

APPENDICES

APPENDIX B. SCOPING LETTERS AND RESPONSES

Initial Consultation Letters and Responses



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

March 01, 2013

Mr. Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Principal Chief Baker:

Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI), National Park Service (NPS), plans to prepare an Environmental Assessment addressing mitigations (Mitigation EA) identified for the park because of the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park.

An environmental assessment for the widening of this highway that incorporated those portions that ran through the park was conducted, "Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) – AHTD Job Number 090204 Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33). Section 4(f) was initiated and incorporated in this EA document because it affected federal lands. During this process, the park developed an additional alternative that was presented to and accepted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Arkansas Highway Transportation Department (AHTD). As a result, preliminary mitigations were discussed and accepted by the NPS, FHWA, and AHTD as part of this proposed/preferred alternative. Work pertaining to Section 4(f) was halted, due to the acceptance of these mitigations and enhancement measures, and a De Minimis finding was prepared and signed. Additionally, a Programmatic Agreement (PA) was developed by the FHWA between the NPS, AHTD, Arkansas State Preservation Officer, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, The Osage Nation, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians regarding this project, park mitigations, and the associated Historic Properties Treatment Plan.

This Mitigation EA will address a full range of alternatives. The alternatives will be consistent with the mitigation actions identified in the previous environmental compliance documents referenced above. Each of the mitigation alternatives that are developed for the removal of highway 62 will be designed to achieve the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences outlined in the park's General Management Plan (GMP), completed in 2006.

The park hosted Midwest Region Staff, National Park Service (NPS), in a site visit and internal scoping meeting, December 2012, on these mitigation efforts and developed preliminary alternatives, which are attached for your review. We considered past and present disturbance, historic accounts and locations of the battle at Pea Ridge, both surveyed and non-surveyed areas, the Trail of Tears route, and the potential effect on the cultural landscape and setting. The NPS believes that each of the alternatives are in keeping with the agreed upon mitigations while specifically addressing and satisfying the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences in the GMP and Long Range Interpretive Plan, as well as NPS policy and federal statutes.

It was also determined that an intensive archeological inventory will be conducted, to address Section 110 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), for each alternative in those areas mitigative efforts are proposed to occur. The archeological inventory, completed as part of this Mitigation EA, is planned on being conducted this spring, 2013. A written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries during the archeological work is being developed and will be forwarded to you for your review and comment before the archeology work begins. In addition, we welcome you to participate in the archeological assessment.

This letter serves as notification and invites your participation in the analysis of potential environmental impacts from a variety of alternatives addressing these mitigative measures, and in the development of a final implementation plan. In addition to consulting with us regarding the environmental and archeological assessment, I will make sure you receive the future documents that will be prepared as part of this project. I will also notify you when the review period opens for the EA.

The following enclosed documents provide information about the existing conditions and park guiding document(s) as well as background information on this project, denoted by an *:

1. Pea Ridge National Military Park General Management Plan
2. Project Area Map
3. 1940 Aerial Map of Pea Ridge National Military Park
4. 2011 Aerial Map of Pea Ridge National Military Park
5. Cultural Landscape Inventory
6. Alternative Map(s)
7. * Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) – AHTD Job Number 090204 Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33)
8. * Section 4(f) De Minimis finding
9. * Job# 090204 Pea Ridge National Military Park Programmatic Agreement

I have designated Kevin Eads, Chief of Resource Management, to be the park's lead for this project. He can be reached at (479) 451-8122 extension 239, or email at kevin_eads@nps.gov. If you have any questions or concerns about this request or if you require additional information you can contact Kevin or myself. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Dr. Richard Allen, Policy Analyst and NAGPRA/Section 106 Review, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma



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March 12, 2013

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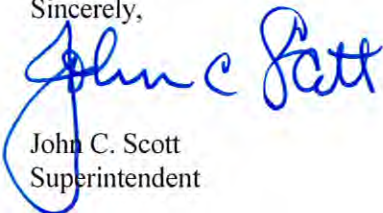
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The following documents are enclosed:

1. Draft NAGPRA Plan of Action
2. Geophysical Evaluation of the Proposed Alternatives Scope of Work

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Sincerely,



John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

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March 12, 2013

Mr. George Blanchard, Governor
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
2025 S. Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, OK 74801

Dear Governor Blanchard:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Ms. Henrietta Ellis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



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March 12, 2013

Mr. A.D. Ellis, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Principal Chief Ellis:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Mr. Ted Isham, Cultural Preservation Office Manager, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



