

# SPANISH TRACES

VOLUME 26 ♦ NO 3 WINTER 2020



Happy Holidays . . .



and Best  
Historic Wishes

From the Board and Staff  
at the Old Spanish Trail Association

A MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION TO OSTA MAKES A GREAT GIFT!



## OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Old Spanish Trail (OST), one of America's long-distance pioneer trade routes, is recognized by Congress as a National Historic Trail. From 1829 through 1848, traders and pack mules followed the OST on a typically six-week trek from northern New Mexico to Southern California, where woolen goods from New Mexico were swapped for horses and pack stock raised on California's ranchos. Many took the trail — traders, frontiersmen, trappers, families, military expeditions, and Indian guides.

*The mission of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA) is to study, preserve, protect, interpret, and promote appropriate use of the Old Spanish Trail (OST), Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) and closely related historic routes.*

We encourage you to join OSTA, help in trail preservation, and increase appreciation of the multicultural heritage of the American Southwest.

| [oldspanishtrail.org](http://oldspanishtrail.org) |

The OSTA website is the place to go for both general and comprehensive background and recent news on the OSNHT and OSTA. The site contains maps, an overview history of the trail, and a bibliography of relevant books with links for purchases of books and other OSTA merchandise from the Association. There is also a regularly updated news page that contains links to government reports, activities of OSTA members, and other news related to the trail. The web page links to National Park Service (NPS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) sites, where public documents and maps related to the OSNHT can be found. Memberships (new or renewal) may be paid on the OSTA website, and donations, both general and for specific projects, can be made through the OSTA website as well.



*Spanish Traces* is the official publication of the Old Spanish Trail Association (OSTA), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Colorado. *Spanish Traces* welcomes submission of articles, book reviews, and Old Spanish Trail-related news. OSTA assumes no responsibility for statements or opinions of contributors. *Spanish Traces* is copyrighted to OSTA in its entirety, but copyright to individual articles is retained by the author. All matters relating to *Spanish Traces* should be directed to the OSTA President (Paul Ostapuk, [postapuk@gmail.com](mailto:postapuk@gmail.com)).

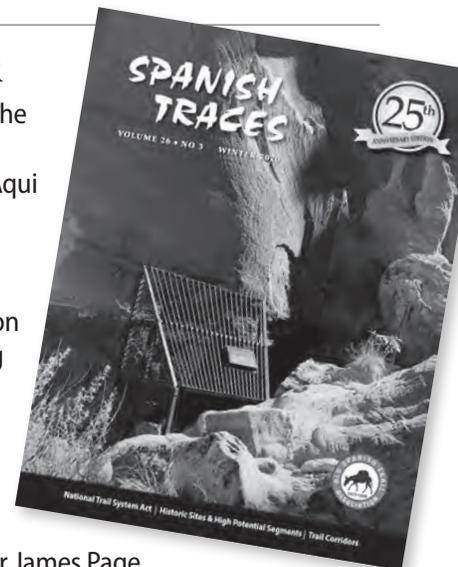
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## ON THE COVER

Iron fencing protects the Dominguez-Escalante Expedition "Paso Por Aqui Año 1776" inscription from vandalism and graffiti. Located in the Glen Canyon Recreation Area near the Crossing of the Fathers and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the inscription was first reported in 2006 by OSTA member James Page, then-president of the Armijo Chapter. OSTA volunteers played a key role in authenticating the inscription and preparing the national register nomination.



## SPRING 2021 DEADLINE

We would love to receive your comments, suggestions, photos, and ideas for future issues. The deadline for submissions for the Spring 2021 issue is March 15, 2021. Send to Lynn Brittner, [ostamgr@gmail.com](mailto:ostamgr@gmail.com).



# LOS SENDEROS

By Lynn Brittner, Executive Director

Although this year held many uncertainties that included a pandemic, a massive economic downturn, and issues of social injustice, there was some good news for the year 2020. Approved in August was the Great American Outdoor Act (GAOA), a law designed to encourage more outdoor recreational opportunities throughout the country. The US Senate voted to pass GAOA, and the bipartisan legislation fully funded the Land & Water Conservation fund after years of effort from many organizations, including the Partnership for the National Trails System. The PNTS played a major role in working towards securing this much-needed funding. The GAOA will provide access to nearly two billion dollars per year for the next five years. These funds will address the backlogged maintenance — such as reopening closed trails, out-of-service restrooms, poorly maintained campgrounds — and other needs in our National Parks, National Forests, and other public lands, and hopefully will aid in addressing trail needs on federal land. Seventy percent of the funds will go to National Parks, fifteen percent to National Forests,

and five percent each to Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Bureau of Land Management.

Because of the issues we faced this year relating to the pandemic, the way we gather in large groups has changed. The pandemic has encouraged us to re-think in-person conferences and workshops. Many non-profits have begun to think outside of the box on how we gather as a group.

The Partnership for the National Trails System Annual Fall Workshop (originally scheduled at Ghost Ranch, NM) was transformed into a virtual workshop, avoiding the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, and getting around travel restrictions. By addressing the new reality of these challenging times, the PNTS offered a National Trails Virtual Fall Workshop from October 21-29 by utilizing Zoom and other technologies to promote National Trails. During this Zoom conference participants, from their home, attended a virtual workshop that presented issues that included: diversity inclusion, increasing capacity thru organizational development, and fundraising

during a pandemic. Via Zoom and webinar integration, those who attended could ask questions by chat audio.

One whole day was dedicated to opportunities to partner with states through initiatives such as the GAOA, and information on how projects will be funded through the bill and working with land trusts and partners outside the trail community to save National Trails. The goal of the workshop was to include interactive and compelling sessions and by using a virtual format. PNTS was able to reduce the price of the registration and will at a later date make recordings of the entire workshop available. Over two hundred people virtually attended or presented at the PNTS' first virtual workshop. ♦





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Back Country Horsemen prepare for their two year trek from Los Angeles to Santa Fe on the Old Spanish Trail.

Photo by Richard Waller

The Old Spanish Trail has been called the most arduous and difficult trail in the United States. With Native American historical roots, the trail was used by the adventurous and opportunists bringing textiles from Santa Fe to trade for mules and horses in Los Angeles beginning in the early 1800s. Spanning more than 2500 miles, parts of the trail were used by fur trappers and later by railroad and military surveyors.

The Old Spanish Trail Association, its members, friends, and partners, are dedicated to protecting, interpreting, and promoting the Old Spanish National Historic Trail and related historic routes.

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 2002. It has often been referred to as the most arduous, difficult trail in the United States. Its designated routes cover six states and some 2,700 miles, traversing mountains, deserts, rivers, and coastal valleys. It was historically used by curious and brave, enterprising, and sometimes nefarious men, forging trade routes between the Mexican cities of Santa Fe, New Mexico, and Los Angeles, California. New Mexican woolen goods were traded for California mules and horses, but the trade also included furs, hides, and even Captives.

Contact us today! Email: [ostamgr@gmail.com](mailto:ostamgr@gmail.com)

[Read more about the trail's history](#)



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Learn more about the Old Spanish Trail Association by visiting the website [oldspanishtrail.org](http://oldspanishtrail.org).

See page 39 for membership information.



# PRESIDENT PATHWAYS

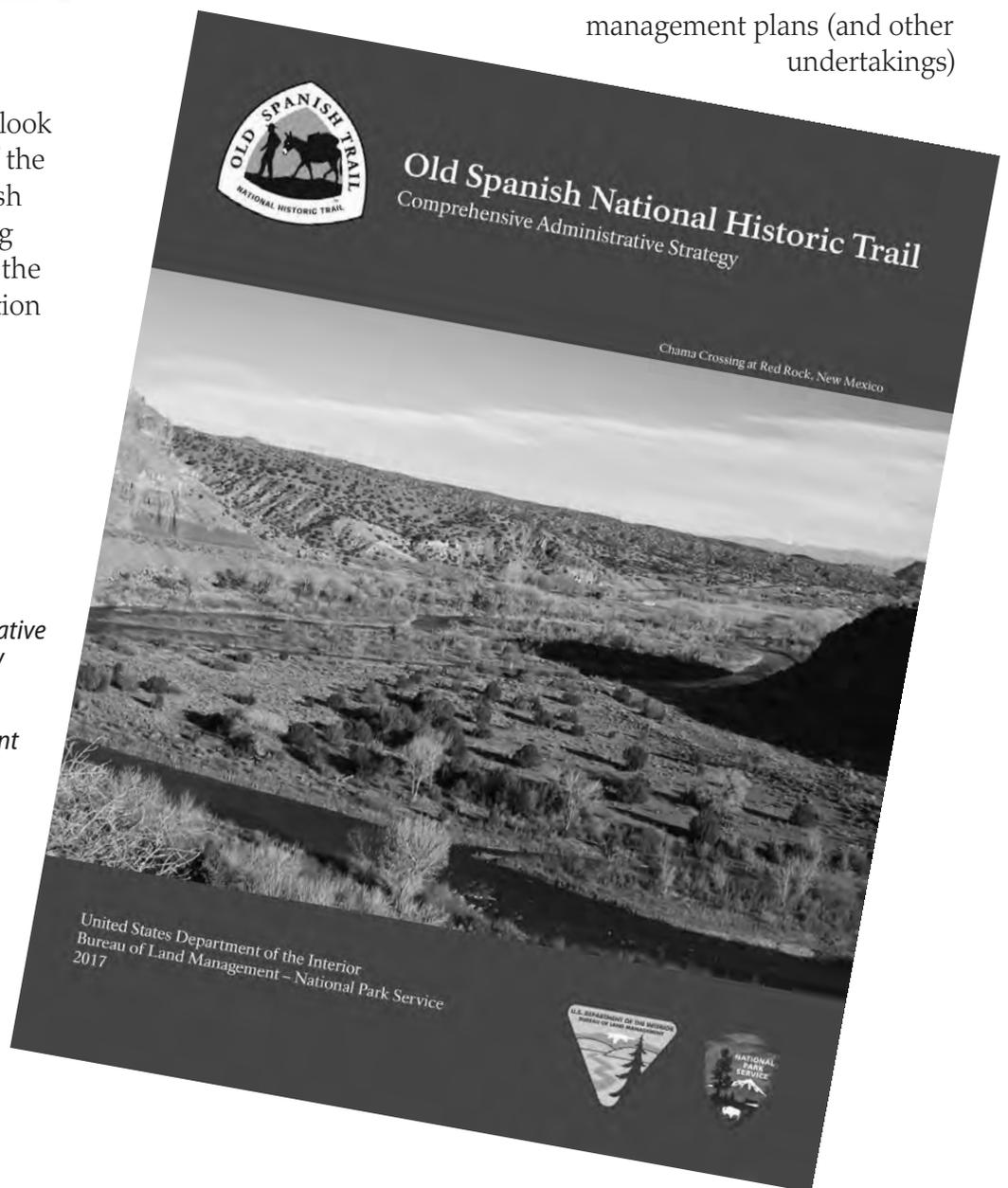
By Paul Ostapuk, OSTA President

and awareness, and realizing the development of a Comprehensive Management Plan by the NPS and BLM trail administrators. The Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT) was officially designated by Congress in 2002, eight years after the OSTA association was incorporated.

In 2017, the NPS and BLM issued what is known as the OSNHT Comprehensive Administrative Strategy. This 141-page document is considered the core component for federal agency planning. It directs federal agency land managers along the length of the trail with specific responsibilities to assure their land use and land management plans (and other undertakings)

As we celebrate 25 years of OSTA's *Spanish Traces* publication, it's important to look back on the journey. Three of the early priorities for Old Spanish Trail Association were seeking congressional designation of the trail, increasing public education

*The Comprehensive Administrative Strategy directs federal agency land managers with the responsibility of assuring their land use and land management plans comply with the requirements, mandates, and goals of the National Trails System Act.*



comply with the requirements, mandates, and goals of the National Trails System Act.

It's been an administratively slow process. Only recently have various land manager field offices begun the process of providing protection for the trail corridor in their resource management plans. Going forward for the next 25 years, we face emerging priorities such as diversity and inclusion, trail stewardship and landscape protection in the face of a major restructuring of our energy resources, and the gradual implementation of recreation plans to enhance outdoor

experiences and increase public enjoyment of the Old Spanish Trail.

We are proud to have you as supporting members. Working with our agency partners, OSTA has a voice and an opportunity to increase protection of the OSNHT and landscape corridors. In addition, we can be part of a growing movement to promote national trails as a special feature of the American experience. Our country's network of national scenic and historic trails is the envy of the world. ♦

*Some sample pages from the 162-page Comprehensive Administrative Strategy manual.*



# CHAPTER REPORT

## New Mexico

By Celinda Reynolds Kaelin

In August, Mark Henderson, OSTA Salida Del Sol Chapter member, received the distinguished 2020 Richard A. Bice Award for Archaeological Achievement on behalf of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico (ASNM).

This award recognized Mark for his sustained contributions to the Taos Archaeological Society and to the mission of ASNM to document, preserve, and protect the archaeological heritage of New Mexico.

In previous efforts, Henderson helped secure a grant from the National Park Foundation to engage Taos County students to explore and appreciate their public

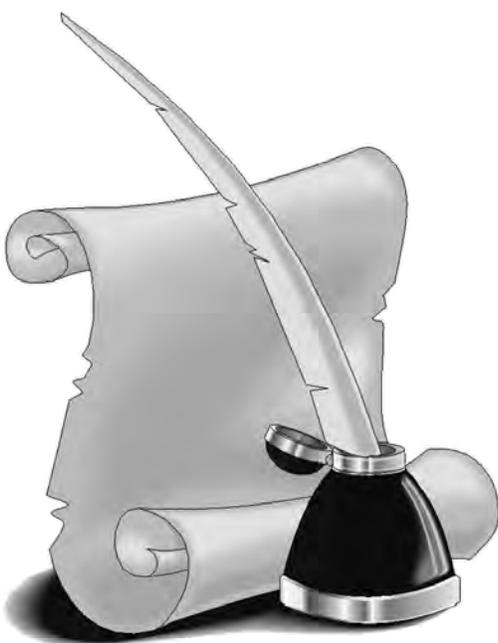
*Mark Henderson, left, a volunteer and member of the Old Spanish Trail Association, teaches Taos High School students to use GPS devices.*



TAOS NEWS

lands. A \$14,200 grant, awarded through the “America’s Best Idea” program, funded the program called “La Vereda Vieja” — an exploration of the Old Spanish

Trail to connect “underserved youth” from Taos and Peñasco to the cultural and natural resources associated with the historic trail. ♦



## Thinking about giving to the Old Spanish Trail Association?

We have several opportunities for you to help your trail — research, preservation, education!

- The Pat Kuhlhoff Education Fund
- General Fund for research & preservation
- Publications
- Remember us in your estate planning!

Visit [ostastore.com](http://ostastore.com) today

All donations are tax-deductible within the guidelines, regulations, and requirements of the Internal Revenue Service. Always seek the advice of your accountant or financial planner.

