

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Trails Intermountain Region
New Mexico



Abbreviated Final Feasibility Study
Environmental Impact Statement
LONG WALK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL

**Abbreviated Final
Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement
Long Walk National Historic Trail
Arizona and New Mexico**

The *Draft Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement* evaluated the suitability and feasibility of designating the routes known as the “Long Walk” of the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo people (1862-1868) as a national historic trail under the study provisions of the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543). The study provided necessary information for evaluating the national significance of the Long Walk, which refers to the U.S. Army’s removal of the Mescalero Apache and Navajo people from their homelands to the Bosque Redondo Reservation in eastern New Mexico, and for potential designation of a national historic trail.

The three criteria for national historic trails, as defined in the National Trails System Act, were applied and were met for the proposed Long Walk National Historic Trail. The trail routes have a high degree of integrity and significant potential for historical interest based on historic interpretation and appreciation. The trail routes were established by historic use and are nationally significant as a result of that use during the period of removal, escape, and return to tribal homelands, 1862-1868. On January 13, 2006, the National Park System Advisory Board concurred with the study team’s determination of national significance to U.S. history.

Four alternatives and their respective environmental consequences were presented in the study. Under **alternative A**, the no- action alternative, current practices and policies would continue. A national historic trail would not be designated, and interpretation and protection of Long Walk-related events and resources would not be coordinated. Alternatives B, C, and D explore different methods of achieving the goals of this study’s authorizing legislation (Public Law 107-214). Under **alternative B** Congress would designate two national historic trails (dual designations) to emphasize the unique removal experiences of each tribe. An auto tour route

would be established. Interpretation and education would emphasize the distinctive tribal and individual removal histories. The secretary of the interior would administer the trails through partnerships with private and federal landowners, state and local governments, and others on a strictly voluntary basis. Primary partners would be the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation. Under **alternative C** one national historic trail would be designated, emphasizing the removal experiences common to both tribes. An auto tour route would be established. Interpretation and education would emphasize overviews of the Long Walk events. The secretary of the interior would administer the trail through partnerships, primarily with the Mescalero Apache Tribe and Navajo Nation. Under **alternative D** Congress would provide a grant program to the tribes focusing on interpretation and education projects and resource protection on tribal lands. All decisions about strategy, level of protection, etc., would be made by the tribes. A national historic trail would not be designated. The study identifies **alternative C** as the environmentally preferred alternative.

The *Draft Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement* was distributed to other agencies, tribal members, and interested organizations and individuals for their review and comment. This *Abbreviated Final Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement* presents the comments and agency responses and a correction (errata) sheet that shows the minor changes that need to be made to the draft. The draft and the abbreviated final constitute a full final document. Because these changes were minor, the National Park Service has permission to print this abbreviated document.

For further information, please contact the superintendent, National Trails Intermountain Region, PO Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728.

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INTRODUCTION

This is an *Abbreviated Final Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement* for the Long Walk National Historic Trail. The material included here is to be combined with the *Draft Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement*, which was distributed for public review April 17, 2009. The 60-day public review period ended June 22, 2009, and was extended until July 1, 2009. The abbreviated format has been used because the changes to the draft document are relatively minor and do not modify the analysis provided in the *Draft Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement*.

Use of this format is in compliance with the 1969 National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 *Code of Federal Regulations* or CFR 1503.4 (c)). The draft and abbreviated final documents together present the full *Final*

Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement, its alternatives, associated environmental impacts, and comments that have been received and evaluated and responses to them.

Following the announced release of this *Abbreviated Final Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement* in the *Federal Register*, there will be a 30-day no-action period. A “Record of Decision” of the approved final plan will then be signed by the regional director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service (NPS), and copies will be made available to the public.

For further information, please contact the superintendent, National Trails Intermountain Region, PO Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

This section summarizes the agency, organization, and public comments received on the *Draft Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement*. These comments allow interested parties (including NPS decision-makers) to review and assess how other agencies, organizations, and individuals have responded to the proposed actions and alternatives and their potential impacts. The National Park Service provides responses to those comments that are considered substantive or when responses are helpful for clarification or other purposes.

Substantive comments are those that (1) question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the environmental impact statement, (2) question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of environmental analysis, (3) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the environmental impact statement, or (4) cause changes or revisions in the proposal.

PUBLIC REVIEW

A notice of availability of the *Draft Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement* was published in the *Federal Register* (Environmental Protection Agency notice) on April 17, 2009. The official review and comment period began on April 17, 2009, and ended July 1, 2009.

About 220 hard copies of the document and 100 copies of a CD-ROM version were mailed to various entities within Arizona and New Mexico, as well as Washington, D.C. They include individuals, academic institutions; national and state parks; government agencies; members of Congress; city, county and state libraries; pueblos and Indian tribes, and the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division. A letter, dated April 3, 2009, was included with each hard copy document that was mailed. An additional letter, dated April 15, 2009, was sent to about 790 individuals notifying them

that a digital copy of the document was available for viewing on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website.

Seven open houses were held. On May 20, 2009, an open house was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Fort Sumner State Monument in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. On May 21, an open house was held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Carrizo Community Center in Mescalero, New Mexico. On June 2, 2009, an open house was held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Old Santa Fe Trail Building in Santa Fe, New Mexico. On June 16, 2009, an open house was held from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Crownpoint Chapter House (Navajo Nation) in Crownpoint, New Mexico. On June 17, 2009, an open house was held at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona. On June 18, 2009, an open house was held at the Chinle Chapter House (Navajo Nation) in Chinle, Arizona. On June 19, 2009, an open house was held at the To'Nanees'Dizi Local Government (Navajo Nation) in Tuba City, Arizona. About 100 individuals attended the open houses. The availability of the document and information about the open houses was announced in local newspapers.

About 25 written and electronic comments were received. The public did not present any new alternatives, and public comment analysis did not result in any modifications to the current alternatives. Letters from tribal, federal, state, and local governments and organizations are reproduced on the following pages, as required. These entities identified support for a specific alternative, supported national historic trail designation generally, or had no comment. The Environmental Protection Agency had a "Lack of Objections" to the Environmentally Preferred Alternative.

