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A collaborative program between the ADA National Network and the U.S. Access Board



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## Listening to the Webinar, *continued*



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## Listening to the Webinar, *continued*



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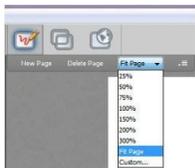
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- Resize the Whiteboard where the Presentation slides are shown to make it smaller or larger by choosing from the drop down menu located above and to the left of the whiteboard. The default is “fit page”



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## Accessible Trails



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## Presenters



**Bill Botten**  
U.S. Access Board



**Jim Huck**  
National Park Service

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## Session Agenda

- Application of the ABA Standard
- Effective date and covered facilities
- Review of the trail provisions
- Experiences and examples using the standard
- Your Questions

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### What's covered

- Facilities constructed or altered by
  - Federal agencies
  - Non-federal entities constructing facilities on federal land on behalf of federal agencies pursuant to a concession contract, partnership agreement, or similar arrangement

### What's not covered

- ADA – Title II entities - State and local governments, Title III entities, places of public accommodation
- ABA – facilities built or altered with Federal grants and loans (ABA)

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### Options for those not covered

- ADA - where no standard exist...
  - general non-discrimination prohibition and program accessibility requirements for state and local governments apply (includes TRAILS, PICNIC AND CAMPING ELEMENTS, VIEWING AREAS)
- To determine appropriateness of using outdoor recreation access routes and beach access routes (in lieu of an accessible route) – contact DOJ – 800 514-0301

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## Effective Date

**November 25, 2013**

Newly constructed or altered elements covered by this rule

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## Format and organization

- ABA Chapter 2:  
Scoping Requirements
- F244 Camping Facilities
- F245 Picnic Facilities
- F246 Viewing Areas
- F247 Trails
- F248 Beach Access Routes

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## Format and organization

### Chapter 10: Recreation Facilities

- 1011 Outdoor Constructed Features
- 1012 Parking Spaces within Accessible  
Camping Units and Picnic Units
- 1013 Tent Pads and Tent Platforms
- 1014 Camp Shelters
- 1015 Viewing Areas
- 1016 Outdoor Recreation Access Routes
- 1017 Trails
- 1018 Beach Access Routes
- 1019 Conditions for Exceptions

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## Trails (F106.5)

- A pedestrian route developed primarily for outdoor recreational purposes. Pedestrian routes that are developed primarily to connect accessible elements, spaces, and buildings within a site are not a trail.

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## Trails

- Newly constructed/alterd trail directly connected to a trailhead or another trail that substantially complies with guidelines
- Conditional exceptions permitted – new and altered
- Shared use paths addressed in separate rulemaking for public rights of way

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## Existing Trails [F247.2]

- When the original design, function, or purpose of an existing trail is changed.
- Altered portion of the trail directly connects to a trailhead or another trail that substantially meets the technical requirements for trails.
- The altered portion of the existing trail must comply with the technical requirements for trails.

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## Facilities provided along trails

- Where provided...
- Camping/picnic facilities, or viewing areas constructed or altered along a trail must comply with applicable scoping and technical requirements for the facility REGARDLESS of whether the trail complies with the technical requirements for trails.

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## Connecting routes

- ORARs are not required to connect trails to camping and picnic facilities, viewing areas, and pit toilets along the trails.
- On compliant trails, the routes that connect to camping and picnic facilities, viewing areas, and pit toilets along the trails, including accessible elements within the facilities, comply with the technical requirements for trails.



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## Bridges along trails

- Where bridges are provided along trails that substantially comply with the technical requirements for trails, the bridges must also be constructed to meet the trail technical requirements.



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## Conditional exceptions

- Apply on a provision-by-provision basis
- Where full compliance with a technical provision is not possible because of the limitations and constraints included in the conditional exceptions...
- “extent practicable”

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## Entire trail exemption

- When applying conditional exceptions to portions of the trail results in exempting the entire trail from the technical provisions...
- Notify the Board where an entire trail is exempted
- Sample notification form available



The image shows a sample notification form titled "ENTIRE TRAIL EXEMPTION FROM ADA COMPLIANCE". It includes fields for "Trail Name", "Location", "County", "City/Town/Village", "State", and "Date". There are checkboxes for "Is the trail exempt from the ADA requirements?" and "Is the trail exempt from the ADA requirements due to the extent practicable?" and "Is the trail exempt from the ADA requirements due to the extent practicable?" There is also a section for "Comments" and a signature line.