# CHAPTER REPORT

## North Branch, Colorado

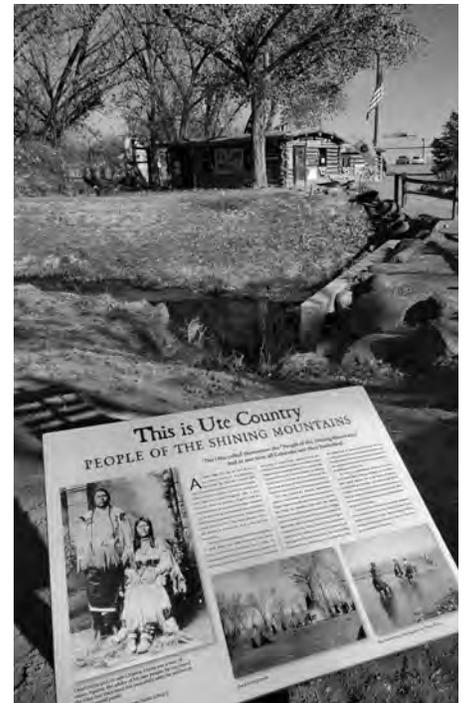
By Chris Miller | Photos by Chris Miller | Interpretive signage designed by Kitty Nicholason

Good things are happening at Fort Uncompahgre Interpretive Center in spite of COVID-19. New interpretive signs have been installed along the **new** trail in and around the exterior of the Fort. Thanks to the City of Delta, CO, and a generous GoCo Grant, the Fort was able to develop 13 sign panels and four pole signs. The new interpretive signs are meant to provide additional information to visitors while visiting The Fort on the Old Spanish Trail located in Delta, Co.

The original fort was located on the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail, which was used mostly by traders and trappers

during the 1820s to 1840s. This route followed well-known Ute Indian trails north through the Rio Grande gorge to Taos and into southern Colorado. It then went west through Cochetopa Pass on to Montrose, CO, and down the Uncompahgre River Valley to Fort Uncompahgre.

The Fort (replica) and the Visitor Center are located between two National Conservation



and Colorado Parks and Wildlife as a Public Lands Information Center operating Monday through Saturday year round.

Visit [fortuncompahgre.org](http://fortuncompahgre.org) for more information about the “new” fort, and read more about the history of the North Branch of the Old Spanish Trail and why Antoine Robidoux picked the location for his future trading post. Read more about the history in *Antoine Robidoux and Fort Uncompahgre* by Ken Reyher and *Fort Uncompahgre* by William McCrea Bailey. Keeping history alive is our heritage. ♦

areas, Gunnison Gorge and the Dominguez-Escalante and Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area. The Visitor Center at the Fort has partnered with Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, US Forest Service,

## Old Spanish Trail Association Announces New Directors

At the October business meeting of the Old Spanish Trail Association, the 2020 election results were approved and an appointment was made to fill open term seats on the board.



### VICE PRESIDENT

**Conchita Marusich**, a resident of Napa, CA, is a descendant of the Old Spanish Trail, and is the author of the publication *In Search of William Wolfskill*, who is her great, great grandfather.



### SECRETARY

**Paula Mitchell**, a native of Cedar City, UT, is an assistant professor and archivist at the Gerald R. Sherratt Library, Southern Utah University.



### CALIFORNIA STATE DIRECTOR

**Nancy Melendez** is a sixth generation "Riversider" in California whose family are among the 10 original families who walked the Old Spanish Trail from Abiquiu, NM to California in 1842, led by Lorenzo Trujillo. She was nominated in 2017 as a Latina of Influence and is the President of the Spanish Town Heritage Foundation.



NEW MEXICO  
STATE DIRECTOR

**Celinda Reynolds Kaelin** resides in Taos, New Mexico. She is an ethno-historian, a member of Western Writers of America, and has authored several books on Pikes Peak. She is the granddaughter of both a New Mexico pioneer/ homesteader, John Allen Reynolds, and Chief Red Bird from the Cherokee Tribe.



COLORADO STATE DIRECTOR

**Richard Waller**, a historian and retired teacher, is a resident of Cedaredge, CO, and an author of several guidebooks on the Old Spanish Trail. He is a trail enthusiast who has retraced the trail by horseback. There is a DVD tracking the 1200-mile journey along with Jim Clark and Otis Calef.



UTAH STATE DIRECTOR

**Gary Tom**, from the Kaibab band of the Paiute Indian tribe, is a resident of Cedar City, Utah. He is a former National Endowment of the Humanities Folk Life Scholar, an accomplished native flutist, and has co-authored a publication on the history of the Paiutes.



AT LARGE DIRECTOR –  
CHAPTER LIAISON

Chris Miller is the Director of the Interpretive Association at the Historic Fort Uncompahgre on the Old Spanish Trail in Delta, CO.

## IN MEMORIUM

### Barbara Matheson

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**B**ARBARA ANN (WRIGHT) MATHESON passed peacefully from this life on 4 September 2020 at the age of 80, joining her adoptive parents, Gilbert E. and Catharine Treahey and children Jimmy and Johnny Leonard, who predeceased her. She is survived by two children, Joseph Dee Leonard, and Sarah Marie (Leonard) Bennett.

“Sunshine” was born in Phoenix, AZ, graduated as Valedictorian and Stirling Scholar from St Teresa’s Academy in Boise, ID, and attended St Mary’s at Notre Dame before receiving her BS at Weber State University as a single mother of three.



She entered Federal Service at Hill AFB, UT, completed Squadron Officer School, Air Command and Staff College, and received her MPA Cum Laude at Auburn University.

Barbara Married Col. Alva L. Matheson in the Washington Temple, Kensington, MD, in 1980, becoming the love of his life and THE love of her new family..., Janean Matheson, KayLynne Matheson, LeAnn (Benny) Bass, Dwayne A. (Eve) Matheson and Alan L. (Annalise) Matheson.

Featured in "Who's Who in Government and Industry," Barbara was a tenacious and consummate professional in everything she did. She had a reputation of ethical pursuit of perfection in administering complex contracts and dismissing corporate officers for ethics violations. Beloved by her co-workers and respected by commanders for her ability to manage any crisis, she was singularly devoted to her country and her peers and well deserving of her numerous awards and the accolades of a grateful nation.

Barbara was Performance Manager for the NASA Space Shuttle Portable Life Support Systems (PLSS); Contract Administrator for Peacekeeper Stage IV Ring Laser Gyro

Navigation Systems (MIRV); Contracting Officer (PCO) for the successful Anti Satellite Missile (ASAT) program; Competition Advocate for USAF Systems Command, Space Division; Contract Administrator for Litton Counter Battery Radar Defense Systems; a warranted Logistics Supervisor for A-10 and F-111 weapon systems during both Desert Storm and Desert Shield (SAAMA); Contract Administrator and Buyer for Minuteman and F-4 defense systems at Hill AFB, (OOAMA) and Contract Negotiator for Aberdeen Proving Grounds, MD.

She loved her corporate world but longed for the mountains of Utah. Always adventurous and free spirited, Barbara free-climbed Lady's Mountain in Zion Canyon on her honeymoon; hiked the Kaiparowits Plateau and routinely amazed women with her prowess by exploring the Grand Staircase Monument in one of the several jeeps she wore out in the process... and Barbara never met a rock she did not love.

She also never met a book she could leave behind. She acquired an enviable collection of South Western American history and as Chair of the SUU Library Board, became their unofficial "book miner" with her passion for collecting "Books By, For, and About Women."

She leaves behind an enduring legacy of learning with Southern Utah University, endowed with her inheritance and a gift of some 30,000 books and artifacts.

A Patron of the arts, Barbara commissioned the "American Journey" CD and DVD of the Old Spanish Trail Suite and considered both Marshall McDonald and Steven Sharp Nelson family.

Barbara was a champion for women, whether in crisis or in business. She founded Transformations Design Group, and managed Color Country Construction, Pride Enterprises LLC. and MEW Inc.

She loved to fly, was an accomplished pianist, Girls State Counselor for the American Legion, a licensed Realtor and MENSA intellect..., with a unique and engaging personality that allowed her to engage any person, any place, any time, on any subject, and to do so at any level of substantive conversation.

Her family desires that remembrances of Barbara Ann Matheson be donated to the "Barbara A. Matheson Special Collections," at the Gerald R. Sheratt Library of Southern Utah University, 351 West Center Street, Cedar City, Utah 84720 ♦

## *Spanish Traces* 25 Years Ago

By Paul Ostapuk

**A**s we celebrate the 25th anniversary of this publication, we will be reviewing the archives and running highlights from past issues.

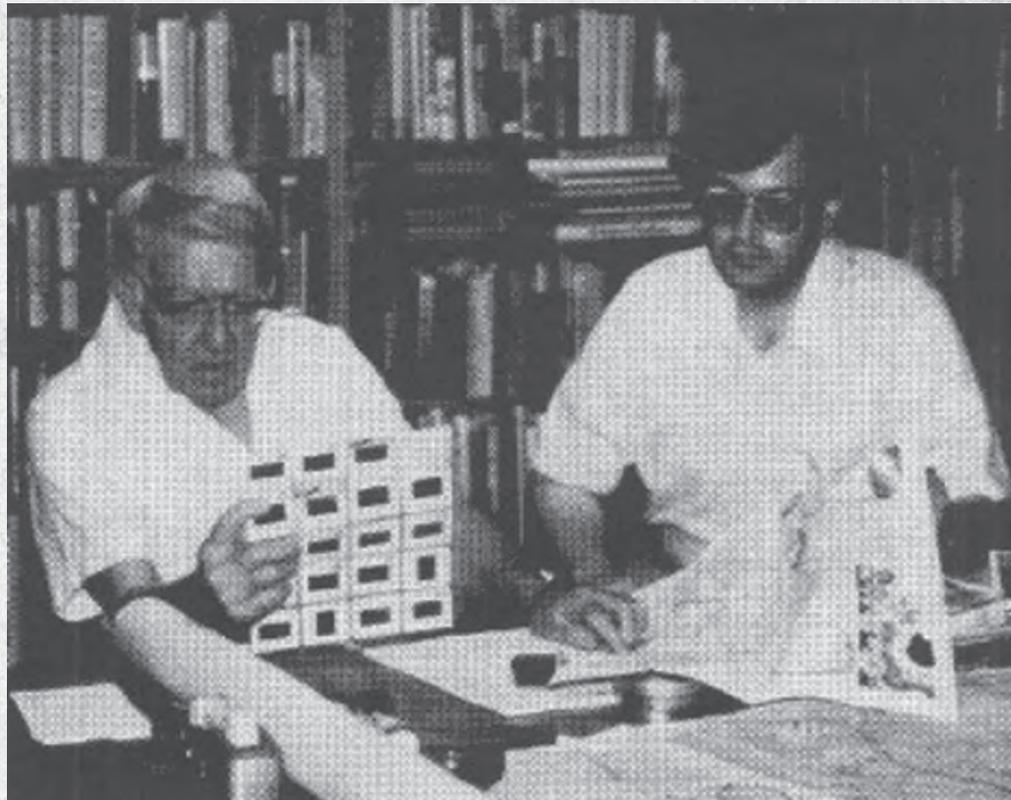
■ The 1995 fall issue of *Spanish Traces* reported OSTA had 228 members from 19 states, Mexico and Germany which was an increase of 60 members in the past six months.

■ President Ron Kessler attended the annual Arizona-New Mexico Historical Societies Convention in Tucson, Arizona with Ruth Marie Colville and Pat Richmond. Together they presented a program on "Two Spanish Governors: Their Trails from Santa Fe into the San Luis Valley of Colorado," and "Trails East and West of the Rio Grande."

■ *Spanish Traces* reported the sad news that C. Gregory Crampton, Phd., noted historian, and Old Spanish Trail scholar passed away at his home in St. George, Utah at the age of 84. Crampton conducted field research and co-authored the book *In Search of the Spanish Trail* (1994) with Steven K. Madsen. Professor Crampton taught at the University of Utah from

1945 until his retirement in 1979. In 1956, Crampton persuaded the National Park Service that a historical study of Glen Canyon should be performed along with a scheduled archaeological survey, as the canyon was to be flooded for Lake Powell. The Park Service assigned him the job. In the course of that

work Crampton traced and photographed the "Crossing of the Fathers," where in 1776 the Spanish priests, Dominguez and Escalante, cut steps in the steep rock banks of the Colorado River. That priceless site in south-central Utah near the Arizona border is now lost under the waters of Lake Powell. ♦



*Greg Crampton and Steve Madsen at work on "In Search of the Spanish Trail."*

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# Remembering Ron Kessler

By Pat Richmond

RON KESSLER, who passed away on April 5, 2020, was a founding member of the OSTA and OSTA's first president in 1994. He was a well-known author of historical books and wrote "Retracing the OST North Branch."

Ron Kessler's roots reached back to 19th century Mormon settlers who had migrated into the San Luis Valley. Ron ranched south of Monte Vista, but he also worked for the Staley potato starch company. The first weekend in August, the Town of Del Norte hosted its annual Covered Wagon Days to honor pioneer ancestors and to celebrate the founding of the town. Ron began driving a replica covered wagon along old trail traces south of U.S. Hwy 160 to participate in the Covered Wagon Days celebration.

In the winter of 1993-94, after class, Kessler became aware that plans for a new Rio Grande County landfill south of U.S. Hwy 160 would desecrate a segment of an historic trail. Ron posted a notice in local newspapers inviting other people interested in San Luis Valley (SLV) history to meet at the Rio Grande County Museum to discuss the problem. Due to inclement weather, only a half dozen people convened, including Colville, Pat Richmond, and two descendants of early Conejos Valley settlers — Max Lara and a Mr. Martinez. Ron shared visual

materials of the proposed landfill and access road in explaining the situation. That small group decided that the best approach toward requesting changes to the county's plan should be as an organized effort rather than as individuals. Ron would check into requirements and procedures for incorporating a non-profit organization. The second meeting a few weeks later drew a larger number of people.

That meeting set the name of the organization, a dues schedule for membership, a date, time, and place for the first annual meeting, and elected officers. By June, the final Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws for OSTA were ready for approval. Following the first annual meeting, which demonstrated valley-wide interest in the old trail, Ron conferred with fellow SLV historians to establish county chapters that would work toward identifying, marking, and preserving the trail within their locales while promoting public awareness and further interest.

Saguache County, under the leadership of Yvonne Halburian became OSTA's first local chapter.

Though not a trained academic historian, Ron held a passion for history — especially San Luis Valley history. As an avid reader, he had honed his interest in the SLV's historic heritage including Hispanic origins and influences to becoming expert on some topics



*Ron Kessler points out trail ruts to Pat Mimms (photo by Don Mimms)*

or figures of historic relevance. He especially admired New Mexico's Governor General Juan Bautista de Anza, who had traversed the length of the SLV via the west side trail in 1779. During his opening address at the 1997 Anza Conference in Arizpe, Mexico, Ron expressed his opinion that Anza's influential role in western history deserved greater recognition not only locally and regionally but also nationally. Perhaps Ron's fervor about Anza and his role in traveling the historic trail carried over to the Rio Grande County Commissioners. Ron negotiated a compromise plan that saved the trail segment from desecration while allowing the county to create a convenient access road into the new landfill.

