

# A Land Manager's Guide to: Minimum Trail Standards and Guidelines for the Florida National Scenic Trail

The following standards and guidelines were recommended by the Florida National Scenic Trail Advisory Council on November 18, 1989 and put forth by the National Trails System Act and the Florida National Scenic Trail Comprehensive Plan. These guidelines serve as rules, policies, and principles for trail certification, use, and management of the FNST. For a more in-depth overview of minimum trail standards and guidelines, please refer to the Minimum Standards & Guidelines for the Florida National Scenic Trail document.

## Trail Blazing & Signing Standards

### The Uniform FNST Marker

- The 12-inch uniform markers are used to identify location of the FNST to motoring public and should be placed so that a moving vehicle can see from either direction.
- FNST Parking or FNST Crossing should be written below the marker.
- The 3.5-inch marker identifies FNST intersecting with another trail.



The Uniform FNST

### Directional, Informational, Interpretive, and Regulatory Signs

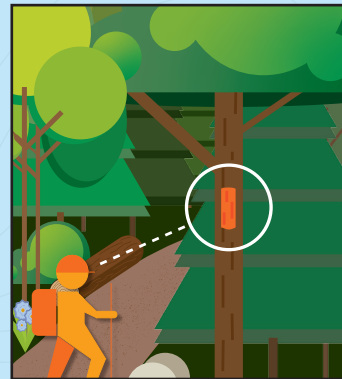
- Signs should be placed along and on side trails to point out user resources and land management boundaries
- Strive for standardization of sign design along the FNST where possible

### Maintenance of Signing and Marking

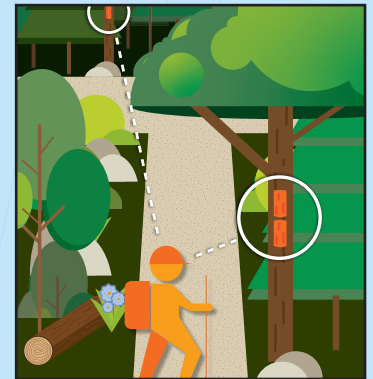
- The USDA Forest Service will provide markers to managing agencies
- High priority should be given to repair or replace missing and damaged signs

### Trail Blazes

- Blazes should be frequent enough to ensure user is on route
- Blazes should be painted ~5.5-6 feet off the ground
- Double blazes indicate a change in direction or de-



FNST Blaze



FNST Double Blaze

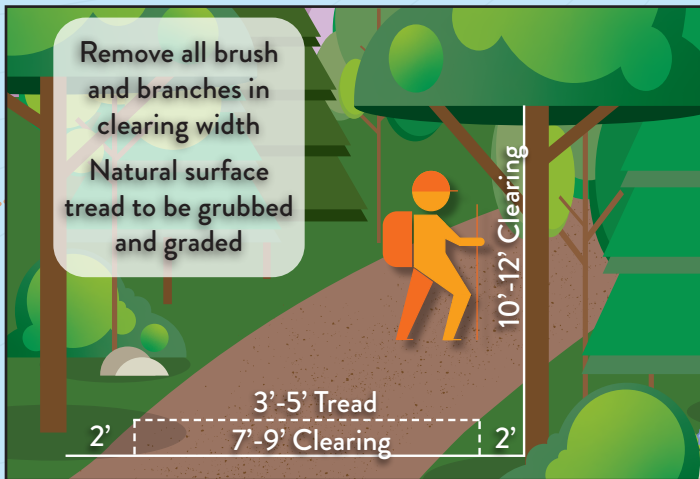
- parture from the obvious path, where the top blaze indicates the turn
- The FNST (and only the FNST) is marked with a two-inch wide and six-inch long orange blaze
  - The formula for one gallon of **Florida Trail orange** blaze paint is: **80-139 (OSHA Orange) plus R-Y; T-Y; M-40; F-8; B-1**
- Side trails to water, campsites, and observation points are painted with a light blue blaze
  - The formula for one gallon of **Florida Trail blue** blaze paint is: **80-34 plus D-Y; E-3Y**

## Trail Management & Maintenance Standards

- Each land manager & private landowner is responsible for proper maintenance of the trail, and is encouraged to enter formal certification agreements with the US Forest Service and stewardship agreements with volunteer groups such as the Florida Trail Association
- Condition of trail corridor, treadway, bridges, and other support facilities should be inspected regularly by land managers, with repairs performed in a timely manner. The US Forest Service can provide assistance where necessary.

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- Clearing and maintenance of the trail should be conducted in accordance with the Trail Class Matrix (see *Minimum Standards & Guidelines for the Florida National Scenic Trail*)



## Trail Camping Standards

- Select a reasonably level and clear site, avoiding dead or dying trees and seasonal flooding
- If possible, locate near a suitable water supply
- Campsites should be large enough to accommodate six to eight small tents
- Campsites must be available no more than one day's (8 to 10 miles) hike apart
- Leave No Trace principles should be published at trailheads and camp areas where appropriate to promote sustainable use, especially sanitation and food storage



## Trailhead Standards

- Off-road parking should be planned and accommodated at all popular points of departure, with space for:
  - Five-vehicle minimum at major trailheads
  - Three-vehicle minimum at minor trailheads
- Trailheads should include a kiosk which illustrates the following in addition to local unit interpretive information:
  - A detailed local area map which includes the FNST
  - A general statewide map illustrating the route of the FNST
  - FNST logo and website information
  - The following statement, in part or its entirety where possible:

*"The Florida National Scenic Trail (FNST) was congressionally designated in 1983 as part of the National Trail System and is intended to be a non-motorized recreation trail that when complete will extend over 1,500 miles from Big Cypress Nation Preserve in the south, to Gulf Islands National Seashore, in the panhandle. The US Forest Service administers the Trail, which passes through a mix of federal, state, local, and privately owned lands and a variety of landscapes from remote wilderness to popular urban areas. The FNST is a unique public resource dedicated to the exploration of the natural, scenic, historic, and cultural resources of Florida and providing meaningful stewardship opportunities to preserve them for future generations."*