The public's comments have been considered by the National Park Service in preparing this *Abbreviated Final Feasibility Study /*

Environmental Impact Statement, consistent with the requirements of 40 CFR 1503. The following section summarizes substantive comments and contains the NPS response. The National Park Service responses make factual changes, clarify or provide new information, or explain why the public comments do not warrant further agency response.

Presentations were made to Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation, subsequent to public review of the *Draft Feasibility Study/ Environmental Impact Statement* through formal tribal consultation. Responses will be documented in the “Record of Decision.”

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

Comment: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, had comments and recommendations concerning the effects of implementing

alternatives B, C, and D on federally listed species. The agency commented that “Migratory birds use the Project Area and may be impacted by various proposed construction activities,” and recommended that “presence/absence surveys and nest occupancy be conducted prior to construction during the breeding season. If construction extends into the following breeding season, an additional migratory bird nest survey should be completed.” The agency also recommended that “The NPS should develop and implement measures in consultation with the Service to ensure that federally listed species would be managed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.” (Two letters are reproduced in this document.)

NPS Response: If Congress designates a national historic trail or develops a grant program, and if small-scale construction projects occur, the National Park Service would follow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s recommendations.

DRAFT FEASIBILITY STUDY / ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CORRECTIONS

This section contains those changes that should be made to the *Draft Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement*. Some of these changes are a result of public comments, and others are editorial in nature. Please make the following changes:

Pages 31-32 — The Long Walk Routes: This map has been revised. The name of Route 360 has been changed to Route 380. The Bosque Redondo Memorial and Fort Stanton State Monument have been added. Please insert the new map provided.

Pages 33-34 — Map segment 1 of 5: This map has been included for the reader's convenience; no changes were made.

Pages 35-36 — Map segment 2 of 5: This map has been revised. "Coronado State Park" has been changed to "Coronado State Monument." Please insert the new map provided.

Pages 37-38 — Map segment 3 of 5: This map has been revised. "Jemez State Monument" has been added between Jemez Indian Reservation and Bandelier National Monument. Please insert the new map provided.

Pages 39-40 — Map segment 4 of 5: This map has been revised. The name for Fort Sumner State Monument has been changed to Fort Sumner State Monument/Bosque Redondo Memorial. Please insert the new map provided.

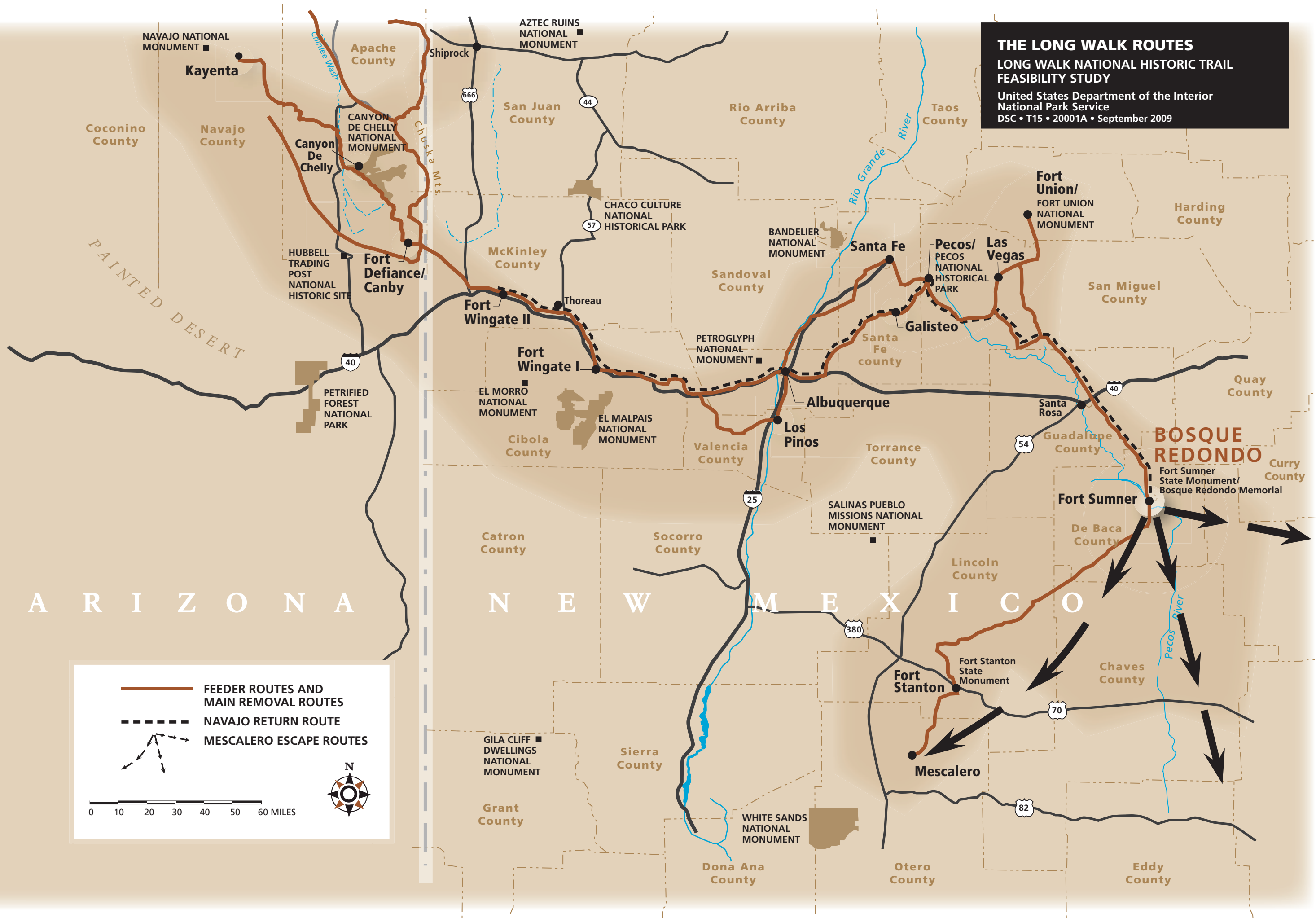
Pages 41-42 — Map segment 5 of 5: This map has been revised. "Fort Stanton" has been changed to "Fort Stanton State Monument." Route 70, Route 54, and Route 380 identifiers have also been added. Please insert the new map provided.

