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Summary
Georgia Planning Meeting
Trail of Tears - National Historic Trail Study
June 19, 1984
Atlanta, Georgia

Attendees:

1. Joe Blackman
Resource Manager
Carters Lake
Corps of Engineers
2. Billy Townsend
Interpretive Specialist
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
3. Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.
Historian
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
4. Ed Reid
Superintendent
New Echota Historic Site
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
5. Sharon C. Keene
Chief
Rivers and Trails Division
National Park Service, Southeast Region
6. Charles M. Schuler
Planner
Rivers and Trails Division
National Park Service, Southeast Region
7. Wallace C. Brittain
Study Coordinator
Rivers and Trails Division
National Park Service, Southeast Region

Summary

The first of nine Trail of Tears Study planning meetings was held in Georgia. A planning meeting "workbook" including background information and a questionnaire was furnished to each attendee several days prior to the meeting. The following points were made during the meeting:

1. The primary contact for input from the State of Georgia for the study will be Rick Cothran, Assistant Director, Parks and Historic Sites Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Cothran will serve as the focal point/coordinator for information request, draft review, etc., requested by the National Park Service planners.
2. The Trail of Tears map used in the "workbook" is incorrect in showing the start of the Trail at New Echota. The correct point is Rattlesnake Springs near Cleveland, Tennessee. Georgia could be accurately included if "feeder" trails were used to connect the locations of several of the 12 Georgia Forts (including New Echota), which were used during the removal as collection points for the Cherokees, to the main trail at Rattlesnake Springs. The 1805 Militia Road would be a possible route for a "feeder" trail.
3. The name and location of three historic markers for Forts mentioned above, as well as an undocumented map of all Forts, was furnished by Mr. Townsend.
4. Georgia is very interested in involvement with this Study, particularly as it might apply to interpretation of the broader Cherokee history in Georgia and the location of major events in Georgia which preceded the actual removal. New Echota Historic Site, location of the 1835 Treaty of New Echota, is a primary example.
5. Mr. Blackman expressed an interest in the Corps participation in the Study and explained their current trails program and Cherokee history interpretive program at Carters Lake.

Issues/Questions Raised

1. Georgia attendees suggested renaming the study trail to Cherokee Trail of Tears.
2. Georgia attendees also asked if the National Park Service planners have the latitude to include historic sites, etc., relating to the broader Georgia Cherokee history (not directly a part of the Trail of Tears) in the final study findings and recommendations.

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