

# UTAP

## Universal Trail Assessment Process

### **News Release...**

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## **TrailWare<sup>2.0</sup> on Top of the World**

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Trail Data Processing Software released in October 2004

Try a 120-day trial version for free or purchase the software today

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*Providing access, mapping, usage, and maintenance information*

## TrailWare<sup>2.0</sup> on Top of the World!!

### Software Released Fall 2004

TrailWare Version 2.0, the data processing software for the Universal Trail Assessment Process, was released in October 2004 at the National Trails Symposium. Our many, and most grateful thanks go out to all of the agencies and organizations that have been participating in the beta-software evaluations. **With your help we've been able to create an effective data analysis tool.**

TrailWare Training Courses, with over 20 participants, were held in California, Nevada, and Texas during 2004. **The next TrailWare Training Course will be held on the morning of March 8, 2005 in Reno, Nevada at the Professional Trailbuilders Association Conference (PTBA).** For more information about this course or to register go to the PTBA web site and click on the Trailbuilder Conference link at [www.trailbuilders.org](http://www.trailbuilders.org)

If you haven't yet purchased your copy of TrailWare<sup>2.0</sup>, you can **get a free 120-day trial version** or information about ordering TrailWare<sup>2.0</sup> by contacting Beneficial Designs (tel: 775-783-8822, fax: 775-783-8823, [trails@beneficialdesigns.com](mailto:trails@beneficialdesigns.com)).

**The LOW introductory price for TrailWare<sup>2.0</sup> is \$199 US**, so get yours today!



# Try it FREE!

## New Research on a High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP)



Beneficial Designs has started work on a High Efficiency Trail Assessment Process (HETAP) with funding support from the USDA Small Business Innovation Research program. The research project is developing a trail measurement system that automates the collection of objective trail information so that **one person can collect information at a speed of 1 hour per mile of trail.** Phase 1 of the research finished in December 2004.

The project culminated with a demonstration of the first prototype at the National Trails Symposium in Austin, Texas (October 2004). Excitement was high as land managers from Federal, State, Local and private agencies were able to "test drive" the HETAP cart on demonstration trails in the conference exhibit hall. A survey of land managers shows over 85% are interested in "keeping tabs" on the latest developments when Phase 2 of the project gets underway.

An application for Phase 2 funding was submitted in January 2005. Contact Beneficial Designs at 775-783-8822 if your agency would be interested in being a pilot test site during Phase 2.

## American Trails Surveys State Trail Coordinators

American Trails is conducting a survey of State Trail Coordinators to learn more about their interest in and knowledge of the Universal Trail Assessment Process. The survey is also seeking to clarify information about **UTAP in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, an objective assessment process that can meet all of your trail data collection needs.** Rumors still abound that UTAP is only for accessibility to trails for people with disabilities. While that was true in the last century, not any more! **UTAP has become truly UNIVERSAL** in meeting all of the trail information needs of both land managers and all trail users, regardless of their interests or abilities.



Results of the survey will be used by American Trails to determine the dates and locations of future Universal Trail Assessment Coordinator workshops for State Trail Coordinators, which are funded by the Federal Highway Administration. For more information on the survey, contact American Trails ([www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)).

## UTAP Coordinator Workshops



In 2004, 32 individuals were trained to lead trail assessments using the Universal Trail Assessment Process (UTAP). UTAP Coordinator Workshops were held in Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Workshop participants included trail professionals, college students, and volunteers. California State Parks now conducts UTAP training within their own agency with on-staff trainers using the official UTAP training materials.

Several UTAP Workshops are being planned for 2005. The next UTAP Coordinator Workshop will be held March 6 - 7, 2005 in Reno, Nevada at the Professional Trailbuilders Association Conference. It begins at 2 pm on Sunday so you can fly to Reno on the morning of the 6<sup>th</sup> and not miss a minute of the workshop. There is also a UTAP workshop scheduled for Toronto, Canada, which will be held May 28 - 29, 2005. Registration for these UTAP workshops is open to all interested individuals.

Several additional workshops are being planned for specific agencies or groups. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service employees will be able to attend a UTAP workshop in July 2005. In October 2005, several UTAP trainers will be in Florida to teach a workshop to Florida Department of Environmental Protection employees and invited participants. Finally, American Trails is surveying State Trail Coordinators to identify sites to host regional workshops through the Federal Highway Administration.

Check the American Trails ([www.americantrails.org](http://www.americantrails.org)) web site for the latest information on UTAP training opportunities.

## Outdoor Recreation “Happenings”

- ❖ Trail Access Information is now available for 26 trail segments in Northern Nevada (Reno, Sparks, Washoe County, Carson City and Minden). In addition to being displayed on the trails, the information is being disseminated through the land management agencies, agency newsletters, websites, listservs, newspapers and the Trail Explorer website ([www.trailexplorer.org](http://www.trailexplorer.org)). Contact Beneficial Designs at 775-783-8822 or [mail@beneficialdesigns.com](mailto:mail@beneficialdesigns.com) for more information.
- ❖ A new portion of the Oak Ridges Trail, a 350 km trail that runs east-west approximately 30 km north of the Lake Ontario shoreline, called the Woodland Passage, has opened. Trail Access Information is provided at each trailhead and in maps and guidebooks. Contact the Oak Ridges Trail Association ([www.orta.on.ca](http://www.orta.on.ca), tel: 905-833-6600/877-319-0285, or [info@orta.on.ca](mailto:info@orta.on.ca)) for more information.
- ❖ Mike Passo and colleagues have submitted a grant application to support a UTAP Coordinator Workshop for college students in Texas. The students would then complete trail assessments as part of their recreation course work. Contact Mike Passo ([mike@elakah.com](mailto:mike@elakah.com) or tel: (360) 305-9551) for more information.
- ❖ Do you use water trails? Wilderness Inquiry tested a new canoe seating system, developed by Beneficial Designs, with 60 participants of all abilities. The system worked well and the final design revisions are now underway. Contact Beneficial Designs at 775-783-8822 or [mail@beneficialdesigns.com](mailto:mail@beneficialdesigns.com) for more information.
- ❖ TrailLink 2005: International Trails & Greenways Conference will be held in Minneapolis/St. Paul, July 27-30, 2005. For more information visit [www.railtrail.org](http://www.railtrail.org)