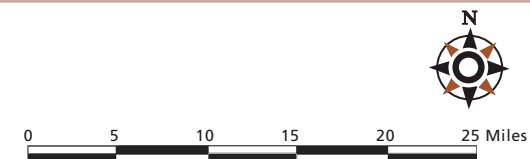
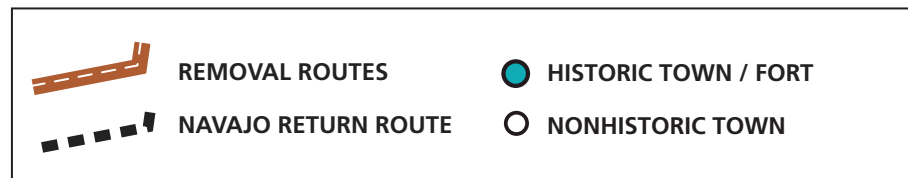
Page 105 — The length of the trail(s) should be changed from 300-400 miles to 1,350-1,400 miles. These two paragraphs would now read as follows.

The effects of alternative B on visitor use and experience along the entire 1,350- to 1,400-mile-long route would be beneficial, long term, direct and indirect, and of moderate intensity.

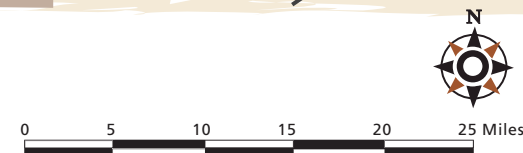
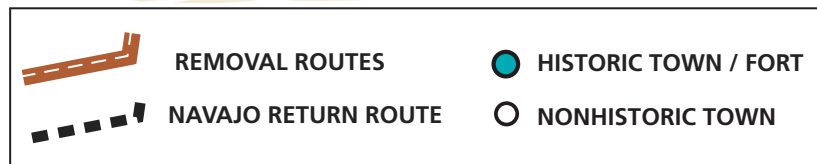
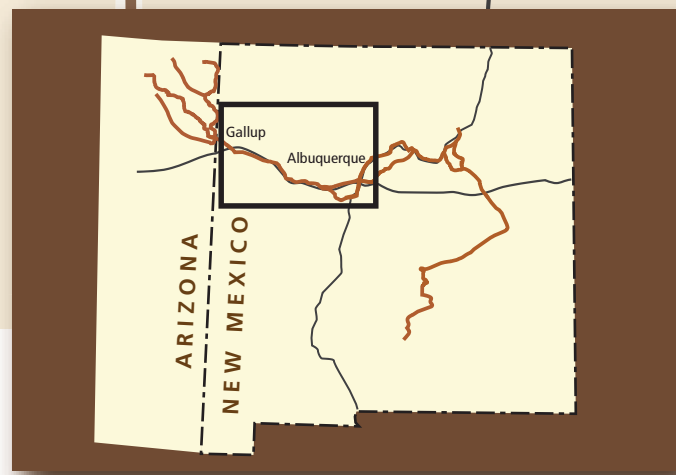
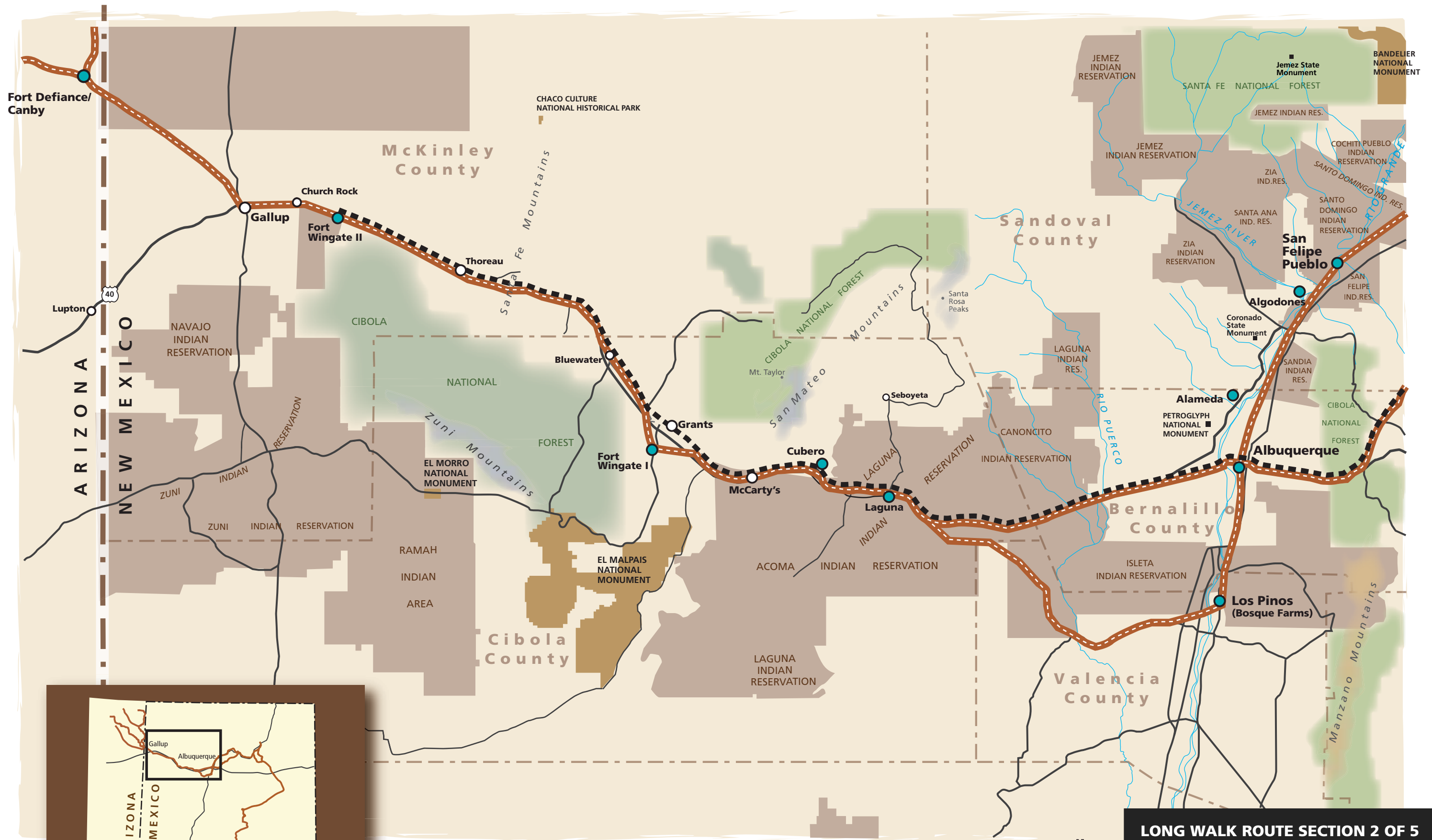
Alternative C would provide opportunities for learning about and appreciating the Long Walk in a historical context. Visitors also would have the opportunity to better understand the event through the overall histories that would be part of the trail's interpretation. The auto tour route would enable visitors to "discover" the trail incidentally to their visit to other attractions in the region, including other national park system units, and would help visitors understand the length of the trail and the hardship of the experience. Compared to alternative A, this would result in beneficial, long-term, direct and indirect impacts of moderate intensity throughout the 1,350- to 1,400-mile-long route.

