

Rails-to-Trails Discussion

Commission Workshop
February 9, 2004
Ames

Rails-to-Trails Discussion

Acquiring Abandoned Railroad Right-of-Way Prior to National Trail System (NTS) Act

- Railroads used different land title agreements
 - Some property solely owned by railroad
 - Some property had easements with reversionary rights
- Very difficult process

Rails-to-Trails Discussion

National Trails System (NTS) Act

- Passed to facilitate the use of railroad right-of-way for trails
- Strengthened ability of trails groups to acquire railroad right-of-way
- Incorporated into Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) abandonment process
- Allowed rail banking for future rail or trail use

Rails-to-Trails Discussion

Iowa Rails-to-Trails Mileage Summary

- 515 miles converted to trails
- 96 miles under negotiation
- 35 miles proposed for abandonment

