

Group 6B: State Surveys

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Summary of Focus Group Discussions

We focused our discussions on:

- **Inventorying sites - this is the first step!**
- **The role of state surveys in inventorying sites;**
- **Having our mappers identify sites when in the field;**
- **How we find the time/staff/funds to do this work;**
- **Discussion of the local-regional-national-international framework.**



Challenges that state surveys face

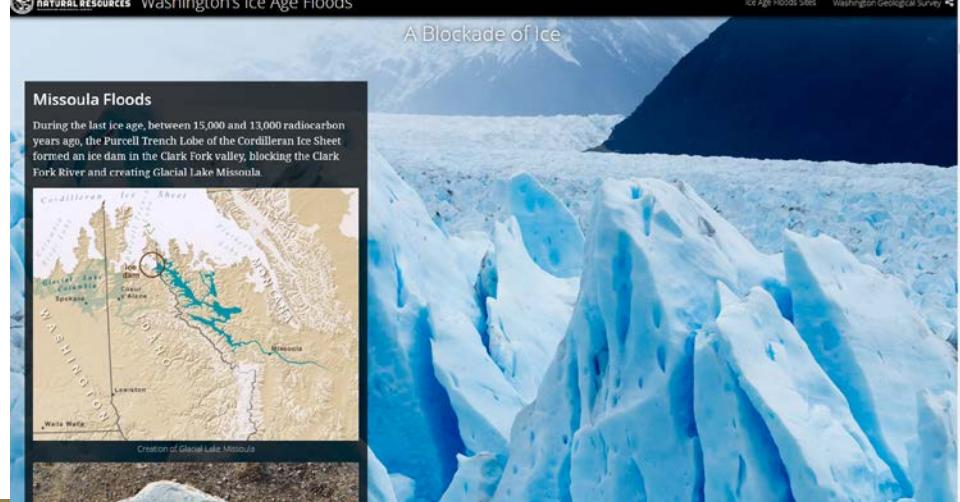
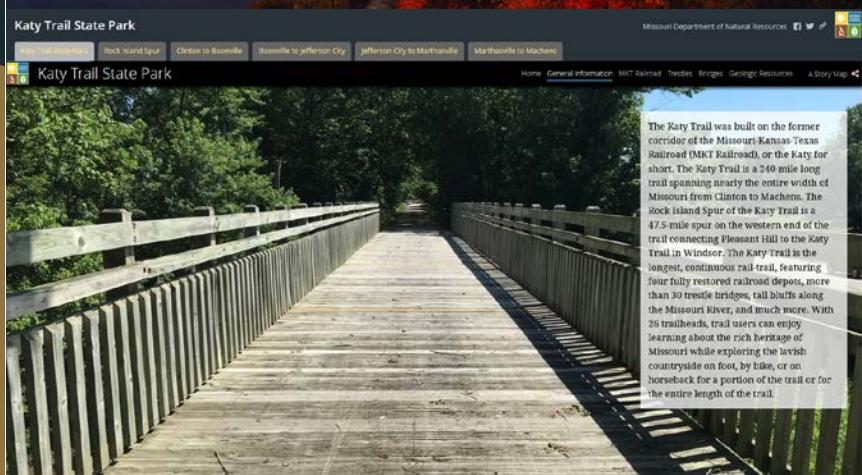
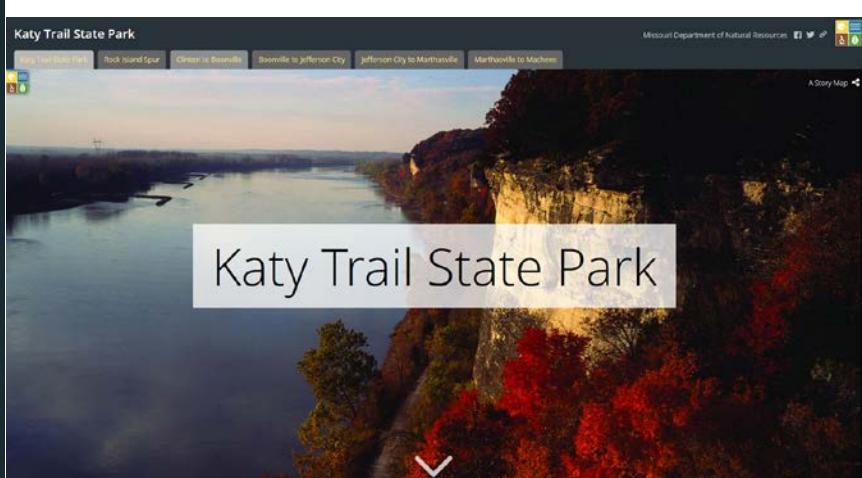
- Funding
- Time and Staff
- There is little awareness among state surveys about the geoheritage site projects - lack of shared terminology.
- Increasing communications between the state surveys, state geological associations and international surveys/associations.
- Diverse audiences - ensuring we can communicate with general public and the geoscience community.

Advantages for State Surveys

- Collaborations with other local agencies are available (Parks and Tourism, NPS, Fish and Wildlife, local non-profits, etc).
- We already have geoheritage sites or have been doing this work - just haven't necessarily called it this!
- We are connected to other state geology groups or associations.
- We have a huge inventory of samples, photos, slides, etc. already.
- Preservation of sites for now and for the future.
- We can help people understand the geology of the area.

Big Ideas - Story Maps

- Story Maps are a great tool for sharing information and are accessible.
 - Can link in different levels of geoscience understanding through the maps.
- Great alternative for sites that are difficult to access or are unsafe.
- Can be put together pretty quickly, but people expect higher quality content!
 - Should be willing to invest some time in this.
- Can work with undergraduates or other volunteers to create these.
 - Need staff who can work on this and oversee the quality of these projects.
- Site preservation or protection.
 - Need to ensure that site localities are protected as story maps raise awareness to them.



Big Ideas - AASG Working Group

AASG should form a committee for state surveys to collaborate on developing geoheritage sites together:

- Amplifies legitimacy for the geoheritage effort.
- Creates opportunity to pool funds together for this work.
- This group could establish common language and also oversee an inventory of state sites. Don't have to recreate the wheel - NPS already has a framework for gathering information.
- Provides a routine time to work specifically on these projects.
- Could establish metrics to evaluate the success or impact of the geoheritage sites.
- Create a FAQ page for creating a geoheritage site.

Big Ideas - Funding Opportunities

There are funding opportunities for state surveys to collaboratively pitch proposals:

- NSF (Geopaths, Research Traineeship Programs, Postdoctoral Funding, REU/RET, conference proposals)
- Broader impacts portions of all federal agency grants
- Individual state fundraising initiatives or partnering with local non-profit agencies
- Geoscience societies
- Industry sponsorships
- NPS Scientists in the Parks
- State tourism industry
- Partnering with other state agencies (DOT, DWPT, etc.)