THE LONG WALK ROUTES
LONG WALK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
FEASIBILITY STUDY
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
DSC • T15 • 20001A • September 2009

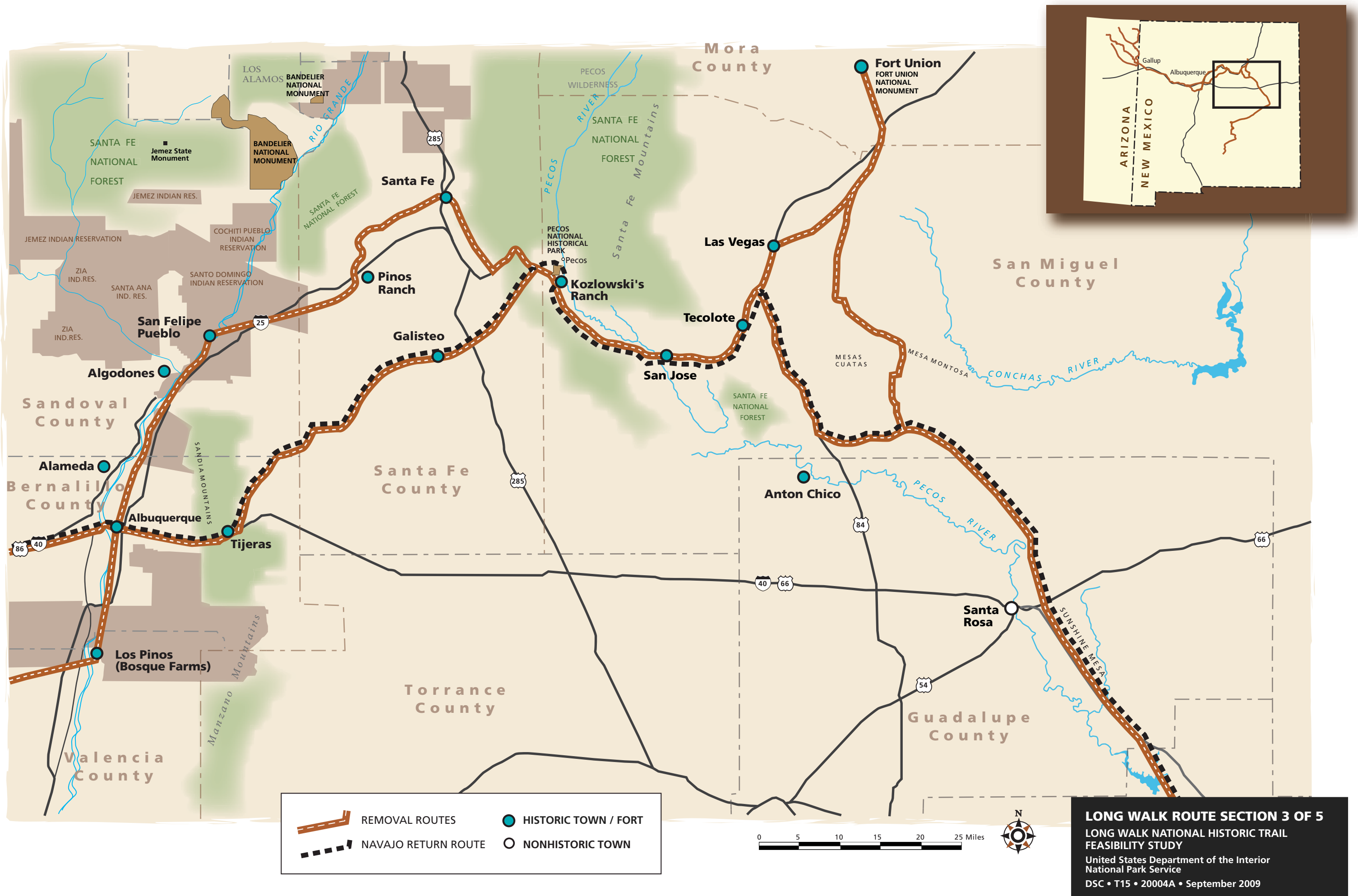


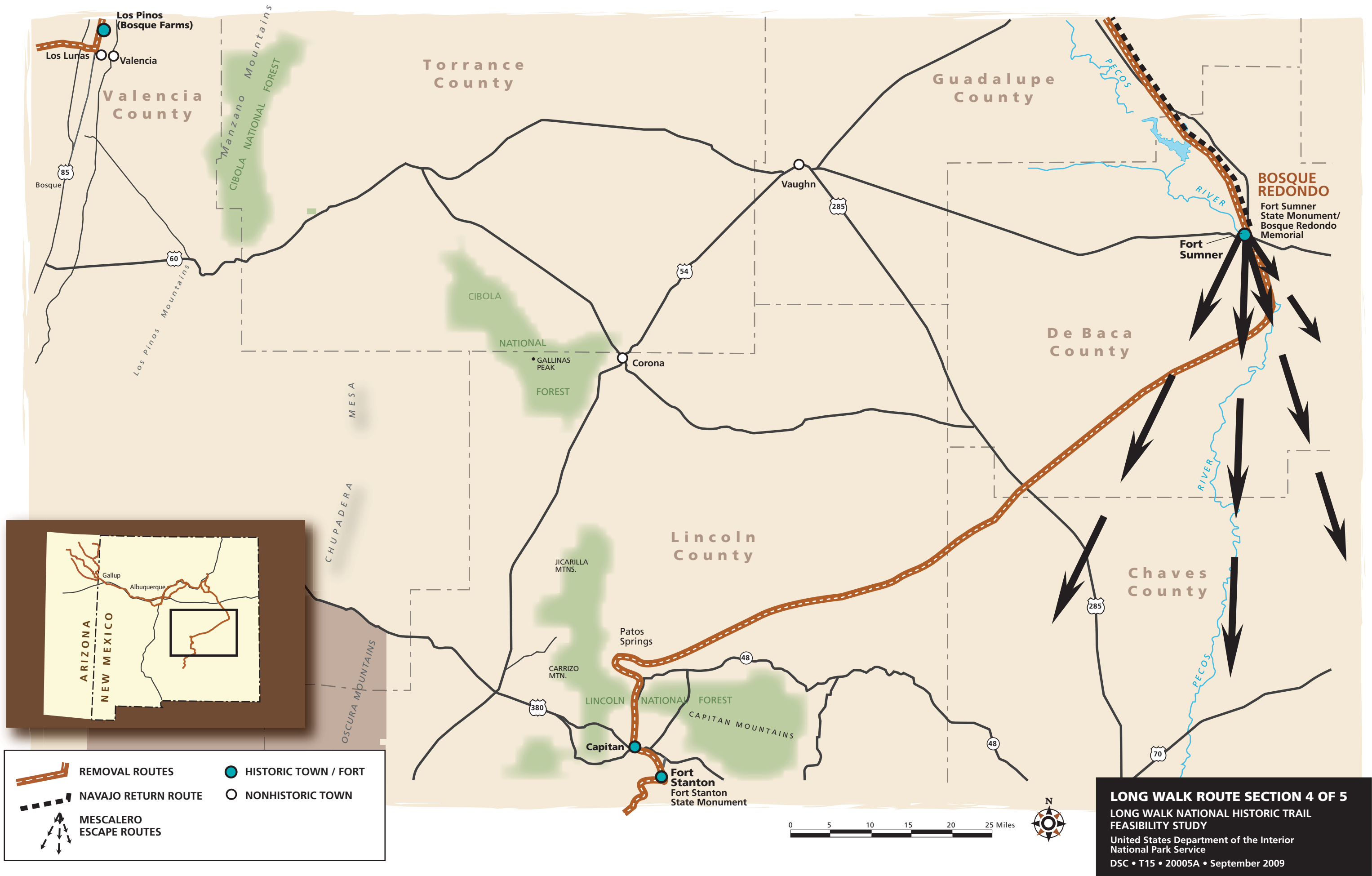


