



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
1008 W. Second Street
Sulphur, Oklahoma 73086



IN REPLY REFER TO:
H4217 (CHIC)

September 16, 2014

Dear Friend of Chickasaw National Recreation Area:

The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to collaborate with the Chickasaw Nation on the design and construction of a bridge that would connect Chickasaw National Recreation Area (Chickasaw NRA) with the Chickasaw Cultural Center. In addition, this proposal also includes the construction of three new trails and improved parking in the Cat's Eye Road area of Chickasaw NRA.

The purpose for taking action is to enhance the physical and cultural connection between the Chickasaw Cultural Center and Chickasaw NRA and to provide additional visitor opportunities in this area. Currently, there is no safe or convenient access between Chickasaw Cultural Center and Chickasaw NRA, and visitor opportunities in this area of the park are few. This project is designed to: 1) provide safe and convenient access between the Chickasaw Cultural Center and Chickasaw NRA; 2) enhance and improve visitor opportunities in the project area; 3) improve parking and visitor safety in the Cat's Eye Road area; and 4) identify designs that minimize impacts to park resources in accordance with NPS regulations and policies, while also maintaining consistency with Chickasaw Nation regulations and policies.

NPS has analyzed two alternatives: a no action alternative and an action alternative. Alternative A is the no action alternative which describes the current condition if no bridge, trails, or parking improvements were constructed. Alternative B includes the construction of a new bridge, three visitor trails, and parking improvements in the Cat's Eye Road area.

NPS prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. This project is also being conducted in accordance with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (§106) and other applicable laws, regulations, and policies.

NPS encourages public participation throughout the NEPA and §106 processes. We are currently releasing the EA for public review and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CNRAPedestrianBridgeHome>. Or, you may submit written comments to Superintendent Bruce Noble at the address on the letterhead. While we are pleased to accept all types of comments, we consider substantive comments to be those that (a) question the accuracy of information in the EA (b) question the adequacy of environmental analysis (c) present reasonable alternatives other than those presented in the EA, or (d) cause changes or revisions in the proposal.

We will consider these comments during preparation of the decision document. Thank you in advance for your comments and we look forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions please contact Noel Osborn of my staff at 580-622-7261.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Noble". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Bruce Noble,
Superintendent