. Law Enforcement Capability -The BLM has a limited capability to monitor use and enforce laws on the public lands.
8. Much of the Oregon and Mormon Trails have been drastically altered by private and governmental management, farmlands, roads, urban settings, energy development, utility lines, and other evidence of modern development so that today only limited portions of the routes remain as the pioneers saw them.
9. Protection, interpretation, development, and management is to be based on the cultural, historical, natural, and recreational values found along the trails.