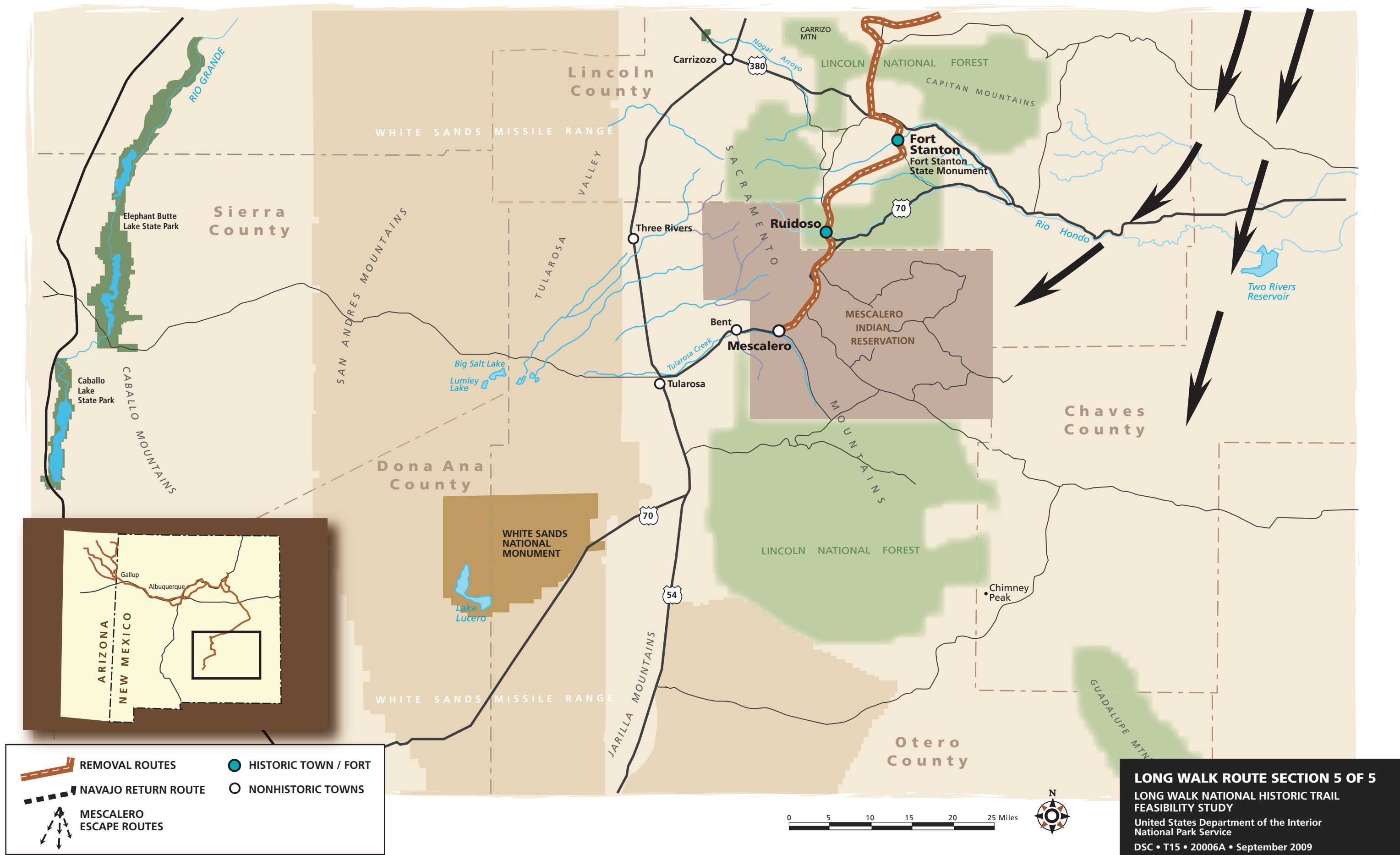
LONG WALK ROUTE SECTION 1 OF 5
LONG WALK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
FEASIBILITY STUDY
 United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service
 DSC • T15 • 20002 • July 2008