Following that first annual OSTA meeting, Ron made contact with Utah historians Ralph Crampton and Steve Madsen as well as individuals in Grand Junction and Durango who had examined and documented the North Branch and Moab routes as part of their regional history. Ron hoped to expand the scope, and thereby the relevance, of OSTA and the importance of the

Old Spanish Trail beyond the San Luis Valley. In April 1995, Ron, Colville, and Richmond traveled to Tucson for the New Mexico-Arizona Historic Conference. Their presentation, *Two Governors and Three Centuries of Trails: A Summary of Historic Use of Trails Linking Northern New Mexico, the San Luis Valley of Colorado, and the Old Spanish Trail to California*, drew a standing-room crowd and led to the subsequent formation of OSTA chapters outside the SLV.

Ron was a skillful organizer and planner. Following the Tucson conference, Ron and Don Garate traveled to Arizpe, Anza's burial site, to meet with local and Sonoran officials to discuss ideas Ron had conceived toward initiating an Anza Conference. In its inception and early years, the conference convened in Arizpe and focused not only on Anza's historic presence in the Southwestern states and northern Mexico but also toward developing appreciation for cultural values on both sides of the border. The Anza Conference, Ron Kessler's initiative for promoting awareness of Anza's place in history, marked its 25th anniversary in 2020.

Intent on confirming the route of an eastside trail leading from New Mexico into the San Luis Valley (followed by Vargas in 1694 and noted by Pike in 1807), Ron arranged to fly over the SLV to look for trail traces on both sides of the valley. That day, he observed traces of a trail along the east side of the SLV leading northward from the historic ford of the



Culebra River (described in several documents) toward the Town of Blanca and beyond. Ron later put foot to soil to identify segments of the trail still visible on the ground with traces passing beneath the large sign at the west edge of the Town of Blanca and along the west side of the Zapata Ranch Resort's golf course (then privately owned).

Ron linked Anza's legacy to this eastside trail through travel by Spanish officials to the Pueblo area in establishing the Jupé Comanche settlement of St. Charles after the defeat of Cuerno Verde near today's Colorado City. Saguache Chapter members Yvonne and Sam Halburian, Cecil and Sally Hall, and Richmond joined Ron for a fieldtrip to

Colorado City to explore an area near that golf course that Ron believed more likely held the Cuerno Verde battle site than the site marked by the CSHS.

Ron made contact with Jere Krakow to discuss the possibility of the OST becoming a national historic trail. During his second term as president of OSTA, Ron initiated the process that eventually led to the OST's inclusion in the National Historic Trails system.

Ron Kessler was a visionary. He also was a pioneer in setting and accomplishing goals he conceived for two organizations steeped in Hispanic heritage — both of which have retained their vitality for over 25 years. ♦

# BOOK RELEASE

## “AMERICA’S NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS”

By Karen Berger

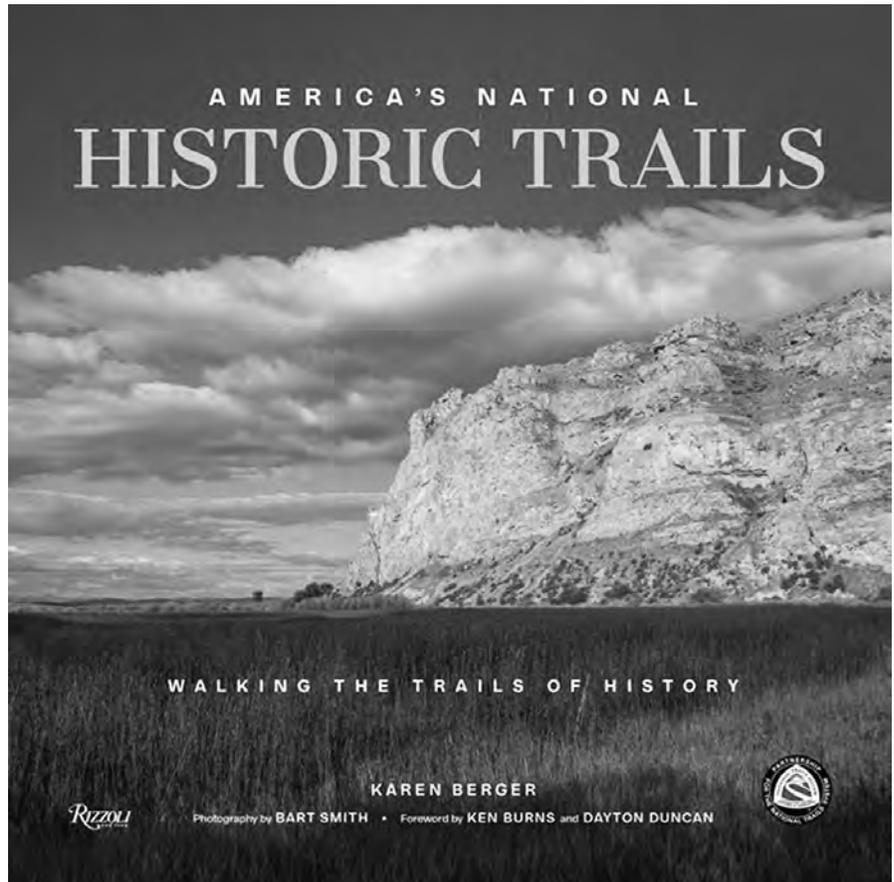
Photography by Bart Smith

### Historic Trails Featured in New Book

ADAPTED FROM A NEWS RELEASE

Our forebears passed through these lands for many different reasons: for freedom, for a king, for God, for a protest, for economic opportunity, for adventure, for war. From the battlefields of the American Revolution to the trails blazed by the pioneers, lands explored by Lewis and Clark and covered by the Pony Express to the civil rights marches of Selma and Montgomery, “America’s National Historic Trails: In the Footsteps of History” is now available in hardcopy to celebrate this part of our national trail system.

Historic trails range from 54 miles to more than 5,000 and feature historic and interpretive sites to be explored on foot and sometimes by paddle, sail, bicycle, horse, or car on backcountry roads. Totaling more than 37,000 miles through 42 states, our entire national experience comes to life on these trails—from American Indian history to the settlement of the colonies, westward expansion, and civil rights—and they are beautifully depicted in this large-format volume with photography by Bart Smith, the first person to walk all 11 national scenic trails and 19 national historic trails—more than 35,000 miles of America’s landscape.



As author Karen Berger writes in her introduction, the national historic trails give a way to connect. “All of (the trails) offer opportunities to experience the varied environments that have played a role in the American narrative. But even more, these trails place us at the intersection of story and landscape. When we touch the wooden walls of a frontier fort, step in the ruts of wagon wheels, look down at a

river from a bridge that wasn’t there a hundred years ago, or consider what it would be like to walk, ride a horse, drive a wagon, or march in military formation over an expanse of land, we understand the past in a physical, visceral way. We all have our reasons, both then and now.”

A portion of proceeds from book sales help support the work of the Partnership for the National Trails System. ♦

# The Importance of the National Trail System Act

Every October is an opportunity to celebrate the anniversary and importance of the National Trails System Act, P.L. 90-543, signed into law on October 2, 1968. The Act, and its subsequent amendments, authorize a national system of trails to provide recreation opportunities and preserve access to outdoor areas and historic resources across the nation. This includes the establishment of trails in both urban and rural settings — trails for people of all ages, interests, skills, and physical abilities.

The Act established four classes of trails: national scenic trails, national historic trails, national recreation trails, and side and connecting trails. Thus far, Congress has designated eleven (11) National Scenic and nineteen (19) National Historic Trails, which includes the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT).

National historic trails are identified as extended trails which follow as closely as practicable the original trails or routes of historically significant events. These national historic trails have the purpose

**The national trail system act provides for the outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and promotes the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.**

of identifying and protecting historic routes and their historic remnants for public use and enjoyment. Section 5(f) of the National Trails System Act requires the development

of Comprehensive Management Plans for all designated national historic trails. These documents have identified trail administration as the core planning component.

The National Trail System Act also acknowledges the important role of volunteer organizations.

“Congress recognized the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation’s trails. Trail administrators will provide leadership for volunteers, partners, and stewards. Trail resource stewards will include federal, tribal, state, and local governments; landowners; trail organizations; and interested individuals.”

In the spirit of this law, the Old Spanish Trail Association currently has a 5-year Cooperative Agreement and an annual Task Agreement with the National Park Service – Intermountain Region regarding administrative assistance and volunteer support for the OSNHT. ♦

“In recognition of these contributions, it is further the purpose of the National Trail System Act to encourage and assist volunteer citizen involvement in the planning, development, maintenance, and management, where appropriate, of trails.”

# VOLUNTEERS

“Congress recognized the valuable contributions that volunteers and private, nonprofit trail groups have made to the development and maintenance of the Nation’s trails.”



DON MIMMS

*Old Spanish Trail Association volunteers receive a safety briefing.*

National Historic Trail Name		Year Established	Length Authorized
1	Oregon National Historic Trail	1978	2,170 miles
2	Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail	1978	1,300 miles
3	Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail	1978	3,700 miles
4	Iditarod National Historic Trail	1978	2,350 miles
5	Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail	1980	275 miles
6	Nez Perce National Historic Trail	1986	1,170 miles
7	Santa Fe National Historic Trail	1987	1,203 miles
8	Trail of Tears National Historic Trail	1987	2,200 miles
9	Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail	1990	1,200 miles
10	California Trail	1992	5,665 miles
11	Pony Express National Historic Trail	1992	1,966 miles
12	Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail	1996	54 miles
13	El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail	2000	404 miles
14	Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail	2000	175 miles
15	Old Spanish National Historic Trail	2002	2,700 miles
16	El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail	2004	2,580 miles
17	Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail	2006	3,000 miles
18	Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail	2008	290 miles
19	Washington-Rochambeau Revolutionary Route National Historic Trail	2009	600 miles

# Management of Trail Corridors

By Rob Sweeten

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM)  
OLD SPANISH NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL CO-ADMINISTRATOR

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The term “corridor” is used often in association with National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT). Corridor can mean different things depending on our perspective (land managers, partners, or the visiting public). The most basic of interpretations would be the continuous landscape associated with the nature and purpose of the trail. National Trail Management Corridors (NTMC), more specifically consist of segments of trail located within federally managed lands, used to identify planning objectives. Viewshed analysis corridors, “right of way” corridors, cultural landscapes, and areas of potential effect, are just a few other examples of when a corridor is used to reference trail inventory boundaries. NSHT’s are administered and managed by many agencies and cross multiple jurisdictions so the use of the term “corridor,” can often become confusing.

All three Land Management agencies (BLM, USFS, and NPS) have management policies that effect corridors (FSM 2350; NPS Director’s Orders 45; and BLM 6280 and 6250). BLM has put forth extensive effort to create policy that directs an NTMC be used to identify prescriptions and practices to address the federal protection components of NSHTs.

The BLM defines the use of NTMCs in the BLM’s 6280 Manual as an “allocation established through the land use planning process, pursuant to Section 202 of Federal Land Policy and Management Act and Section 7(a)(2) of the National Trail System Act (“right-of-way”) for a public land area of sufficient width within which to encompass National Trail resources, qualities, values, and associated settings, and the primary use or uses that are present or to be restored.”

When a BLM Resource Management Plan (RMP) is revised, with the purpose of addressing a National Trail, an inventory of resources, qualities, values, associated settings and natural resources along with recreational uses and users is produced. The revised RMP can then help to inform a range of alternatives that avoid substantial interference with the *nature and purpose* of the NSHT. Without an inventory or defining the corridor, the BLM would not have the information needed to identify impacts and propose measures to avoid substantial interference. An NTMC need not be along the entire trail within the boundary of the plan, but it should address all areas where impacts to federal protection components may occur. High Potential Sites

and Segments on BLM land should have an NTMC for all alternatives.

The BLM has made a priority of developing technical reference materials for obtaining inventory data that can be used to inform the creation of NTMCs. An introduction to these Inventory, Assessment and Monitoring (IAM) methodologies was recently shared at the Partnership for the National Trail Systems remote workshop. The BLM is committed to identifying NTMCs. For example, if a Field Office contains a segment of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail within its boundaries, trail partners, such as the Old Spanish Trail Association, could anticipate working with BLM management and resource specialists during an RMP revision to create NTMCs where needed. It should be noted that although NTMCs are created only during RMP revisions, inventory efforts are ongoing and assistance from trail partners in these efforts is always helpful. ♦

**For more information on management corridors, or for a copy of the IAM technical reference, please contact your local BLM office or visit BLM National Scenic and Historic Trails.**



*Rob visiting a rock art site in Iron County, Utah, along a high potential segment of the OSNHT.*



# National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act

By Jill Jensen

ARCHAEOLOGIST, NATIONAL TRAILS OFFICE,  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) are two separate and distinct pieces of legislation, but the review processes nearly always happen simultaneously. Because the majority of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail does *not* fall under NHPA review, I'd like to briefly explain how the NEPA process works and then highlight the differences between that process and the NHPA review process.

## National Environmental Policy Act

In simple terms, the purpose of NEPA can be summarized as "look before you leap." The whole intent of the Act is to require the federal government to consider the potential impacts of what it is doing (or allowing others to do) and making that process transparent and accessible to the public. The Act does not require the agency to choose one option over another, it just requires a review and consideration of appropriate data.

The complete text of the Act is a mere seven pages! How the Act would be implemented is spelled out in the Code of Federal Regulations (commonly referred to as CFRs). Each Department of the government (for example, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, etc.) has its own CFRs relating to NEPA, and so each Department implements NEPA slightly differently.

Proposed projects are subject to NEPA if they are on federal land, require a federal permit, or involve substantial federal funding. Project reviews are set up either as an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); public review periods are required only for an EIS. An EA is appropriate when there are no significant environmental impacts likely from the proposed action, while an EIS is appropriate when there are

expected to be significant impacts. Regardless of whether the NEPA path is an EA or an EIS, the only resources that have to be considered are ones likely to be affected by the proposed project or those resources of a pressing concern in some manner to the land manager.

Each resource is looked at in terms of the nature and intensity of the impact of the project itself and how the impact of the project combines with impacts from other projects. The NEPA analysis reviews the Affected Environment for a suite of resources (e.g. Land Use, Recreation, Geology, etc.), with the analysis area being focused on those geographic areas that may be affected by the proposed project. For instance, the Affected Environment for Geology, Soils, and Mineral resources in the Gemini Solar EIS was limited to areas within a half mile of the project area/project footprint whereas the Affected Environments for Land Use ranged up to 50 miles from the edge of the project footprint.

For resources like the Old Spanish National Historic Trail, where to draw the line for the Affected Environment is more complicated. The Old Spanish NHT spans thousands of miles, has archaeological components (but is itself a non-archaeological resource), exists on a landscape level, and was designated by an act of Congress. Most analyses for NHTs rely on the viewshed of the trail in relation to the project itself...how far away do I need to be before I can't really see the project or the project doesn't really impact my experience on the trail? This would be straightforward if the trail truly existed as

## NEPA | NHPA

It's important to understand that NEPA and NHPA are two separate and distinct laws, even though they often are addressed at the same time.

“a line on the ground,” but that’s not the nature of historic trails. Historic trails meander through time depending on local conditions, so their “footprint” is best visualized as a corridor of travel rather than a line on the ground.

