

Potential Management Alternatives

MISSOURI STATE PARKS DOES NOT SIGN INTERIM TRAIL USE AGREEMENT

– Decision Remains with Missouri Central Railroad

If the parties do not reach an agreement, Missouri Central Railroad has 60 days to consummate abandonment, or the line will remain in active railroad status, subject to Surface Transportation Board jurisdiction.

– Alternate trail sponsor

If Missouri State Parks opts not to sign an Interim Trail Use Agreement, a substitution of trail sponsor notification must be submitted prior to the abandonment of the line.

EXAMPLE: The Kanza Rail-Trails Conservancy initially managed the Flint Hills Nature Trail and the Landon Nature Trail, converting these former rail lines into non-motorized public trails and wildlife areas across Kansas.

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– Accept and Develop Corridor

Missouri State Parks could sponsor the development of a trail on the entire corridor, accepting all financial and legal responsibility arising out of the transfer or use of the corridor.

EXAMPLE: Katy Trail State Park

– Accept less than the entire corridor.

Missouri State Parks could agree to accept only a portion of the corridor. Missouri Central Railroad could then exercise its abandonment authority for any portion of the corridor not included in the railbanking. Any railbanked corridor must connect to either active railroad or another railbanked corridor on at least one end to avoid creating an “island” of railbanked corridor.

– Partner with other trail sponsors.

Missouri State Parks could partner with other trail sponsors who would be responsible for the management and development of certain sections of the corridor.

EXAMPLE: Great Allegheny Passage. The Allegheny Trail Alliance is a coalition of seven trail organizations in southwestern Pennsylvania and western Maryland.