LONG WALK ROUTE SECTION 2 OF 5
LONG WALK NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL
FEASIBILITY STUDY
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
DSC • T15 • 20003A • September 2009







AGENCY AND ORGANIZATION LETTERS



THE NAVAJO NATION

JOE SHIRLEY, JR.
PRESIDENT

BEN SHELLY
VICE-PRESIDENT

July 2, 2009

Aaron Mahr, Superintendent
National Park Service
National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728

Dear Mr. Mahr:

Our apology for an oversight and missing the deadline date of our response to your request, and that the Navajo Nation Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program (NNHPD-TCP) is in receipt of the proposed Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study.

After reviewing your consultation documents, HPD-TCP has concluded the proposed undertaking/project area **will impact** Navajo traditional cultural properties. The HPD-TCP, on behalf of the Navajo Nation has concerns at this time and that HPD-TCP selects Alternative A, the No-Action plan. Navajo traditional stories of the Long Walk tell us that this was a place of suffering and that no Navajo person should return to this area, thus he is willing to bring harm upon his people. Ceremonies, songs and prayers were set in place to leave this area of suffering and to never return, so any Navajo person that returns brings upon himself and to his people harm that he or she would not be able to repair.

However, the determination made by the HPD-TCP does not necessarily mean that the Navajo Nation has no interest or concerns with the proposed project. If the proposed project inadvertently discovers habitation sites, plant gathering areas, human remains and objects of cultural patrimony the HPD-TCP request that we be notified respectively in accordance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).

The HPD-TCP appreciates the National Park Service's consultation efforts, pursuant to 36 CFR Pt. 800.1 (c)(2)(iii). Should you have any additional concerns and/or questions, do not hesitate to contact me electronically at tonyjoe@navajo.org or telephone at 928-871-7750. Mr. Kelly Francis will be taking over all Section 106 Consultations soon within the near future.

Sincerely,

Tony H. Joe, Jr., Supervisory Anthropologist (Section 106 Consultations)
Historic Preservation Department – Traditional Culture Program

TCP 2009-634
CC: Office File/Chrono



PUEBLO OF ISLETA
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

P.O. BOX 1270, ISLETA, NM 87022

PHONE: 505-869-3111
FAX: 505-869-4236

April 29, 2009

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Aaron Mahr, Superintendent
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728

Dear Mr. Mahr:

This letter is in response to your letter dated April 3, 2009 regarding the proposed project for the Final Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement.


I am pleased to inform you that this project will not have an impact on religious or cultural sites affiliated with the Pueblo of Isleta.

However, in the event that discoveries are found during construction, we would appreciate being advised of such findings. Please forward all environmental assessment plans to our office.

Thank you for your consideration in contacting this office to express our concerns.

Sincerely,

PUEBLO OF ISLETA


for J. Robert Benavides
Governor

cc: files



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

JUN 10 2009

Ms. Sharon Brown
Project Leader
National Trails System-IMR
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Dear Ms Brown:

In accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (CEQ) for Implementing NEPA, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6 office in Dallas, Texas, has completed its review of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study. Under the proposed alternative a single national historic trail would be designated to commemorate the overall Navajo and Mescalero Apache removal experience.

EPA classified your DEIS and proposed action as "LO," i.e., EPA has "**Lack of Objections**" to the selection of Alternative C, the Environmentally Preferred Plan. Our classification will be published in the Federal Register according to our responsibility under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, to inform the public of our views on proposed Federal actions. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Jansky of my staff at 214-665-7451 or by e-mail at jansky.michael@epa.gov for assistance.

We appreciate the opportunity to review the DEIS. Please send our office one (1) copy of the FEIS at the same time that it is sent to the Office of Federal Activities (2251A), EPA, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20044.

Sincerely yours,

Cathy Gilmore, Chief
Office of Planning and
Coordination (6EN-XP)

Internet Address (URL) • <http://www.epa.gov>

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542

May 11, 2009

Cons. # 22420-2009-FA-0052

Sharon Brown, Project Leader
National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504

Dear Ms. Brown:

This is in response to your request for review and comments for the Draft Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study/Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) offers the following comments and recommendations on the proposed project. The National Park Service (NPS) identified and assessed the suitability and feasibility of designating the routes known as the "Long Walk" of the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo people (1862-1868) as a national historic trail under the study provisions of the National Trail System Act (Public Law 90-543).

Four alternatives were considered in detail in the DEIS analysis process and they are briefly described here:

Alternative A – The no action alternative, current practices and policies would continue. A national historic trail would not be designated, and interpretation and protection of Long Walk-related events and resources would not be coordinated.

The no action alternative would not include any actions that would alter project area vegetation. No past, ongoing, or reasonably foreseeable future actions by others would be expected to combine with actions proposed in Alternative A;

Alternative B – Congress would designate two national historic trails to emphasize the unique removal experiences of each tribe within the contextual history. An auto route would be established. Interpretation and education would emphasize the distinctive tribal and individual removal histories. The Secretary of the Interior would administer the trails through partnerships with private and federal landowners, state and local government, and others on a strictly voluntary basis. Primary partners would be the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation.