### National Historic Preservation Act

The purpose of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is to “establish a program for the preservation of additional historic properties throughout the Nation, and for other purposes.” The NHPA created a number of different programs: State Historic Preservation Offices, the National Trust, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. Section 106 of the NHPA is just two sentences (!) that direct the head of any Federal agency to take into account the effect of the undertaking on anything included on the National Register and to give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Federal undertakings are subject to NHPA review. A federal undertaking is a project, activity, or program either funded, permitted, licensed, or approved by a Federal agency. This definition casts a much broader net than what requires a NEPA review; there are

some projects that will be subject to NHPA but not NEPA.

Cultural resources that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or that are eligible for listing, are called “historic properties,” and those are the only resources addressed by Section 106 of the NHPA. There are five categories of historic properties (building, structure, object, site, and district) and of these the Old Spanish NHT is typically classified as a site. For a resource to be an archaeological site eligible for listing on the National Register, it must have either some physical remnant *or* sufficient documentation that supports the presence of an event in that location. For much of the Old Spanish NHT, these criteria cannot be met and so often the trail does not fall under NHPA review.

It is important to understand that NEPA and NHPA are two separate and distinct laws, even though they often are addressed at the same time. When writing comment letters or considering the potential for effect on the trail, it’s important to frame your response according to the type of review that’s taking place. For instance, if a project impedes access to the trail, that is a concern to be raised under NEPA as NHPA does not address preservation of access. ♦

	<b>High Potential Sites /Segment (NEPA review)</b>	<b>National Register Historic Properties (NHPA review)</b>
<b>Nature of the resource</b>	Visitor experience on the trail, including remnants and setting	Archeological, historic remnants, buildings, and structures, with boundaries drawn tightly around the resource
<b>Historical significance of the resource</b>	NHT as a whole is nationally significant but some sites/segments may be non-contributing	Contributes to the overall national significance of the NHT
<b>Condition of the resource</b>	Intact or minimally disturbed preferred but not required	Must retain integrity of setting, feeling, and association
<b>Documented by</b>	NHP administrator and partners	Any qualified researcher, but typically archeologists & public historians
<b>Identified by</b>	NHT administrator	Keeper of the NRHP
<b>Management prescriptions</b>	National Trails System Act and land management agency rules, plans, and protocols	National Register of Historic Places and 36 CFR Part 800 regulations

*Cultural resources that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, or that are eligible for listing, are called “historic properties,” and those are the only resources addressed by Section 106 of the NHPA.*

# High Potential Sites and Segments

By Paul Ostapuk

Under Section 5(e)(1) of the National Trails System Act, it is the responsibility of the administering agencies to identify high potential sites and segments as part of the comprehensive planning process for the Old Spanish National Historic Trail (OSNHT).

- High potential sites are historic sites related to the route (or in close proximity) which provide the opportunity to interpret the historic significance of the trail. Criteria for consideration as high potential sites include the historic significance, the presence of visible historic remnants, the scenic quality, or the relative freedom from intrusion.
- High potential route segments are segments of the OSNHT trail corridor that afford high-quality

recreation experiences having greater-than-average scenic values or an opportunity to share vicariously the experience of the original users of the historic route.

Executive Order No. 13195: Trails for America in the 21st Century issued January 18, 2001 directs “protecting the trail corridors associated with national scenic trails and the high priority potential sites and segments of national historic trails to the degrees necessary to ensure that the values for which each trail was established remain intact.”

In 2017, the Department of Interior released its Comprehensive Administrative Strategy (CAS) for the OSNHT. This document identified sixty-two (62) high potential sites and forty-three (43) high potential route segments. ♦

## TOTAL HIGH POTENTIAL RESOURCES BY STATE

State	Sites	Segments	Segment Notes	Total
Arizona	1	4	1 is also in UT	5
California	18	8		26
Colorado	4	6	1 is also in NM	10
Nevada	5	5		10
New Mexico	19	7		26
Utah	15	13	1 is also in CO	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>105</b>

## CHAPTER CALL TO ACTION

OSTA chapters have an important role to help document trail corridor resources.

Pictures and field notes along the path of these segments help to document trail corridor baseline conditions, record landscape features, identify recreational potential, and bring attention to archeological and historic sites.

The information can help OSTA with stewardship efforts to protect important trail resources.

## OSNHT HIGH POTENTIAL SITES

Site Name	State	County
Abiquiú	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Agua Mansa Cemetery	California	San Bernardino
Amargosa Spring	California	San Bernardino
Big Springs National Register Archaeological District (Las Vegas Springs)	Nevada	Clark
Bitter Springs	California	San Bernardino
Blue Diamond (Cottonwood) Spring	Nevada	Clark
Bunker Site	Colorado	Saguache
Camp Spring	Utah	Washington
Canyon Pintado	Utah	San Juan
Casa Colorado Wash	Utah	San Juan
Colorado River Crossing near Moab	Utah	Grand
Cross Canyon Springs (Tierra Blanca)	Colorado	Mesa
Crossing of Los Pinos River	Colorado	La Plata
De Siena Springs	California	San Bernardino
Vincent Lugo Adobe	California	Los Angeles
Enoch Johnson [Jones] Spring	Utah	Iron
Green River Crossing	Utah	Emery
Hacienda de los Martinez	New Mexico	Taos
Hesperus-La Plata Crossing	Colorado	La Plata
Holt Canyon	Utah	Washington
Juan Matías Sanchez Adobe	California	Los Angeles
Kane Springs	Utah	San Juan
Kit Carson Home and Museum	New Mexico	Taos
Laguna Hedionda	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Lane's Crossing (Oro Grande Junction)	California	San Bernardino
Las Tinajas Waterholes	Utah	San Juan
Looking Glass Rock	Utah	San Juan
Los Angeles Plaza, Church, and Cemetery	California	Los Angeles
Los Luceros	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Magotsu	Utah	Washington
Michael White (Miguel Blanco) Adobe	California	Los Angeles

## OSNHT HIGH POTENTIAL SITES

Site Name	State	County
Mission San Gabriel Archangel	California	Los Angeles
Mountain Springs	Nevada	Clark
Nambe Pueblo	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Picuris Pueblo	New Mexico	Taos
Pipe Spring National Monument	Arizona	Mohave
Piute Springs (UT)	Utah	San Juan
Plaza del Cerro (Chimayo)	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Point of Rocks/Helendale	California	San Bernardino
Pojoaque Pueblo	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Politana	California	San Bernardino
Punta de Agua/Fork of Roads	California	San Bernardino
Ranchos de Taos Plaza	New Mexico	Taos
Resting Spring	California	Inyo
Robidoux Inscription	Utah	Grand
Salt Springs	California	San Bernardino
San Antonio del Río Colorado (Questa)	New Mexico	Taos
San Bernardino Estancia	California	San Bernardino
San Ildefonso Pueblo	New Mexico	Santa Fe
San Rafael Swell ruts	Utah	Emery
Santa Cruz Plaza and Church	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Santa Fe Plaza	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Santa Rosa de Lima de Abiquiú Chapel and Village	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Simon Turley's Mill and Distillery	New Mexico	Taos
Stuart Ranch pictographs	Nevada	Clark
Stump Spring	Nevada	Clark
Taos Downtown Historic District	New Mexico	Taos
Taos Pueblo	New Mexico	Taos
Tesuque Pueblo	New Mexico	Santa Fe
Trujillo Adobe	California	Riverside
William Knight Inscription	Utah	Iron
William Workman Home	California	Los Angeles

# MANAGEMENT TRAIL CORRIDORS

BLM Manual 6280 provides direction for BLM land managers to create management corridors for all high potential sites and high potential route segments.

The 2017 Comprehensive Administrative Strategy for the OSNHT states “trail protection corridors currently range from zero to five miles (or more) on either side of the trail route. These are arbitrary and conceptual corridor widths. Trail administrators will encourage a landscape- or viewshed-based approach for trail corridor establishment and protection.”

In most cases today, however, the formal establishment of management trail corridors is lacking.

## OSNHT HIGH POTENTIAL ROUTE SEGMENTS

Segment Name	State	County
Afton Canyon	California	San Bernardino
Amargosa River	California	San Bernardino/Inyo
Aztec-La Plata	New Mexico	San Juan
Beaver Dam	Arizona/Utah	Mohave/Washington
Big Bend of the Virgin	Arizona	Mohave
Blue Diamond	Nevada	Clark
Blue Hills	Utah	Grand
Book Cliffs	Utah/Colorado	Emery/Grand/Mesa
Box of the Paria	Utah	Kane
Bulldog Canyon	Utah	Washington
Cajon Pass	California	San Bernardino
California Crossing	Nevada	Clark
Cañada de Apodaca	New Mexico	Taos / Rio Arriba

*(SEGMENTS continues on page 26)*

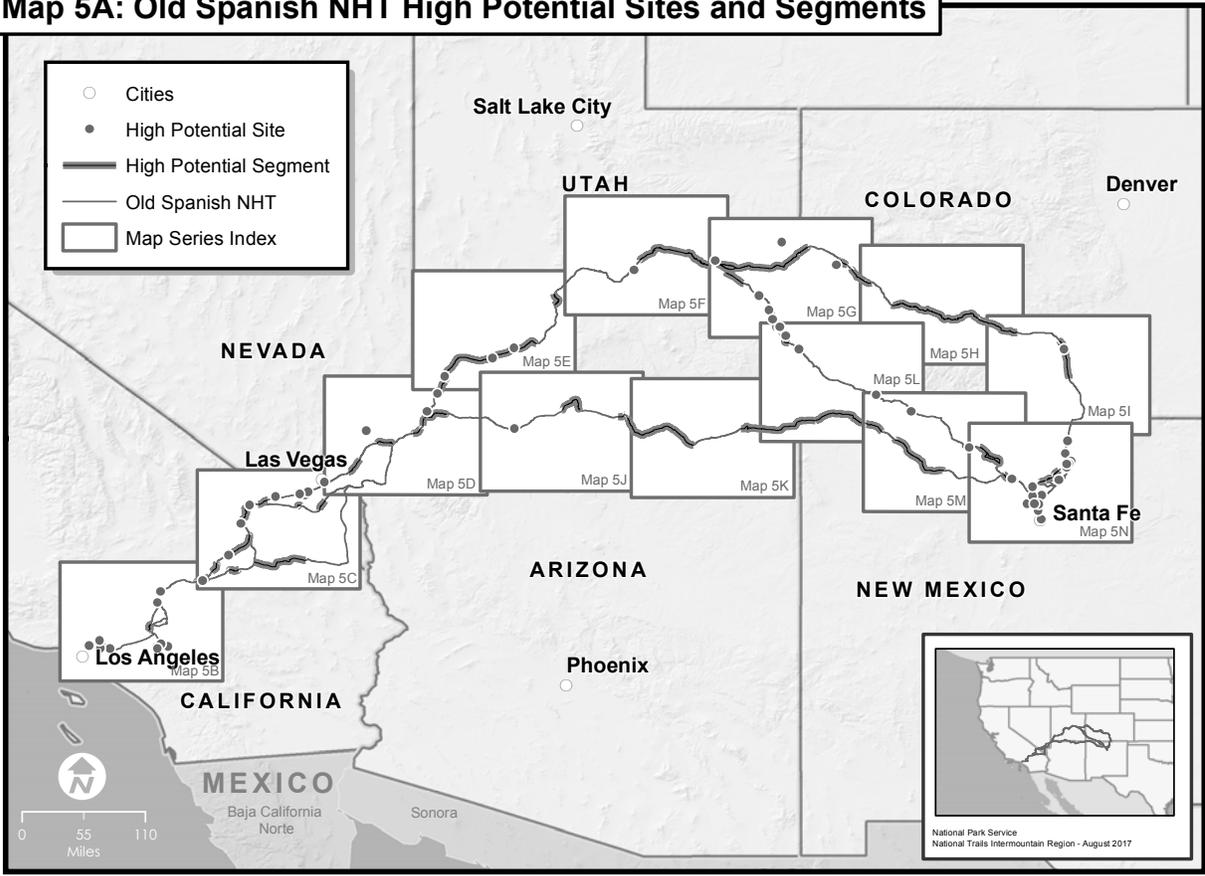


(SEGMENTS continued from page 25)

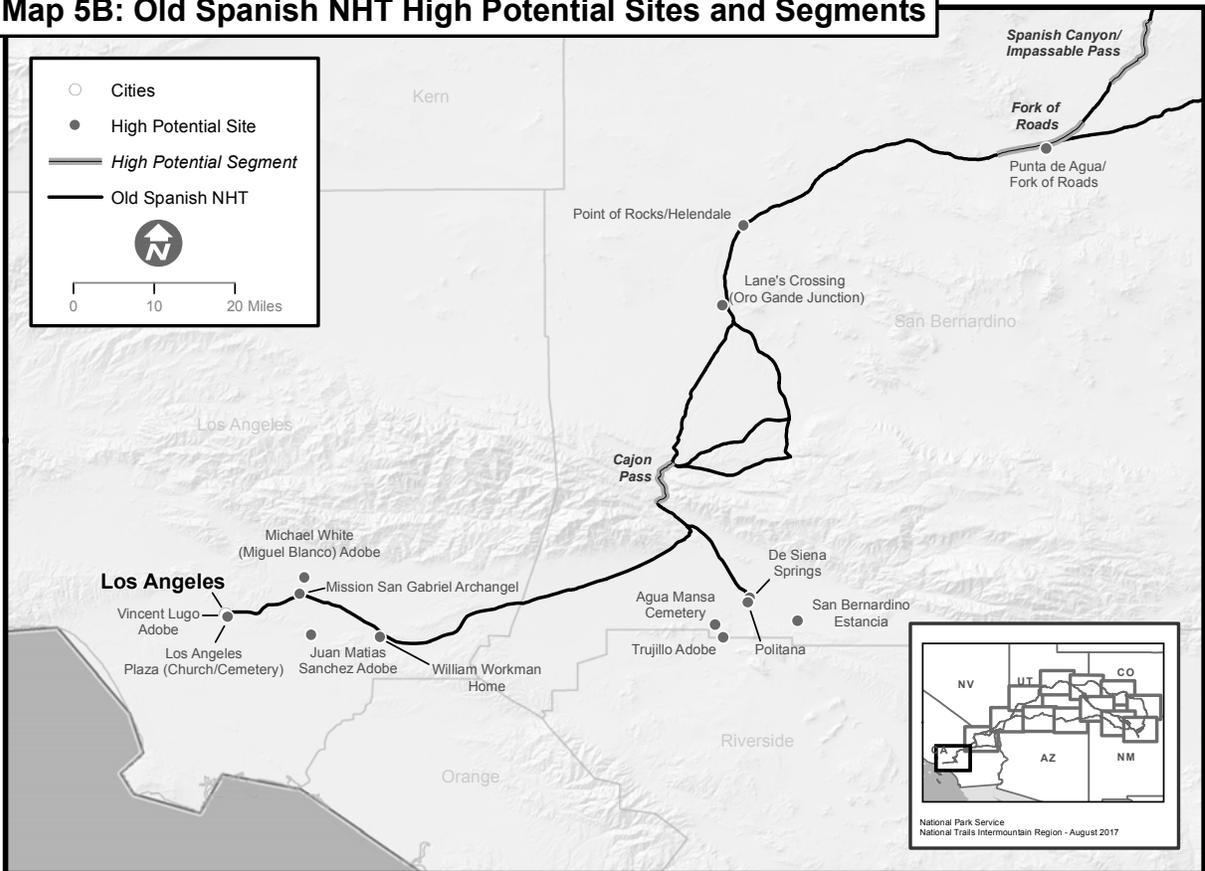
Chama River	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Cochetopa Creek	Colorado	Uncompaghre
East Canyon	Utah	San Juan
El Vado South	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Emigrant Pass	California	Inyo
Fool's Hill	Colorado	Delta/Mesa
Fork of Roads	California	San Bernardino
Great Sand Dunes	Colorado	Alamosa/Saguache
Gunsight Pass	Utah	Kane
Hamblin Ranch	Utah	Washington
Hidden Valley	Nevada	Clark
La Joya/Embudo	New Mexico	Rio Arriba
Largo Canyon	New Mexico	Rio Arriba / San Juan
Long Canyon	Arizona	Coconino/Navajo
Long Valley	Utah	Sevier/Piute
Mancos Canyon	Colorado/New Mexico	Montezuma/La Plata/San Juan
Mormon Mesa	Nevada	Clark
Mountain Meadow	Utah	Washington
Mule Shoe Wash	Utah	San Juan
North Cedar City	Utah	Iron/Washington
Red Pass	California	San Bernardino
Saguache Creek	Colorado	Saguache
San Rafael Swell	Utah	Emery
Sand Hills	Utah	Kane
Seven Mile	Colorado	Mesa
Southern Mojave	California	San Bernardino
Spanish Canyon/ Impassable Pass	California	San Bernardino
Sweetwater Springs	Arizona	Apache
Taos Overlook	New Mexico	Taos
Wilson Pass	Nevada	Clark/Nye



