

**Shawnee National Forest
Hidden Springs Ranger District Recreation Program
Trails Designation Project Accomplishments
Month of January, 2006**

Trail work accomplished in the Lusk Creek Wilderness (LCW) under the Trails Designation Project:

- Throughout January 2007, the fall trail crew continued to work on realigning small sections of the existing designated Goat Trail (Figures 1 and 2). This was accomplished to provide for improved sustainability along the natural slope. The newly re-routed Goat Trail now connects with the River-To-River Trail (001) to the west at the turnpikes built one year ago with help from the Shawnee Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of America. This new designated re-route will eliminate the previous interim River-To-River Trail section east of the turnpikes to the Guest Farm Creek Crossing on Lusk Creek. The old interim trail section will be brushed-in, thereby eliminating approximately one and a half miles of eroded, non-designated trail.

- In the early part of February, the trail crew began clearing the center line path of several re-routes (Figures 3 and 4). This is being done in advance of a mule team arriving in mid-March. The mule team will use a plow to rough cut the trail tread while the trail crew completes the final hand work. The work with the mule team is expected to take one – two weeks. The crew has recently completed clearing the center line on a section of re-route at Trail 457 located just south of the Blanchard Church Creek Crossing along a side hill above Lusk Creek. This re-route will follow the natural contour of the slope and eliminate the existing old trail currently in flat, muddy terrain.

Planned project activities for February, 2007:

- Continue clearing center line for re-routes in the Lusk Creek Wilderness.



Figure 1. Newly realigned section of Goat Trail along slope.



Figure 2. Trail crew member working on installing sandstone steps on trail.



Figure 2. Cleared center line along re-route of Trail 457.



Figure 3. Cleared center line along re-route of Trail 457.