This alternative could include small-scale construction projects, such as the installation of exhibits, interpretive trails, and parking areas. At each of these sites, the local vegetation cover would be removed during construction. Following construction, a cover of self-sustaining native

vegetation and effective measures to exclude invasion by undesirable or weed plant species would be required. Requirements would include pest-free plant materials and monitoring to determine that the targeted self-sustaining community of native plants had successfully been established. These types of requirements would ensure that disturbed areas would not be colonized by invasive plant species;

Alternative C – One national historic trail would be designated, emphasizing the removal experiences common to both tribes. An auto tour route would be established. Interpretation and education would emphasize the distinctive tribal and individual removal histories. The Secretary of the Interior would administer the trails through partnerships with private and federal landowners, state and local government, and others on a strictly voluntary basis. Primary partners would be the Mescalero Apache Tribe and the Navajo Nation.

The effects of Alternative C on vegetation would be similar to those described in Alternative B. Because there would be one trail, these effects potentially could occur at fewer sites over a smaller area; and

Alternatives D – Congress would provide a grant program to the tribes focusing on interpretation and education projects and resource protection on tribal lands. All decisions about strategy, level of protection, etc., would be made by the tribes. A national historic trail would not be designated.

Projects could involve the same types of construction and operation that were described in Alternative B. The same types of measures that were described for Alternative B would be implemented.

The Service has the following comments and recommendations concerning the effects of implementing Alternatives B, C, and D on federally listed species.

Concerning the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), the DEIS indicated that the proposed construction activities would remove vegetation. If the vegetation removal took place during the migratory bird nesting season (April 1 through August 31) active nests could constitute “take” as defined in the MBTA. Migratory birds use the Project Area and may be impacted by various proposed construction activities. The DEIS indicated that, to the extent possible, active bird nests would be relocated during construction or avoided until the young birds fledge from the nest. Construction during the migratory bird nesting season should be avoided where possible. The destruction of migratory bird nests with birds or eggs is prohibited as is the possession of said nests. Nest relocations would require Federal and state permits (i.e. nest relocation, temporary possession); training of field personnel on addressing active versus inactive nests; and reports may be required by the permit. Therefore, the Service recommends that presence/absence surveys and nest occupancy be conducted prior to construction during the breeding season. If construction extends into the following breeding season, an additional migratory bird nest survey should be completed.

Sharon Brown, Project Leader

3

Within New Mexico, the proposed project area has 12 plant and 22 animals species listed as federally threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species. We recommend that the NPS consult with the Service regarding habitat requirements and management strategies for threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species before the implementation, design, and construction phases of any proposed actions. The NPS should develop and implement measures in consultation with the Service to ensure that federally listed species would be managed in compliance with the Endangered Species Act.

Thank you for your concern for endangered species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. We appreciate the analyses provided in the DEIS and your efforts to protect fish and wildlife species. In future communication regarding this project please refer to Consultation #22420-2009-FA-0052. If you have any questions, please contact Santiago Gonzales of my staff at the letterhead address or at (505) 761-4720.

Sincerely,



Wally Murphy
Field Supervisor

cc:

Director, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Santa Fe, New Mexico
Director, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division,
Santa Fe, New Mexico
Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Arizona Ecological Services Field Office,
Phoenix, Arizona



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office
2105 Osuna NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113
Phone: (505) 346-2525 Fax: (505) 346-2542

JUN -5 2009

Thank you for your recent request for information on threatened or endangered species or important wildlife habitats that may occur in your project area. The New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office has posted lists of the endangered, threatened, proposed, candidate and species of concern occurring in all New Mexico Counties on the Internet. Please refer to the following web page for species information in the county where your project occurs: http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/NewMexico/SBC_intro.cfm. If you do not have access to the Internet or have difficulty obtaining a list, please contact our office and we will mail or fax you a list as soon as possible.

After opening the web page, find New Mexico Listed and Sensitive Species Lists on the main page and click on the county of interest. Your project area may not necessarily include all or any of these species. This information should assist you in determining which species may or may not occur within your project area.

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act), it is the responsibility of the Federal action agency or its designated representative to determine if a proposed action "may affect" endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat, and if so, to consult with us further. Similarly, it is their responsibility to determine if a proposed action has no effect to endangered, threatened, or proposed species, or designated critical habitat. On December 16, 2008, we published a final rule concerning clarifications to section 7 consultations under the Act (73 FR 76272). One of the clarifications is that section 7 consultation is not required in those instances when the direct and indirect effects of an action pose no effect to listed species or critical habitat. As a result, we do not provide concurrence with project proponent's "no effect" determinations.

If your action area has suitable habitat for any of these species, we recommend that species-specific surveys be conducted during the flowering season for plants and at the appropriate time for wildlife to evaluate any possible project-related impacts. Please keep in mind that the scope of federally listed species compliance also includes any interrelated or interdependent project activities (e.g., equipment staging areas, offsite borrow material areas, or utility relocations) and any indirect or cumulative effects.

2

Candidates and species of concern have no legal protection under the Act and are included on the web site for planning purposes only. We monitor the status of these species. If significant declines are detected, these species could potentially be listed as endangered or threatened. Therefore, actions that may contribute to their decline should be avoided. We recommend that candidates and species of concern be included in your surveys.

Also on the web site, we have included additional wildlife-related information that should be considered if your project is a specific type. These include communication towers, power line safety for raptors, road and highway improvements and/or construction, spring developments and livestock watering facilities, wastewater facilities, and trenching operations.

Under Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Federal agencies are required to minimize the destruction, loss, or degradation of wetlands and floodplains, and preserve and enhance their natural and beneficial values. We recommend you contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for permitting requirements under section 404 of the Clean Water Act if your proposed action could impact floodplains or wetlands. These habitats should be conserved through avoidance, or mitigated to ensure no net loss of wetlands function and value.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the taking of migratory birds, nests, and eggs, except as permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. To minimize the likelihood of adverse impacts to all birds protected under the MBTA, we recommend construction activities occur outside the general migratory bird nesting season of March through August, or that areas proposed for construction during the nesting season be surveyed, and when occupied, avoided until nesting is complete.

We suggest you contact the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Forestry Division for information regarding fish, wildlife, and plants of State concern.