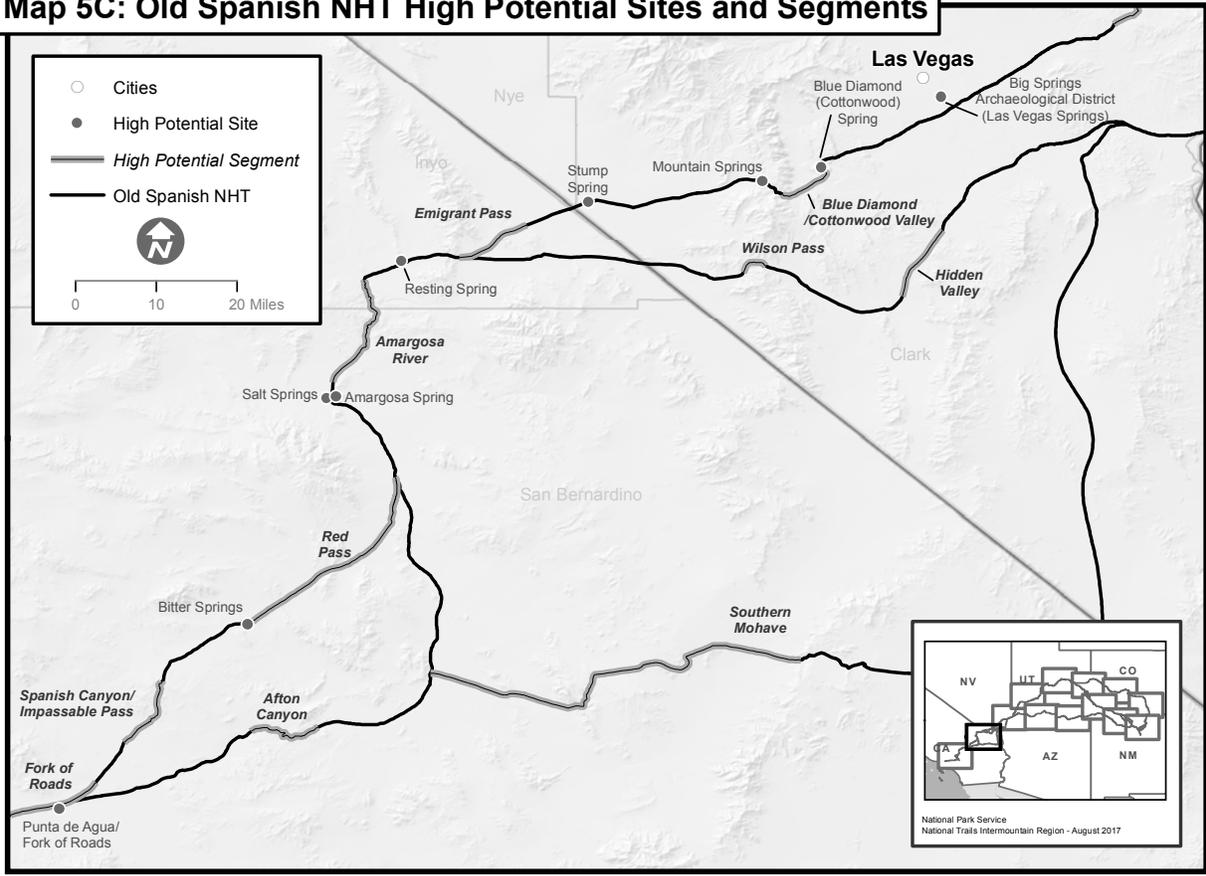
**Map 5A: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



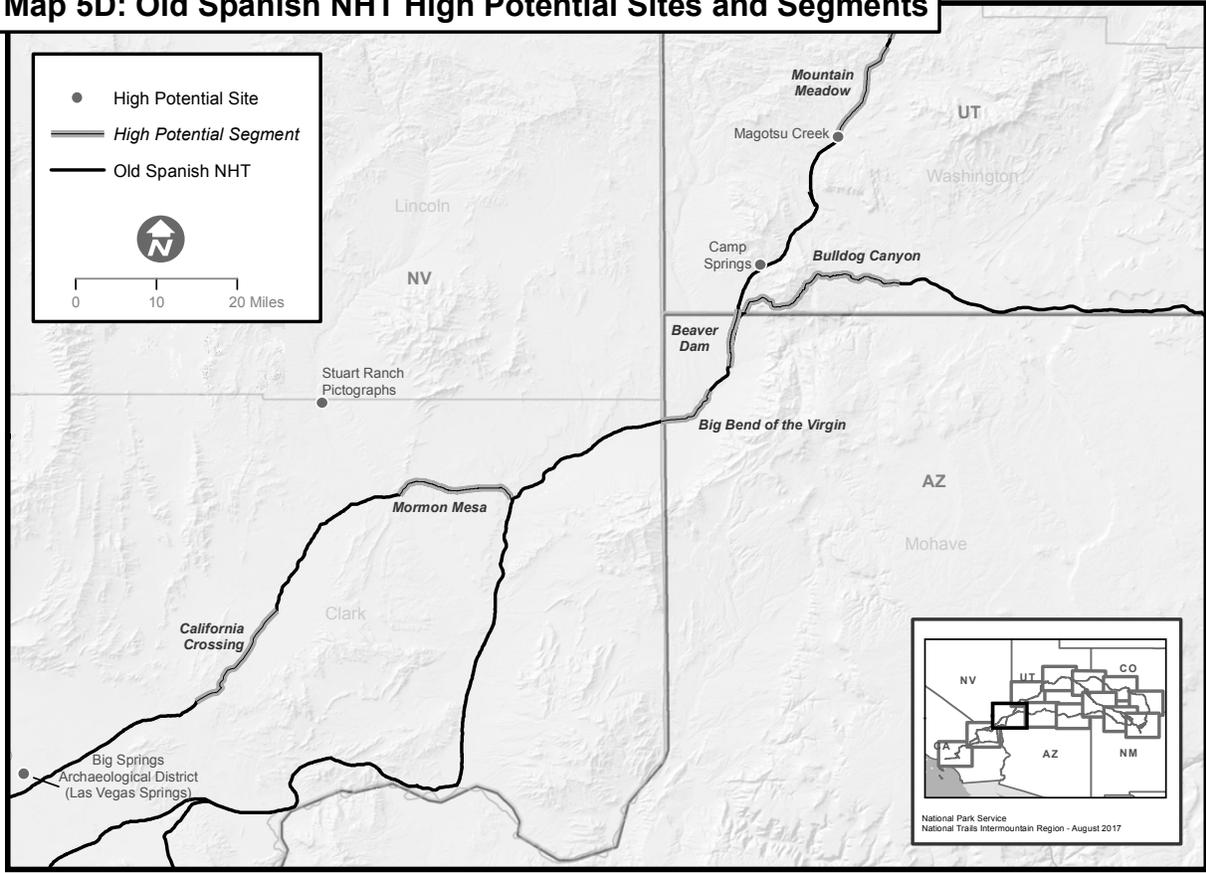
**Map 5B: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



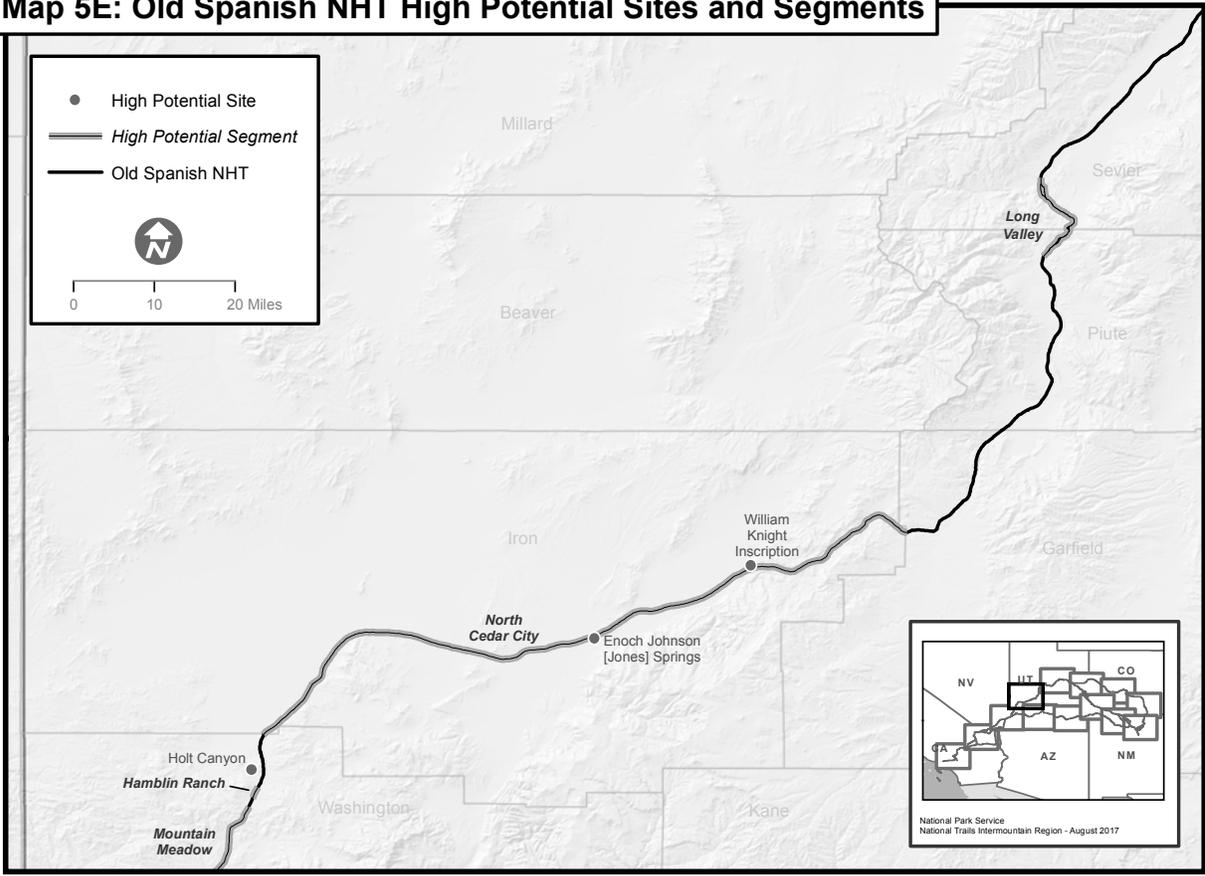
### Map 5C: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments



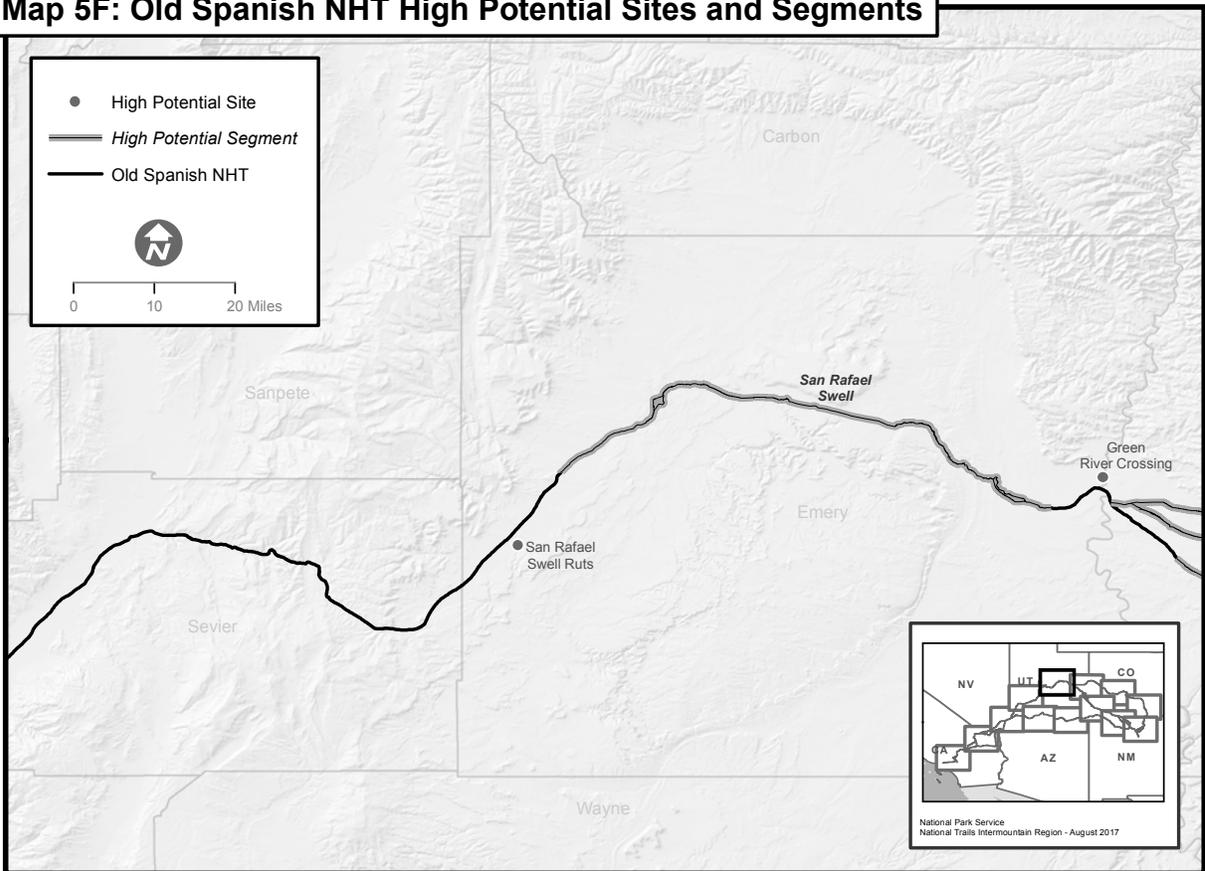
### Map 5D: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments



