



Florida National Scenic Trail Coalition Meeting

Thursday, June 9th 1:00pm – 4:30pm, Friday, June 10th, 2016, 10:00am – 2:30pm

Suwannee River Water Management District Headquarters
9225 CR 49, Live Oak, FL 32060

Purpose

To foster Coalition member support and engagement in the development, maintenance, protection and promotion of the Florida National Scenic Trail and cooperatively achieve the [5-Year Strategic Plan](#) Goals.

June 2016 Member Review & Discussion

Coalition members should offer input and recommendation related to the focus of this Coalition meeting – *Completing the “Twin Rivers to Aucilla Gap” through the Big Bend Coastline*. This meeting will be a discussion opportunity to set strategy for the completion of gaps and future work of this group. Please consider what function you would like to see from this group going forward and our coalition successes to date.

Strategic Plan Goals Focus

- **Complete The Trail** – Add 100 new scenic and designated miles of FNST towards completion of a high quality trail.

Highlight: Addressing opportunities and challenges associated with working to complete some of the Florida National Scenic Trail’s most complex gaps. Specifically the Twin Rivers – Aucilla Gap.

- **Standards** – 100% of existing designated FNST meets recreational, informational, and interpretive trail standards within its resource classification category of 1-5.

Highlight: Updates on current and future infrastructure projects and uniform interpretive information

- **Partnerships** - Each of the FNST land managers (~50+) proactively contribute to trail development, maintenance, protection and promotion of their segment as part of the larger whole.

Highlight: Review of the purpose and intent of the FNST Coalition and highlights of unique partnerships being implemented to complete the trail.

- **Promotion** – 100% of FNST recreationists know they are on the trail, know the significance of the trail, and know how their experience is part of the larger whole.

Highlight: Presentation of the first draft of the Florida Trail Junior Explorer Activity Book.

Handouts

Corridor Location Review (CLR) for the Twin Rivers State Forest to Aucilla River Gap, FNST interpretive map design & Florida Trail Junior Explorer Activity Book draft, Coalition Member List, 2016-17 Project Workplan



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Thursday Agenda **Swift Creek Bridge Inauguration**

- 1:00pm Meet at Suwannee River Water Management District Headquarters for carpool to Swift Creek Area *depart 1:15pm*
- 1:30 – 4:30 Walking presentation and discussion of infrastructure partnership on the FNST
2:30 – 3:00 Bridge Opening
- 6:00 Optional: Group Dinner at The Brown Lantern 417 E Howard St, Live Oak, FL

Friday Agenda **Working Group emphasizing collaborative gap strategy. Strategic Plan: Year 4**

- 10:00 – 10:15 Welcome and Introduction of Members and Guests
Edwin McCook Land Management Specialist, Suwannee River Water Management District
Shawn Thomas FNST Program Manager, USDA Forest Service
- 10:15 – 11:45 **Complete the Trail:** Add 100 new scenic and designated miles of FNST towards completion of a high quality trail.
- Updates on the Osceola/Orange County Gap – Shawn Thomas, Beth Jackson, Environmental Program Supervisor, Orange County
- Introduction of Twin Rivers to Aucilla Review Team and Corridor Location Review Document – Shawn Thomas
- Discussion:** Challenges and Strategies for Twin Rivers-Aucilla Gap, identifying shared priorities.
- Updates on the Panhandle Gap highlighting corridor strategy and unique partnerships – Dale Allen, FGTF
- Break
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Standards:** 100% of existing designated FNST meets recreational, informational, and interpretive trail standards within its resource classification category of 1-5.

2016 - 17 Project Workplan – Shawn Thomas

Presentation of interpretive map design – Simone Nageon de Lestang, USFS

Discussion: Incorporating Standardized map panel across land management agencies

12:30 – 1:15

Lunch Served – Courtesy of the Florida Trail Association

1:15 – 1:45

Partnerships: Each of the FNST land managers (~50+) proactively contribute to trail development, maintenance, protection and promotion of their segment as part of the larger whole.

What was the intent of the formation of a FNST Coalition? Next Phases- Shawn Thomas

Coalition Member Round Robin – land management, trail & volunteer program updates

Discussion: Evaluating the effectiveness of the FNST Coalition and roles of coalition members

Break

2:00 – 2:30

Promotion: 100% of FNST recreationists know they are on the trail, know the significance of the trail, and know how their experience is part of the larger whole.

Highlights on the FNST youth education efforts and presentation of the first draft of the Florida Trail Junior Explorer Activity Book – Simone Nageon de Lestang, USFS

Discussion: Best methods of distributing educational materials, promotional needs for land managers

2:30 – 2:45

Other Business – Any set aside topics from the day's discussion
Next meeting – Set Date and Agenda Focus