Thank you for your concern for endangered and threatened species and New Mexico's wildlife habitats. We appreciate your efforts to identify and avoid impacts to listed and sensitive species in your project area.

Sincerely,



Wally Murphy
Field Supervisor



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Trails Intermountain Region
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728

086736



IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 3, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

Attached for your review and comment is the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study for the National Trails Intermountain Region. The document identifies and assesses the suitability and feasibility of designating the routes known as the "Long Walk" of the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo people (1862-1868) as a national historic trail under the study provisions of the National Trails System Act (Public Law 90-543).

Four alternatives were developed for inclusion in the plan. Under alternative A, the No-Action, the Long Walk would not be designated as a national historic trail. Under alternative B Congress would designate two national historic trails to recognize the Mescalero Apache Tribe and Navajo Nation removal events. Under alternative C Congress would designate one national historic trail, emphasizing the removal experiences common to both tribes. Under alternative D Congress would provide a grant program to the tribes focusing on interpretation and education projects and resource protection on tribal lands.

Public participation is very important to the successful development of this Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study. Therefore, we ask for your thoughtful evaluation and comment. Public comments will be accepted for 60 days after the Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability has been published in the *Federal Register*. Please address your comments to Project Leader Sharon Brown, National Trails Intermountain Region, PO Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504. Or, submit comments via the Internet at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ntsi>. For information or questions concerning the feasibility study, call Sharon Brown at 505-988-6717.

We thank you in advance for your attention and we appreciate your interest in the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study.

Sincerely,

Aaron Mahr
Superintendent
National Trails Intermountain Region

COMMENTS

6/1/09
for NM State Historic Preservation Officer

At this time our office prefers
Alternative B for its long term
beneficial effects towards preservation,
interpretation & education. We look
forward to the final report. Thank you.



New Mexico State Monuments

June 11, 2009

Ms. Sharon Brown
Project Leader
National Trails Intermountain Region
National Park Service
P.O. Box 728
Santa Fe, NM 97504-0728

Dear Ms. Brown:

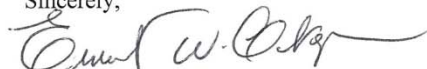
Please accept the enclosed comments from New Mexico State Monuments regarding the Draft Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study / Environmental Impact Statement.

We truly appreciate the efforts of the National Park Service in seeking much-needed national recognition and appropriate commemoration of this most tragic period of our nation's history. The story of the "rounding up" and forced relocation of the Navajo and Mescalero Apache tribes – along with the suffering and hardship that they endured – must be told to New Mexico's and our nation's citizenry. Such ill and inhumane treatment of people by other people, or even our government, must never occur again in our country's soil.

Our New Mexico State Monuments staff is fully supportive of having these trails given national designation. The national designation will help us in fulfilling our mandate of preserving and interpreting the Bosque Redondo Reservation and its impact on these two peoples, as well as what resulted from this experiment by the U.S. Government.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,



Ernest W. Ortega

Enclosure

cc: Stuart A. Ashman, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Cultural Affairs
Angie Manning, Manager, Fort Sumner State Monument
DeAnn Kessler, Manager, Lincoln State Monument
Richard Reycraft, Cultural Resources Manager, NM State Monuments

Ernest W. Ortega • Director • 505.476.1199 • ernesto.ortega@state.nm.us

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Comments on the Feasibility Study & Draft Environmental Assessment for the
Proposed Long Walk National Historic Trail

Please accept the following comments from New Mexico State Monuments regarding the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Long Walk National Historic Trail Feasibility Study.

We at New Mexico State Monuments strongly support the establishment of a Long Walk National Historic Trail (NHT). We will support either Alternative B or Alternative C. We will not support Alternatives A or D. We feel that the proposed NHT will help preserve the trails associated with the forced internment of the Mescalero Apache and the Navajo peoples at the Bosque Redondo camp. The NHT will thus enhance our ability to disseminate this tragic story, which is the focus of the Bosque Redondo Memorial at Fort Sumner State Monument. The proposed NHT will also help us interpret the forced assembly of the Mescalero at Fort Stanton, prior to their deportation to the Bosque Redondo. The establishment of this NHT will also support our application for the Bosque Redondo Memorial for inclusion in the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, a worldwide network of "Sites of Conscience" – historic sites specifically dedicated to remembering past struggles for justice and addressing their contemporary legacies. We also feel the establishment of a Long Walk NHT will help us develop and enhance our relations with the Mescalero and Navajo peoples.

Concerning technical aspects of the draft report, we noted errors/omissions in the following map sections:

- Map section #2 of 5: please change "Coronado State Park" to "Coronado State Monument".
- Map section #3 of 5: please add "Jemez State Monument" to the map, it is situated between Jemez Pueblo and Bandelier National Monument.
- Map section #4 of 5: The correct name for Fort Sumner State Monument is "Fort Sumner State Monument/the Bosque Redondo Memorial.
- Map Section #5 of 5: please change "Fort Stanton" to "Fort Stanton State Monument"

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Ft Sumner State Monument

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p.2

JUN-19-2009 02:12 PM CHAVEZ FUNERAL HOME

505 355 7357



VILLAGE OF FORT SUMNER

Mayor: Juan A. Chavez

Councilors: Bobby Williamson
Sebastiano Lovato
Windell Bridges
Eather Segura

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June 19, 2009

Ms. Sharon Brown
Project Leader
National Trails Intermountain Region
National Park Service
P.O. box 728
Santa Fe, NM 97504-0728

Dear Ms. Brown,
The Village of Fort Sumner supports your efforts in seeking national recognition and commemoration of the Long Walk national Historic Trail.

The "Long Walk" story is a significant historical period of New Mexico and U.S. History. The suffering and hardships endured by the Navajo and Mescalero Apache requires the recognition of our state and the citizens of this country.

The plans for construction of the addition to the Bosque Redondo Memorial and to incorporate interactive media into the project will bring a true understanding of the suffering that took place at this site. It will also allow the members of the Mescalero and Apache tribes to share their ancestor's stories with all visitors to the site.

Respectfully,

Juan A. Chavez / Mayor
Village of Fort Sumner



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