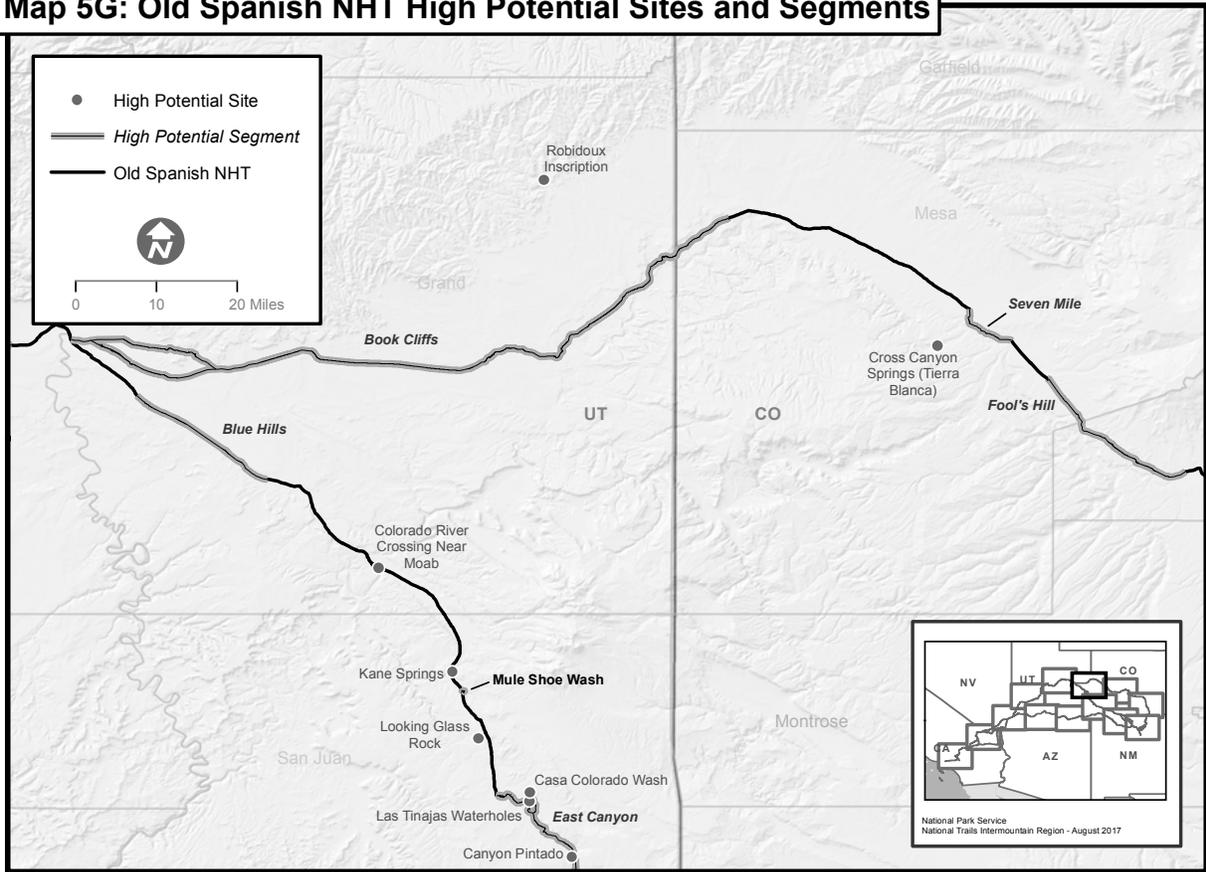
**Map 5E: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



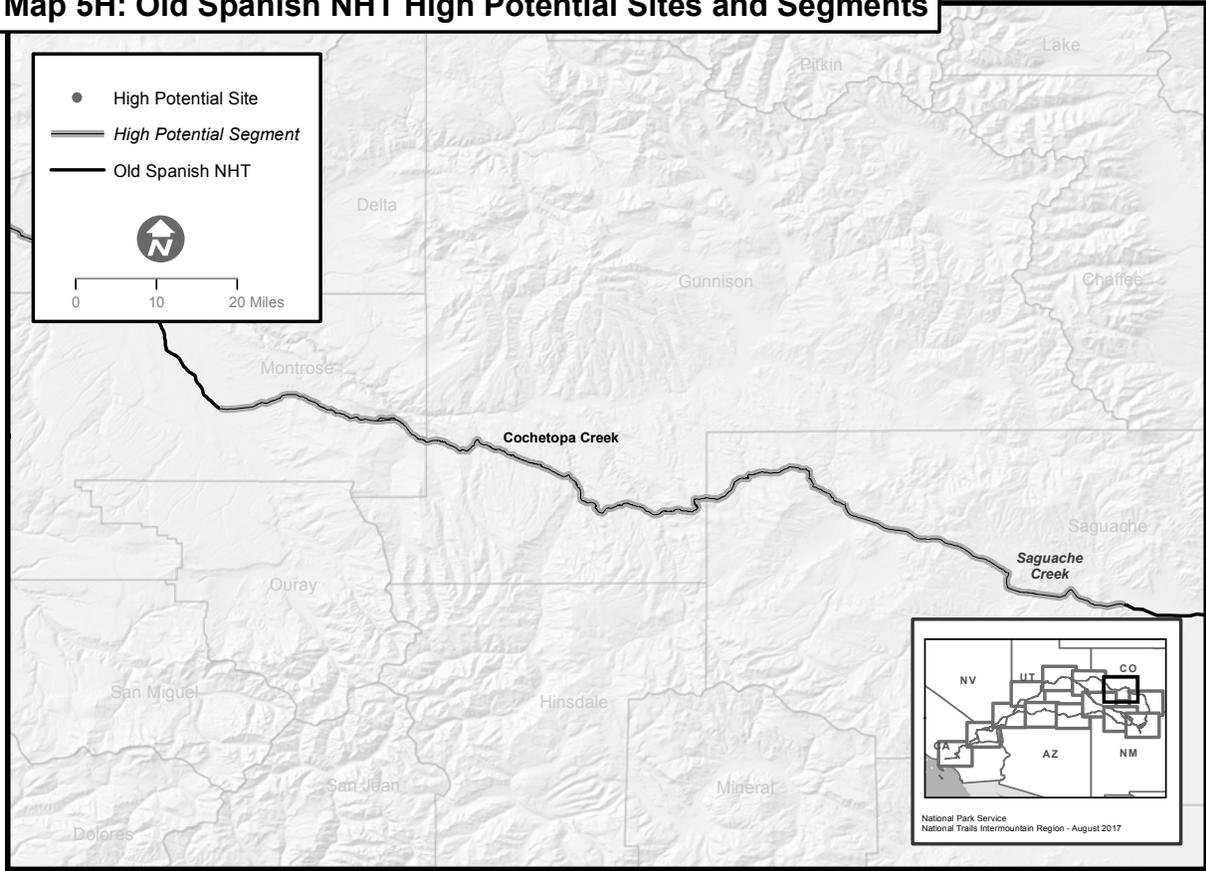
**Map 5F: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



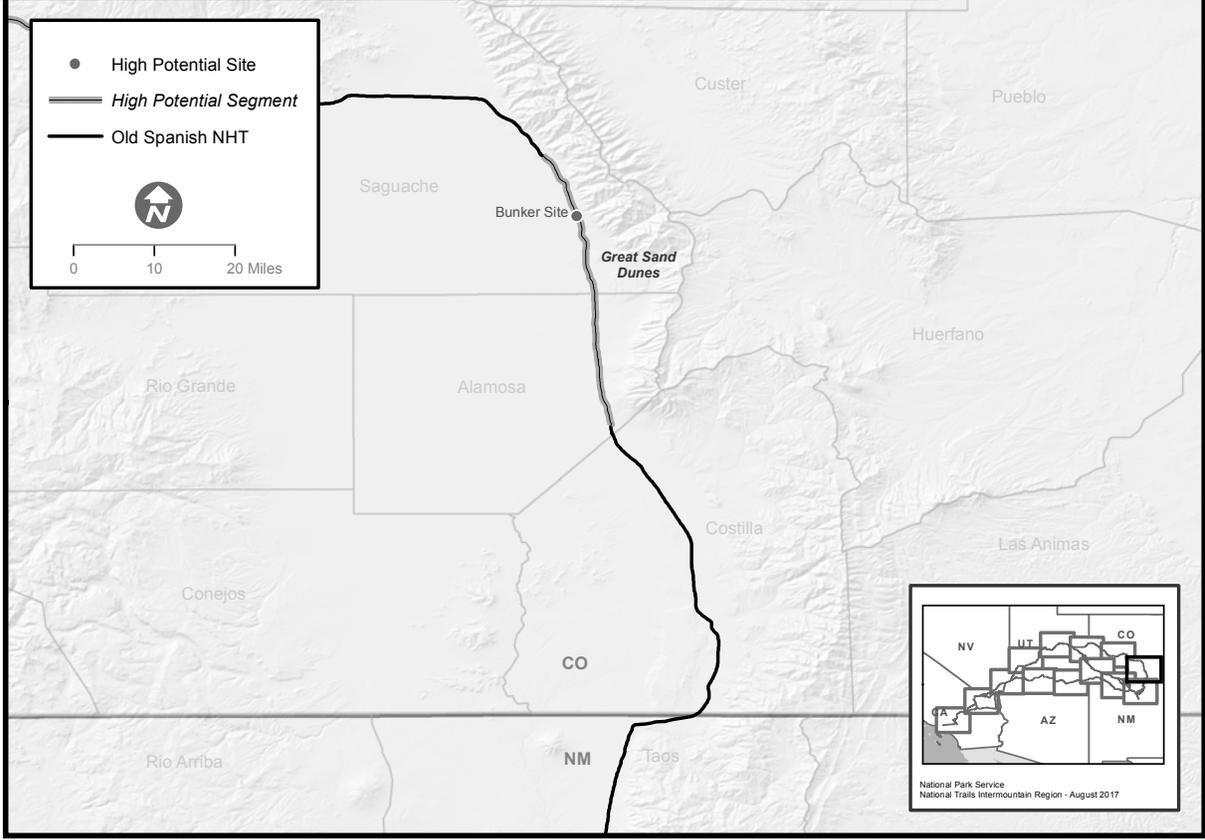
**Map 5G: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



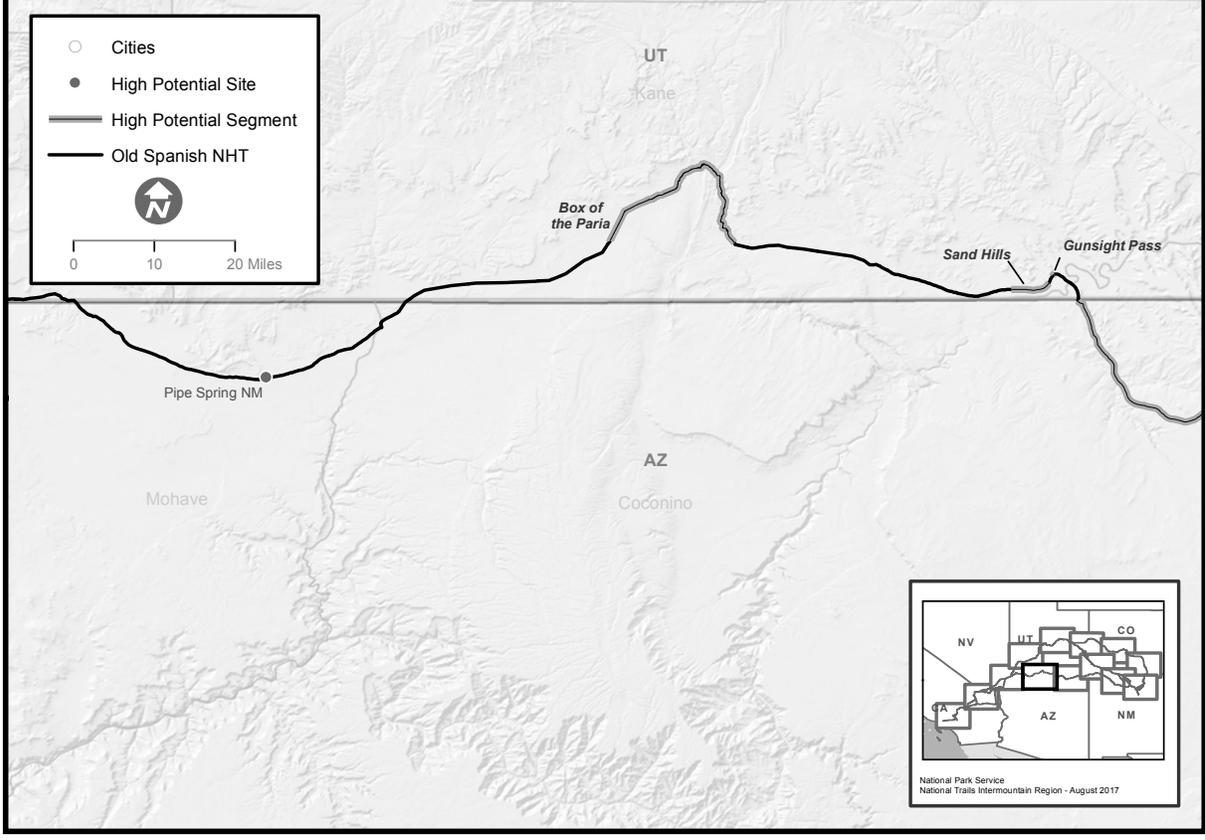
**Map 5H: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