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## Conditional exceptions

- Compliance is not practicable due to terrain
- Compliance cannot be accomplished with the prevailing construction practices



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## Conditional exceptions

- Compliance would fundamentally alter the function or purpose of the facility or the setting
- Compliance is precluded by the:
  - Endangered Species Act;
  - National Environmental Policy Act;
  - National Historic Preservation Act;
  - Wilderness Act; or
  - Other Federal, State, or local laws



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## Permissible Uses of Conditions for Exceptions

Technical Requirements	Specific Provisions	Applies To
Outdoor constructed features	Clear ground space	Alterations only
Tent pads and tent platforms	Any specific provision	New construction or alterations
Camp shelters	Any specific provision	New construction or alterations
Outdoor recreation access routes at camping facilities, picnic facilities, and trailheads	Any specific provision	Alterations only
Viewing areas	Any specific provision	Alterations only
Outdoor recreation access routes to viewing areas	Any specific provision	New construction or alterations
<b>Trails</b>	<b>Any specific provision</b>	<b>New construction or alterations</b>
Beach access routes	Any specific provision	New construction or alterations

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## Trailheads

- Outdoor space developed to serve as an access point to a trail
  - Not a junction of two or more trails where no other access point is provided
- 20% of each type of outdoor constructed feature provided within trailhead to be accessible



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## Trailheads

- At least one outdoor recreation access route to connect to parking, site arrival point, the starting point of trail, accessible elements, spaces, and facilities within trailhead



Conditional exceptions permitted for ORAR in alterations

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## Trail signs

- New trail information signs provided at trailheads on newly constructed or altered trails
- Required information
  - length of the trail or trail segment
  - surface type
  - tread width (typical/minimum)
  - running and cross slope (typical/maximum)



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## Trails

- 36 inches minimum width
- Passing spaces – every 1,000 feet where less than 60 inches in width
- Tread obstacles – 2 inches maximum, except concrete, asphalt, or board = ½ inch
- Openings – ½ inch maximum



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## Trails

–Surface – firm and stable



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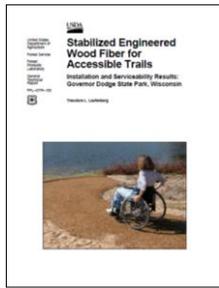
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## Research Projects



National Trails Surface Study



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## Trail Slope/Grade

Running Slope of Trail Segment		Maximum Length of Segment
Steeper than	But not Steeper than	
1:20 (5%)	1:12 (8.33%)	200 feet (61 m)
1:12 (8.33%)	1:10 (10%)	30 feet (9 m)
1:10 (10%)	1:8 (12%)	10 feet (3050 mm)

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## Trails

- Cross slope – 1:20 max, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = 1:48
- Resting intervals – 60 in. long, alongside trail - turning space, slope 1:20 max, except concrete, asphalt, or boards = 1:48
- Gates and barriers – clear width, gate hardware



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## Protruding Objects

- Compliance with 307
- Only applies to constructed elements on trails, resting intervals, and passing spaces



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# Applying the standard

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## Pinnacles National Park

- Started trails with the NPS in 2001
- Presented at the "Access to Parks and Outdoor Recreation Areas" - March 2014 (hosted by the NCA)
- Applied what I've learned since that point!

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## How to apply the Standard?

- It's more than just the trail standards!
- What's the desired location and destination of the trail?
- Do others working on the trail understand the standards?
- Did you figure in future maintenance related costs?

