



Collecting Tracks with the Oregon 550(t)

Abstract

This guide outlines steps to collect Track data with the Oregon 550(t). Track data consists of a continuously recorded line that can be a line or polygon when finished. The line is shaped by points that are automatically recorded in the track log according to settings in the *Setup > Tracks* menu, or waypoints that are collected in order.

Steps (Track Method): Turn on Track Recording, if necessary – Clear the current track record – Walk along the defining edges of the feature – Save the Track

Details

General Track Collecting Notes

A Track is simply a series of points in order that will result in a line or polygon being created in the data. If a Track is collected in which the path of the Track crosses back over itself, a single polygon with pinched intersections will result in your data instead of multiple polygons. Therefore a data collector should try to collect Tracks in order without doubling back during collection. Finally each track should be saved separately on the GPS unit, rather than making one continuous Track for multiple adjacent features or fields to further reduce chances of overlap.

Track Method

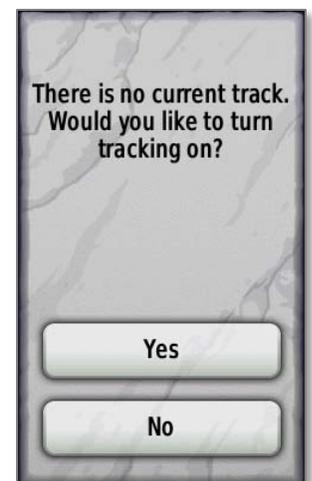
The Track method is fast and easy but can have the drawback of not being able to correct individual waypoints as you work through the Track in the field.

1. Adjust *Tracks* options under *Setup* to have an *Interval* of 5 seconds. The default already present may list *Normal*. A longer interval will have less detail and less resultant points. A shorter interval will have more detail but more points.
2. After acquiring satellites, proceed to the starting point of the desired Track to be recorded.

3. **Press Track Manager.**

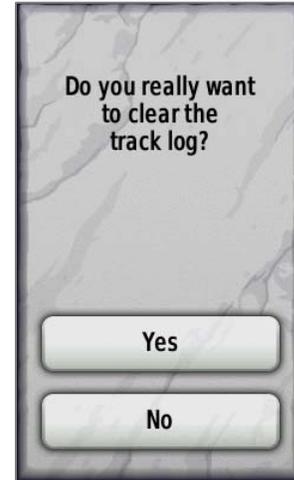


4. If Tracking is not on, the unit will prompt the user whether or not to turn on tracking. **Select Yes.** Otherwise, skip to step #5.

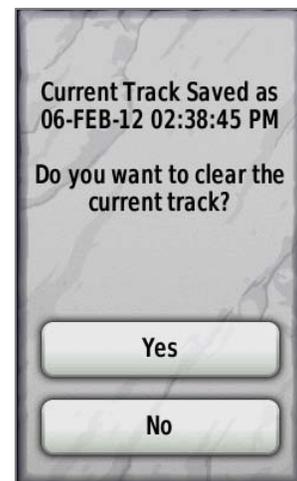




5. If Tracking is on, **select Current Track**.
6. Scroll through the list of options. If you need the pre-existing Track that is currently being recorded, **select Save Track** and follow the save process. Once saved, or if you do not need the current Track, scroll through the list of options and **select Clear Current Track**. **Select Yes** when prompted if you really want to clear the current track. The unit will immediately begin to collect a new Track.



7. Walk along the edge of the desired Line or Area to record as a Track. A point will be collected at each time interval set in *Setup > Tracks*. If you need to change course significantly, you may want to travel slowly, or pause for the duration of your time interval at each turn to make sure a point is recorded. If the Track is a polygon, **stop** traveling along the Track's edge at the last turn prior to returning to the start point.
8. **Press Track Manager > Current Track > Save Track**. Enter a name for the Track or accept the default date/time name, and **press** the green check mark to save the Track. **Press Yes** to also clear the current track if you are done recording it.
9. **Exit Track Manager** if done collecting Track data.





Waypoint Method

The Waypoint method is a little slower while in the field, but has the advantage of allowing corrections to specific sections of the Track with the GPS unit if a mistake is made during collection. It simply consists of marking Waypoints to define the shape of a feature, as normal, but the points need to be in order either when collected or when collated in DNR Garmin back at the office. A possible drawback is that only the Waypoints you actually mark will define the shape of the Track. When using a series of Waypoints to simulate recording Tracks you should either name the Waypoints for each Track differently or record the starting point of each new Track in your field notebook.

Correcting Track Data Collections

You may not be confident in the Track you have collected for some reason and want to redo parts of it. Unfortunately, the only way to do this under the *Track Method* is to start the Track over and re-walk the entire Track. If you instead were using the Waypoint Method, you can perform some correction while in the field.

1. Return to the area in question.
2. Mark one or more new waypoints, and take note of these points in your field notebook, as well as the points that are likely "bad".
3. When returning to the office, transfer all of the points to DNR Garmin.
4. In DNR Garmin, you can delete the bad points and renumber the names of the good points in your sequence so that they fit into the order of the desired Track.
5. In DNR Garmin, get the points in the desired order either through renaming and/or sorting of the data.
6. IN DNR Garmin, switch your Waypoint data type to the Track data type.
7. Save the data, per the guide for saving data in DNR Garmin.