

Spatial Organization

The sense of the scale and patterns of the historic setting and individual spaces that existed at the time of the battle would be identified as described in archeological sites. These historic spaces would be reestablished using simple techniques.

1. The physical depiction of historic spaces and their relationships to one another would be undertaken.
2. The size, scale and form of each space would be established and marked using simple means.
 - a. Techniques including the use of vegetation and the simple markings of known features would be undertaken.
 - b. Worm fencing set along historic fence alignments would continue to be used to delineate historic spaces.
 - c. Vegetation management would continue to assist in depicting spatial qualities. This would include the use of grasses in settlement or built areas, surrounded by woodlands, as existed historically.
3. The historic space of the Ford Farm would be reestablished to include fields, pastures, orchard and Ford Cemetery. The historic space would be reestablished based upon further historic and archeological investigations.
 - a. Mowing, mechanical removal or addition of vegetation would be used to reestablish the spatial qualities.
4. The historic spaces of Leetown Hamlet would be reestablished, and would include the spaces of individual ownership or farms and agricultural spaces that likely surrounded the town.
5. The historic setting of Elkhorn Tavern would be reestablished to reflect the ten to twenty-acre area noted in soldier accounts.
 - a. The use of vegetation, (forest, open fields, battlefield, views) and fencing set along historic alignments would be used to depict the spatial qualities of the Elkhorn Tavern area.
 - b. Extant features, the building and roads, would be preserved to assist in defining historic spatial relationships.

Circulation

The historic circulation system would be preserved. It would be repaired where it would be used for pedestrian or equestrian routes. Modifications would be undertaken to better integrate the contemporary roads and trails with the historic circulation system.

1. All historic road routes and alignments would be preserved.
 - a. Pedestrian and equestrian use would be allowed on historic roads with maintenance tailored to the use.
 - b. The park loop trail and the horse trail could be moved to follow historic routes.
 - c. Repairs would be made as needed to control erosion, repair surfaces and to provide for intended use.
2. At the Federal Trenches, the existing pedestrian trail would be repaired to provide a safe route.
 - a. The trail surface would be repaired using steps, erosion control measures and new surfacing. The trail would be

rerouted to the extent possible to provide a more manageable slope for the walking route.

- b. No universal access to the trenches would be provided.

Buildings and Structures

Existing buildings and structures consist primarily of park facilities and the historic reconstructed Elkhorn Tavern.

Future buildings would include a new visitor center / facility complex proposed for the west edge of the park in accordance with the GMP/EIS.

Known below-grade foundations throughout the park would be further researched to determine actual locations, size, scale and form.

1. Archeological research and investigations would be undertaken to identify the historic locations of buildings and structures.
 - a. Those buildings and structures confirmed to have an association with the historic setting during the period of significance would be documented. Where appropriate some could be marked to indicate their location size, scale and form.
 - b. Techniques for marking buildings and structures could include the use of contrasting material such as gravel or a change in vegetation type within the foundation, or the delineation of a foundation using stones or wood framing.

2. At the east overlook, the shelter would remain. Its presence would be minimized by repainting the structure to make it less visible from the battlefield. This would be done in tandem with the removal of cedar trees that currently provide a backdrop.
3. Elkhorn Tavern would be preserved and repaired. Non-extant buildings and structures would be marked, this would be based on archeological work previously mentioned.
4. At the Federal Trenches, preservation and stabilization of the trench structure would be undertaken. It would include the entire trench and all of its components.

Vegetation

Extant vegetation and vegetative patterns that contribute to the historic character of the cultural landscape would be preserved. Vegetation that assists in defining spatial organization or that frames views and vistas would be preserved and managed.

Historic vegetation patterns would be reestablished using species and species compositions similar to what occurred historically. Recommendations of the Vegetation Management Plan (VMP) would be followed for the study area.

1. The historic patterns of the agricultural fields would be preserved and reestablished to fully reflect the historic conditions. Vegetation that assists in depicting pastures and crops from 1862 would be used.
2. Historic trees that date from the period of significance would be preserved. Measures to fully locate historic trees within the study area would be undertaken.
3. Existing trees, such as invasive cedars, that negatively impact the historic vegetation patterns would be removed.
4. At the east overlook, vegetation management would assist in revealing the historic landform, topography and character of the bluff. Large trees would be removed, and others would be thinned and pruned.
5. At the Federal Trenches, large trees would be removed from the trench. Dense forested areas within historic lines of sight towards the south would be thinned.
6. At Elkhorn Mountain, large trees would be removed and others thinned and pruned to reveal the landform, topography and character of the bluff on Elkhorn Mountain.
 - a. The presence of the existing shelter would be minimized by removing the cedar backdrop. This would be done in tandem with repainting the shelter.

Alternative 2: Revealing the Battlefield Landscape (Preferred Alternative)

The preferred alternative would reveal the landscape that soldiers and civilians experienced during the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862 and through 1865. This would be accomplished by reestablishing the spatial qualities of the historic setting. Extant contributing features would be preserved and repaired and non-extant features that existed at the time of the battle would be identified and marked.

The personal stories of the inhabitants (farm owners, families, slaves, etc.) and accounts from the soldiers would be researched. Opportunities for interpretation of the battle landscape, the influence the battle had on the community, experiences of the soldiers, and the aftermath of the war would be provided.

Further archeological investigations and research would be undertaken, particularly at key sites (e.g., Leetown Hamlet, Elkhorn Tavern). Investigations would focus on identifying below-grade remnants of historic buildings, structures, roads and other features that would have been present at the time of the battle.

The spatial relationships and views of the physical setting would be reestablished through the removal and thinning of vegetation, and repair and use of the historic circulation system. This alternative would focus on the preservation, stabilization and repair of features. Compatible additions and uses would be allowed.

Study Area

Archeological Sites

The archeology of the cultural landscape includes remains of physical features that existed during the battle and the period of significance, and artifacts directly related to the battle. Features or artifacts may also remain from earlier periods including the Trail of Tears. Archeological remains include an unknown number of foundations including those from the farms of the Ford, Ruddick, and Clemens families.

Archeological investigations and further research would be undertaken to fully define the physical extent of the historic setting.

1. Archeological investigations would determine the extent of historic farm spaces such as pastures, gardens, and barnyards that would have been a part of the landscape historically but are no longer visible.
 - a. Research and investigations into the individual families would be undertaken to determine connections to the Civil War or the battlefield.
 - b. At the Ford Farm, research and investigations would be undertaken to determine the full extent of the farm, and of the Ford Cemetery and those buried in the cemetery.