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### Bonito Vista Trail

Length of Trail: 733 feet  
Surface Type: Concrete  
Tread Width: 48"  
Typical Running Slope: 2%  
Maximum Running Slope: 7% for 30'  
Typical Cross Slope: 1%  
Maximum Cross Slope: 2%

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**Bonita Vista**

- Planned before standards were finalized
- 4' width instead of 3'
- Grade could have been met in shorter distances – ramps extended
- Concrete surface = no maintenance to maintain grade
- Bridge at the end of the trail on top of the lava flow - our intended destination for the trail

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## What I'd do different

- Increase trail width to 5 feet
- Plan for interpretive displays
- Cut in the concrete control joints instead of using a groover

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## Abe Lincoln's Birthplace



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## Big Sink Trail



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## Big Sink Trail

- ¾" minus trail surface
- 4 locations along the trail out of compliance with ABA
- Maintenance consisted of blading the trail with small tractor – would "dig" the trail in certain locations
- Additional gravel was added as needed
- Suggested minor re-alignments to lessen the impact of the tractor

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- Locations out of compliance only needed extended runs to lessen the grade
- Erosion will cause the trail to come out of compliance if maintenance isn't performed on gravel trails.
- Surface required more maintenance than concrete or another hardened surface but less money up front.
- Existing trail that was made accessible.
- Visitor or intentional site preference?

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## New trails vs. existing trails

- Many areas of cultural, geological, recreational and historical interest are already interpreted.
- Can we make those area's accessible?

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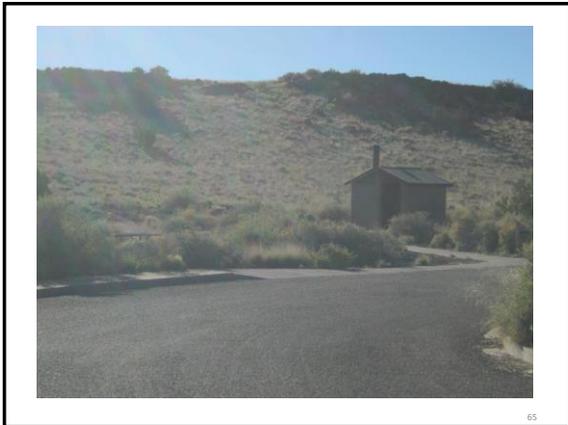
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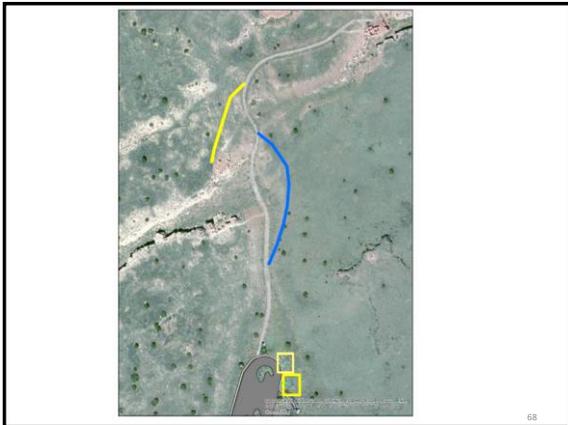
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## StaLok Surface

- Decomposed granite and mixed with soybean wax binder
- Scored fairly high in surface research
- Used more frequently in NPS due to ease of installation and not being petroleum based asphalt
- Works well in most environments
- Easily repaired – scuff and repack

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## Bench Trail



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## Soil Stabilizer

- Maintenance includes sweeping leaf litter and debris
- Only needed a few times a year to maintain compliance
- Recommend testing different stabilizers before choosing one

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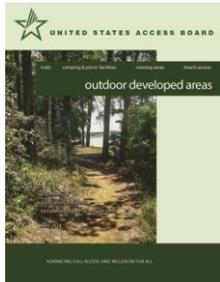
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## Technical assistance



<http://www.access-board.gov/attachments/article/1637/outdoor-guide.pdf>

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## Questions?

You may type and submit questions in the Chat Area Text Box or press Control-M and enter text in the Chat Area

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*Accessible Museum Exhibits*

December 3, 2015

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## Continuing Education

AIA Provider Number: I017  
LA CES Provider Name: Great Lakes ADA Center  
AICP Provider Name: Great Lakes ADA Center

Course Title: Accessible Trails  
Course Number: GL20151105  
Date: November 5, 2015



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