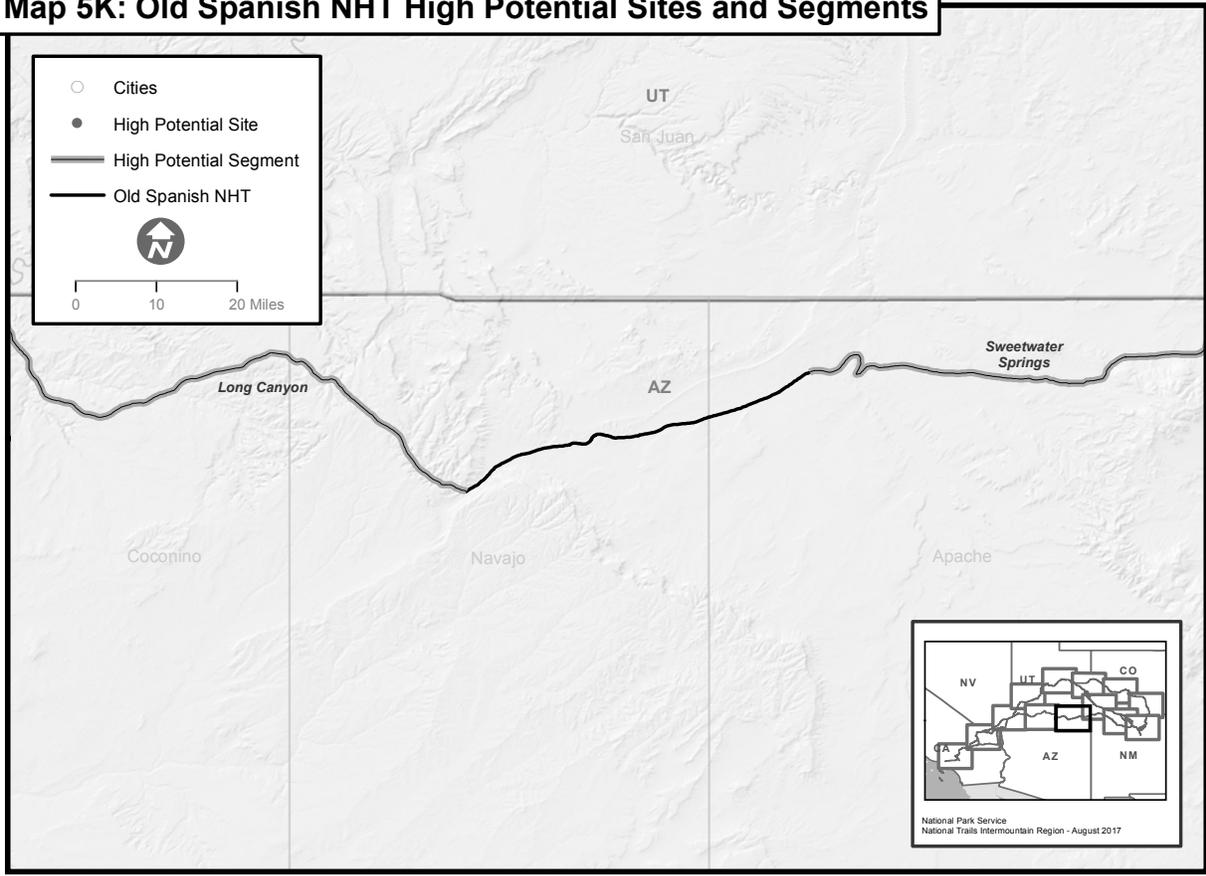
**Map 5I: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



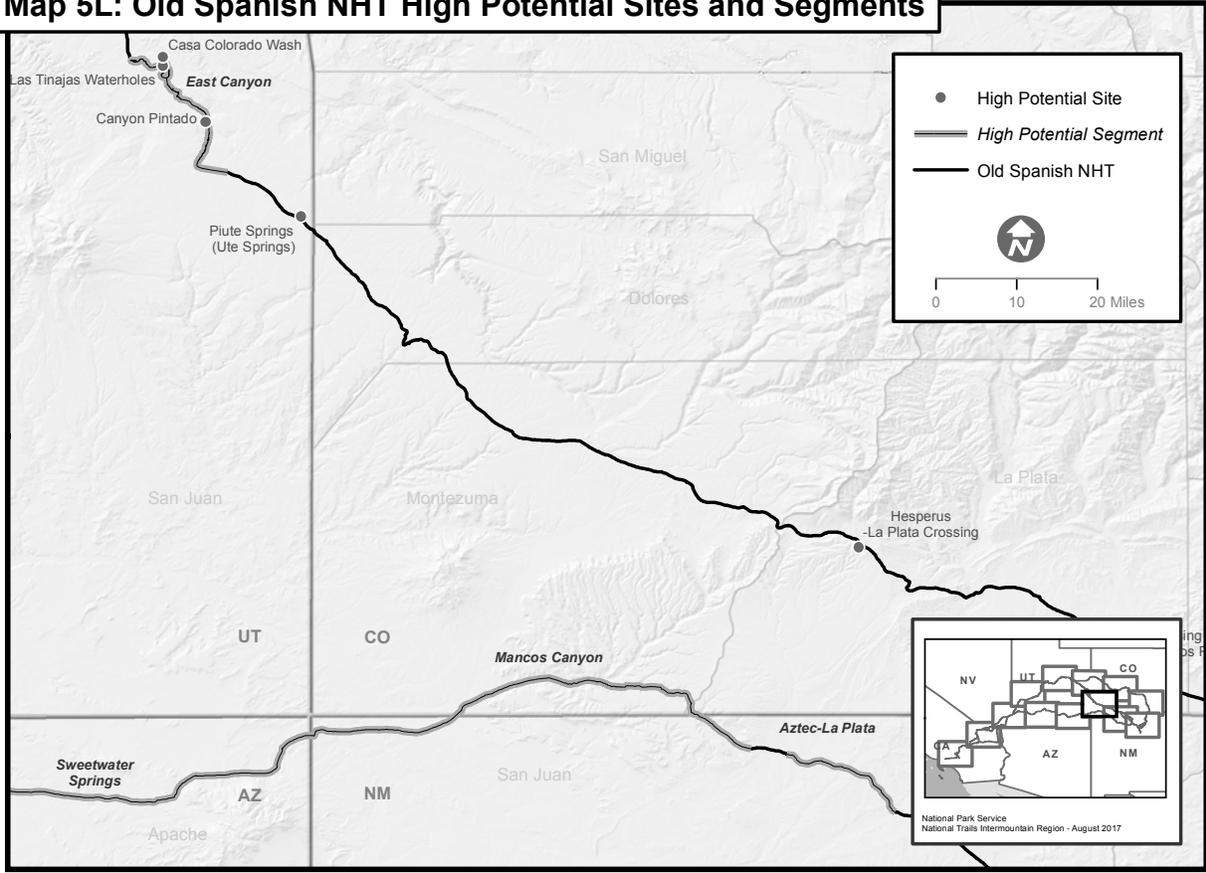
**Map 5J: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



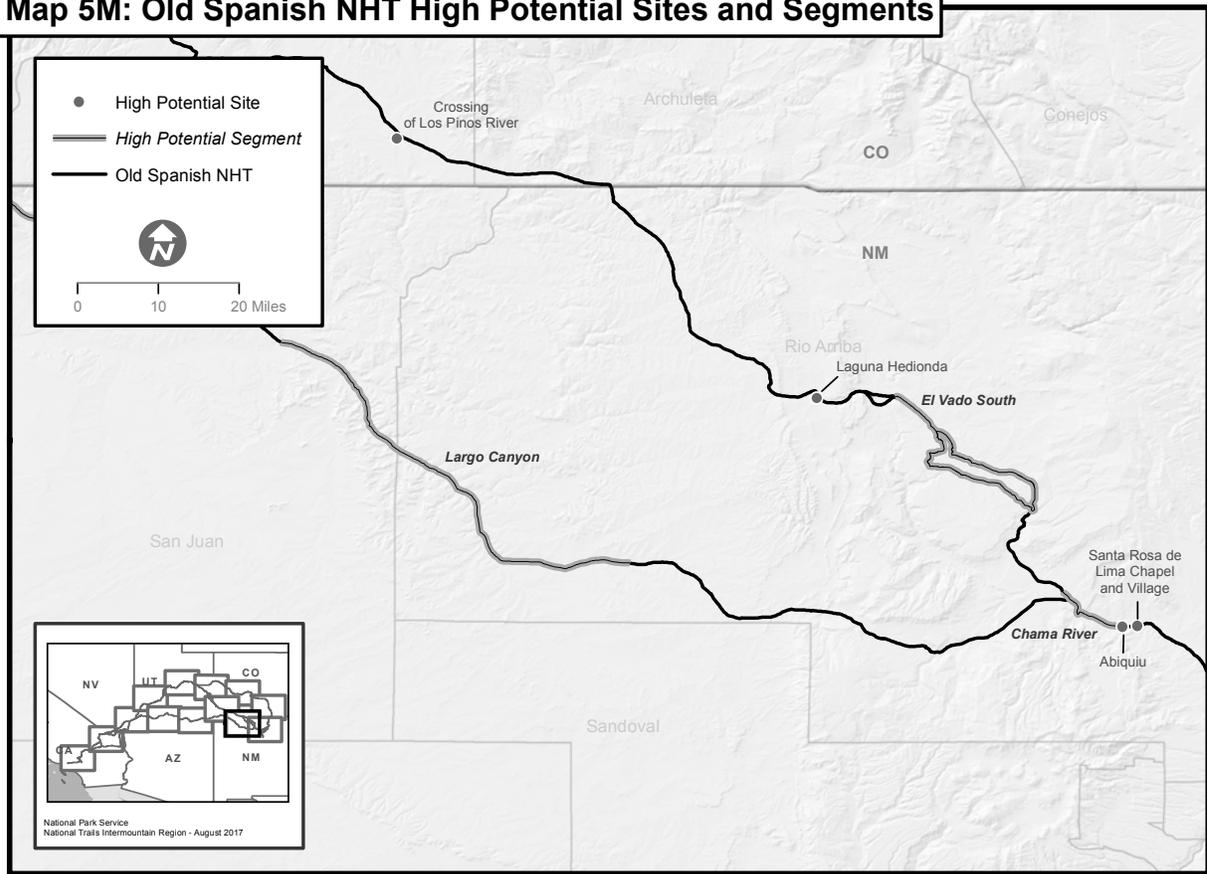
### Map 5K: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments



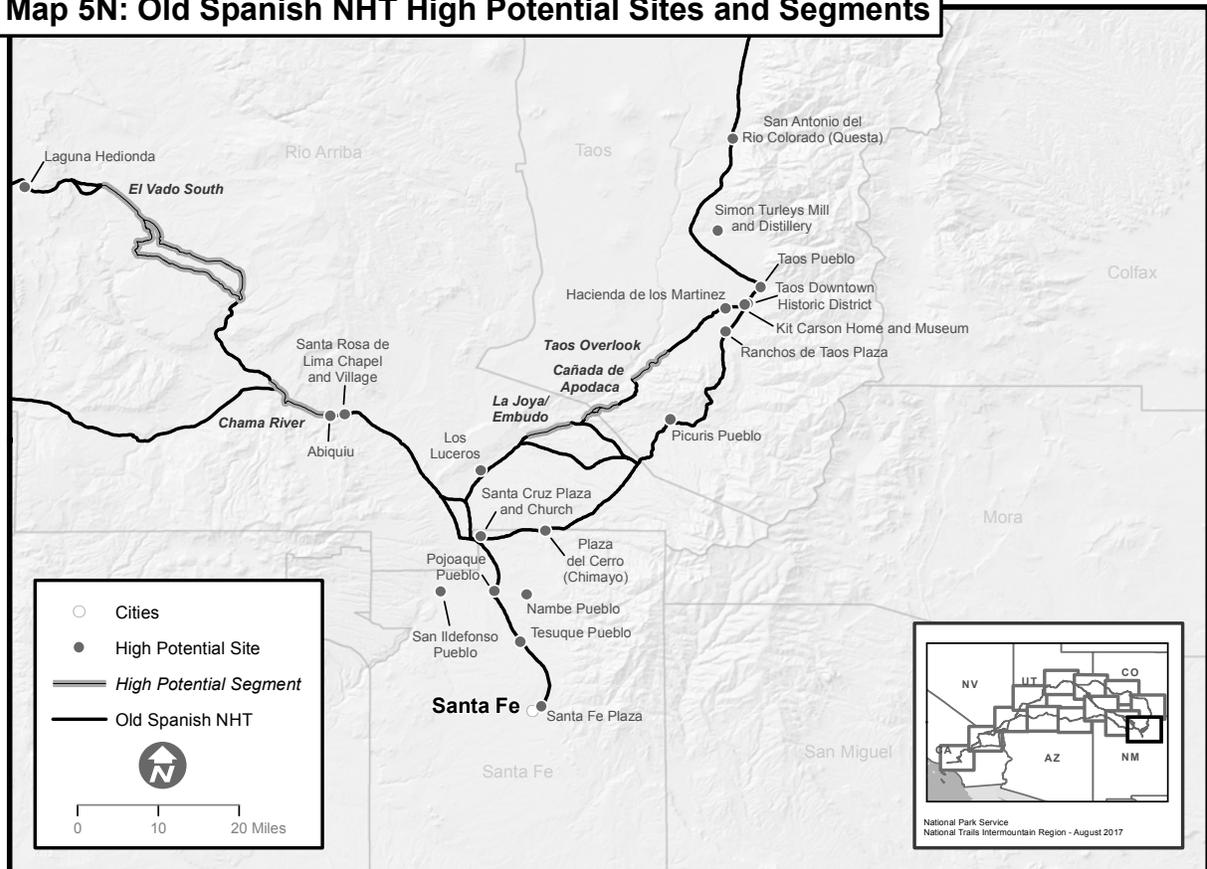
### Map 5L: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments



**Map 5M: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



**Map 5N: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**



# Featured High Potential Segment: California Crossing

By Paul Ostapuk

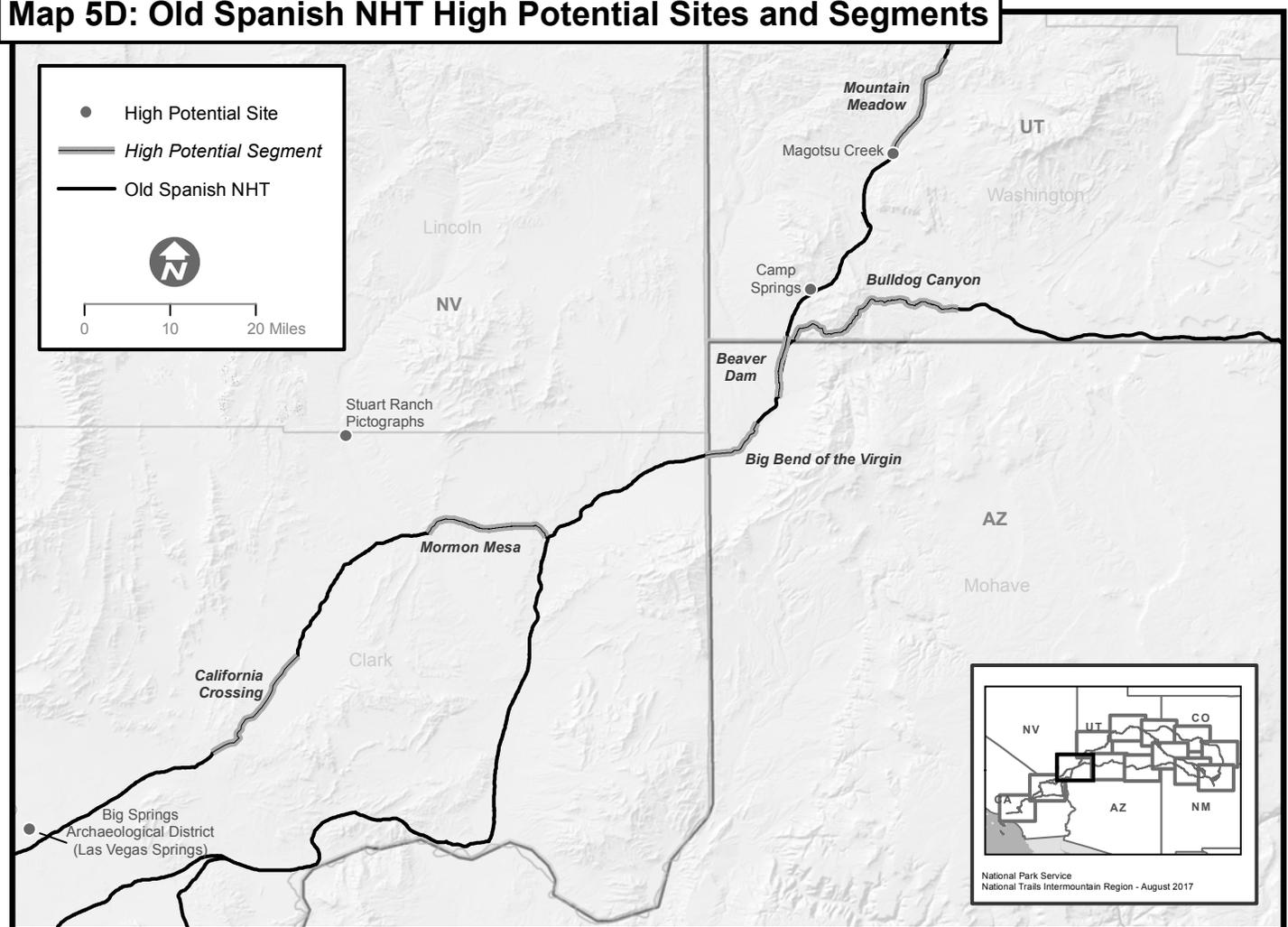
The California Crossing High Potential Segment of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail is located in the Mojave Desert approximately 50 miles northeast of Las Vegas, Nevada along and south of Interstate 15. The segment is located in a broad valley with views of the Arrow Canyon Range to the northwest, the Muddy Mountains to the south, and the Virgin Mountains to the east.

It is an expansive landscape where Old Spanish Trail enthusiasts today can enjoy a variety of vicarious outdoor experiences. However, this will

soon change due to planned construction of the Gemini Solar Project and expected environmental impacts.

The name “California Crossing” is associated with a nearby crossing of the Muddy River utilized by pioneer parties heading west to California. The Muddy River was an important last source of water before enduring a long, waterless trek of almost 60 miles to the springs at Las Vegas. This dry stretch of the Old Spanish Trail was famously known as a Jornada del Muerto (day’s journey of death).

**Map 5D: Old Spanish NHT High Potential Sites and Segments**





A creosote-white bursage shrubland community dominates the dry landscape.

On May 4, 1844 John C. Fremont described traversing this vast desert between the Las Vegas Springs and the Muddy River.

*"We started the morning earlier than usual, travelling in a northeasterly direction across the plain...In about five hours' ride, we crossed a gap in the surrounding ridge, and the appearance of skeletons of horses very soon warned us that we were engaged in another dry jornada, which proved the longest we had made in all our journey-between fifty and sixty miles without a drop of water."*

*"Travellers [sic] through countries affording water and timber can have no conception of our intolerable thirst while journeying over the hot yellow sands of this elevated country, where the heated air seems to be entirely deprived of moisture. We ate occasionally the bisnada, and moistened our mouths with the acid of the sour dock, (rumex venosus).*

*Hourly expecting to find water, we continued to press on until towards midnight, when, after a hard and uninterrupted march of 16 hours, our wild mules began running ahead; and in a mile or two we came to a bold running stream-so keen is the sense of that animal, in these desert regions, in scenting at a distance this necessary of life."*

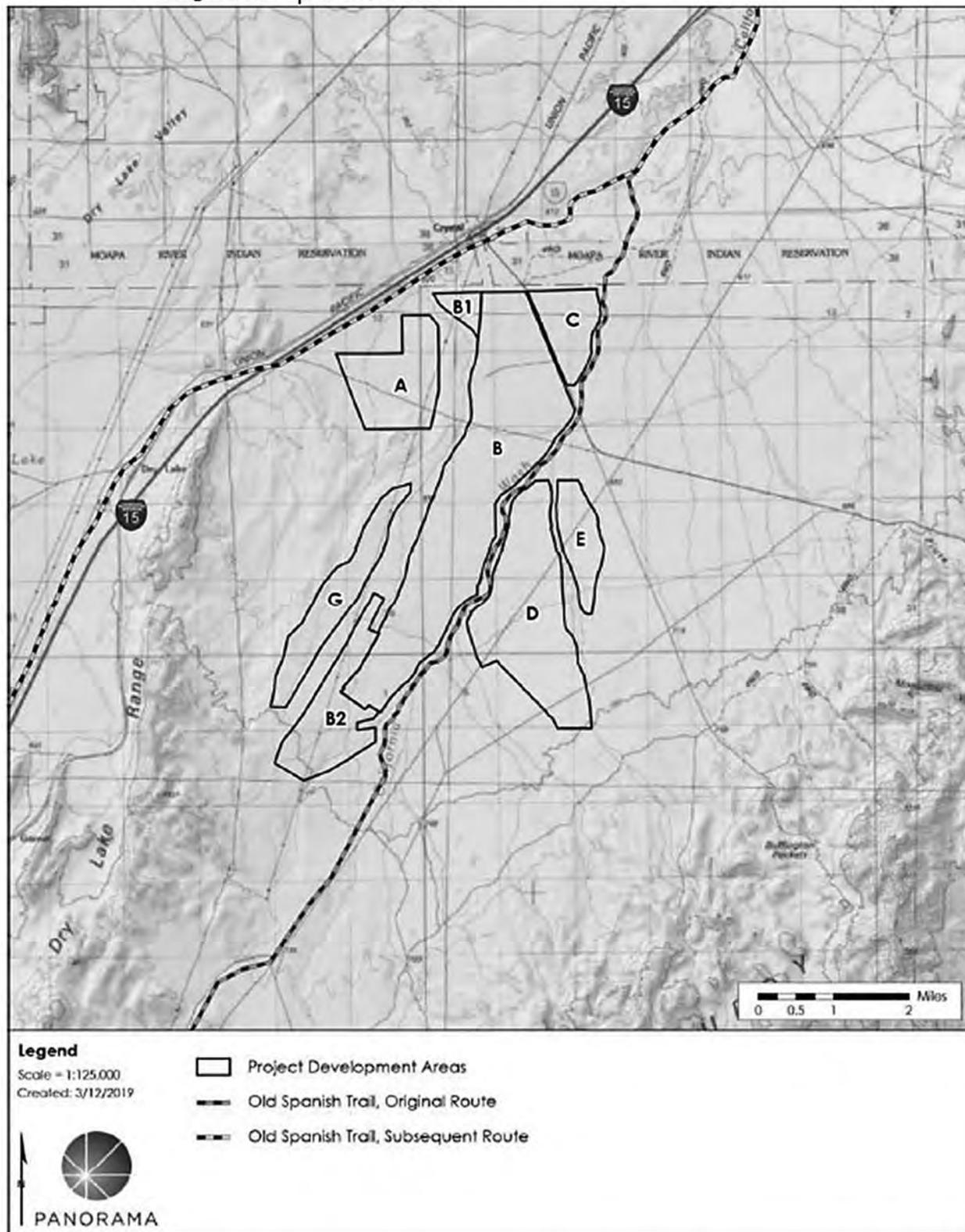


Nevada Historical Marker #139 located at the I-15 Interchange 93 junction with State Route 169

The Final Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Gemini Solar Project described the California Crossing High Potential Segment as the original route used by Old Spanish Trail mule caravans across the open valley. Subsequent travel by pioneers established a route slightly more to the north and west. See Figure 3.14.3 of the Gemini FEIS. It was the better-defined wagon route which was documented on maps by the initial government surveys conducted in the 1860s.

Besides adverse impact to the OSNHT High Potential Segment, the Gemini Solar Project will negatively impact the endangered, federally-listed, Mojave Desert Tortoise. As many as 260 desert tortoises could be displaced based on the average density of adult desert tortoises surveyed across the project area. Mitigation measures will require the applicant to mow vegetation where possible versus traditional disking and compacting methods. Also, the use of perimeter fencing lifted off the ground will hopefully provide desert tortoise an opportunity over time to reoccupy the solar development areas.

**Figure 3.14-3 Original and Subsequent Routes of the Old Spanish Trail in the Project Area as Digitized from Steiner 1999**



Sources: (Louis Berger Group 2018, USGS 2013, USGS and NGTOC 2017, National Atlas of the United States and USGS 2017, BLM and NPS 2017b, Steiner 1999)



*Lynn Brittner, OSTA Executive Director, stands near the OSNHT trail corridor centerline.*



*The impact to the endangered desert tortoise by the Gemini Solar Project will require mitigation measures.*



*Present travel on the Old Spanish Trail Road will be re-routed south, closer to the Muddy Mountains Wilderness*

### **Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP)**

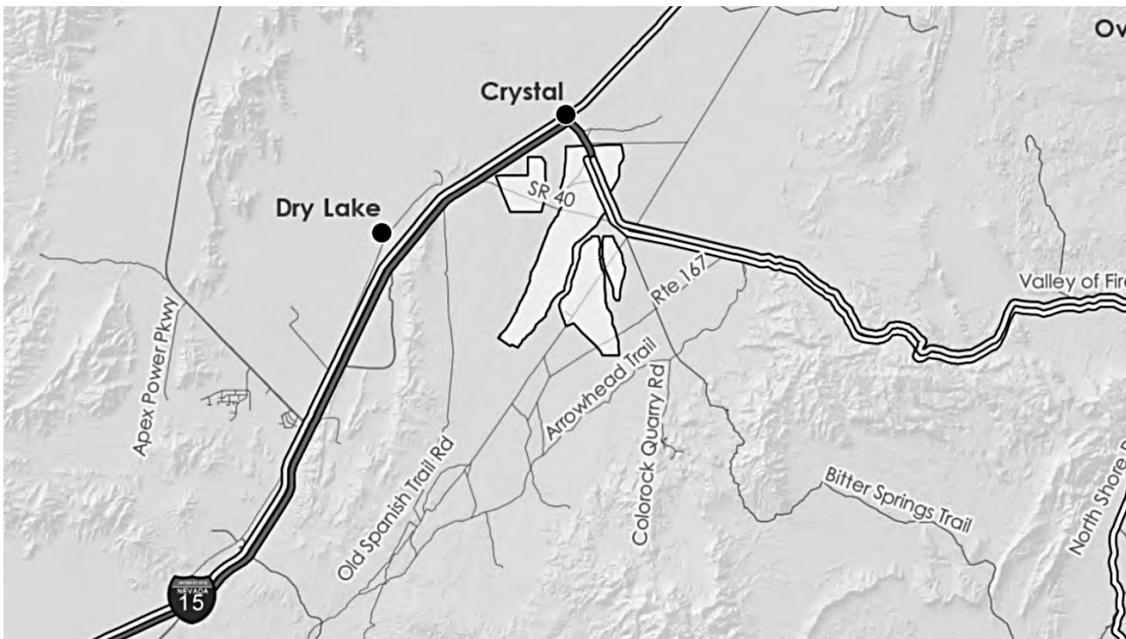
A Class III archeological inventory conducted in 1999 identified a segment of the Mormon Wagon Road/Old Spanish National Historic Trail (26CK3848) within the boundaries of the Gemini project area. This trail trace was included in the Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP) approved by the Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

This treatment plan for cultural resources calls for creation of an ArcGIS StoryMaps interpretive product to help share the history of movement by various cultures across this landscape, including travelers using the Old Spanish Trail. StoryMaps is digital storytelling platform designed to combine maps with narrative text, images, and multimedia content. It can be used to connect maps and geography with text and images to tell an interactive story that is publicly accessible through the internet.

## Recreation Impacts

Mitigation measures (MM REC-1) listed in the Final EIS require the applicant to reroute sections of the Spanish Trail Road and Route 167 to accommodate

the established recreation use off-highway vehicles (OHV) in this area. In addition, the applicant is required to provide BLM-approved signage associated with this recreational access detour. ♦



*Footprint of Gemini Solar Project (Phase I) near Crystal, NV showing impact to existing recreational OHV roads.*



*Southern view toward the Muddy Mountains*

# JOIN THE OLD SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION!

Join, renew, or purchase a gift membership online at [oldspanishtrail.org](http://oldspanishtrail.org). Or, make your check out to OSTA and send this form to:

**OSTA Membership Coordinator  
250 North Redcliffs Drive / 4B #553  
Saint George, UT 84790**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse (if family membership) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Annual Membership (check one)

- Individual - \$40
- Family (self/spouse/minor children) - \$50
- Student (K-12 / college/univ) - \$25
- Institutional (govt./non-profit) - \$40
- Sustaining (higher contributory level) - \$100
- Business - \$100

## Life Membership (check one)

- Individual - \$500
- Family (self/spouse) - \$750

## First Chapter Affiliation (no charge)

New member  Renewal

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If desired, please **indicate additional chapter memberships** by checking below. First chapter affiliation is included with basic membership fee. Second or more chapter affiliations at \$5 each. You are free to join any chapter you have an interest in without regard to where you live.

- Southern Utah** (Cedar City, UT area)
- Red Pueblo** (Kanab, UT area)
- Fish Lake** (Central UT area)
- Salida del Sol** (New Mexico area)
- Nevada** (Nevada area)
- North Branch** (Central CO area)
- La Vereda del Norte** (South-central CO area)
- Tecopa** (East Mojave Desert CA area)
- Mojave River** (West Mojave Desert CA area)
- Agua Mansa** (Riverside/San Bernardino CA area)
- Armijo** (Arizona area)
- Descendants and Travelers of the Trail** (Special interest chapter)

The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management co-administer the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. OSTA closely consults with the Co-Administrators and other land managers and landowners. [oldspanishtrail.org](http://oldspanishtrail.org)



## Membership Benefits

- **Spanish Traces** The OSTA journal published three times per year, with well-researched, well-written articles about the trail. Members also receive web-based access to archived, past editions of *Spanish Traces*.
- **Conference Discounts** on registration fees for OSTA conferences or other events. Speakers, panels, and field trips offer a great opportunity to share, network, strategize Trail management, and enjoy learning more about the Old Spanish Trail.
- **Eligibility to Participate**
  - Join local chapters to learn, help efforts to preserve and promote in your community.
  - Various committees focused on stewardship, research, education, and interpretation.
  - And much more!

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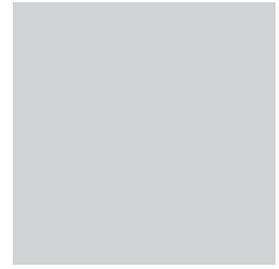
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*Colorful muds along the Paria River, Utah*

*A bank of low clouds lingers over the Mountain Meadows historic site. Located 30 miles north of St. George, Utah, the meadow was an important stop on the Old Spanish Trail for its water and forage for livestock. Long on the National Register of Historic Places, the site received National Historic Landmark status in 2011.*

*Photo by Don Mimms*



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