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March 12, 2013

Mr. John Berrey, Tribal Chairperson
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

Dear Tribal Chairperson Berrey:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Ms. Jean Ann Lambert, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



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March 12, 2013

Mr. Ron Sparkman, Chairman
Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 189
Miami, OK 74355

Dear Chairman Sparkman:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Ms. Kim Jumper, Historic Preservation Department, Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



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March 12, 2013

Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Dear Chief Wickliffe:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Ms. Lisa Larue, Historic Preservation Coordinator, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



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March 12, 2013

Mr. Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation
2020 Arlington, Suite 4
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821-1548

Dear Governor Anoatubby:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Ms. Ladonna Brown, Historic Preservation Officer, The Chickasaw Nation
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
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March 12, 2013

Mr. John Red Eagle, Principal Chief
The Osage Nation
P.O. Box 779
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Dear Principal Chief Red Eagle:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

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Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Dr. Andrea A. Hunter, Director, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, The Osage Nation
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD

DRAFT-NAGRPA PLAN OF ACTION

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

Geophysical and Archeological Investigations of Four Alternative Tour Road and Parking Lot Modifications Associated with the Federal Highway Administration's Construction Mitigation of Park Impacts from Re-routing of Highway 62

March 11, 2013

This Plan of Action describes the procedures for the treatment and disposition of Native American human skeletal remains, associated funerary objects, objects of cultural patrimony, and sacred objects that may be discovered during geophysical and archeological investigations of four alternatives for tour-road and parking lot modifications at Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI), Benton County, Arkansas. This Plan of Action shall comply with the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), *25 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.*, its implementing regulations as set forth in *43 CFR Part 10 (specifically §10.5[e])*, and the Archeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), *16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.*, with its implementing regulations (*43CFR Part 7*).

1. This plan focuses on the low probability of encountering Native American human skeletal remains and associated funerary objects as a result of the geophysical and archeological investigations along the four alternative tour road re-alignments and proposed parking lot locations. The kinds of objects to be considered as associated funerary objects as defined in 43 CFR Part 10.2(d) are the following:
 - a. Objects placed intentionally at the time of death or later with or near the human remains or within the burial pit. Historically, these items are projectile points, broken pottery sherds, entire pottery vessels, other stone and bone tools, and various Euro-American trade items (i.e., metal objects, glass and shell beads).
 - b. Sacred objects are specific ceremonial objects needed by traditional Native American religious leaders for the practice of traditional Native American religions by their present-day adherents. Objects falling under this definition have not yet been determined. Consultation will occur to determine whether or not objects recovered fall within this definition.
 - c. Objects of Cultural Patrimony are items having ongoing historical, traditional, or cultural importance central to the Indian tribe rather than property owned by an individual. No objects have been determined under this definition. Consultation will occur to determine whether or not objects recovered fall within this definition.

2. The preponderance of geographical, archeological, linguistic, folklore, oral tradition, and historical evidence for the determination of custody for these cultural items identified contemporary American Indian tribes as traditionally associated with PERI and the Trail of Tears: Caddo Nation, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. The Caddo Nation, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Osage Nation are most likely to have shared group identity and be culturally affiliated with earlier peoples who occupied and used PERI in past centuries. The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians resided on state lands that the Quapaw and Osage had ceded title to the United States in 1824 and 1808, respectively, during their removal from the Southeast beginning in the early 1820s. The Cherokee ceded all claims to their lands within the Territorial limit of Arkansas in 1828 and were removed to Indian Territory to the west. A portion of the Trail of Tears (approximately 2.5 miles) used for the removal of the southeastern tribes passes through PERI.
3. In addition to the low probability of encountering Native American human skeletal remains and associated funerary objects as the result of the geophysical and archeological investigations of the four alternative tour road re-alignments and proposed parking lot location, there is a higher probability of encountering the skeletal remains of Civil War soldiers killed in the two days of fighting in the vicinity of the Elkhorn Tavern.
4. When Native American human skeletal remains are discovered as a result of the current geophysical and archeological investigations, the NPS will cease all activity in the immediate area of the human remains and objects, protect them from further disturbance, and provide immediate telephone notification of the discovery to the aforementioned tribal representatives. The telephone notification shall be followed by written notifications. This notification shall include information about the kinds and conditions of NAGPRA related items.
5. Treatment of the burial(s), while *in situ*, will be consistent with practices recommended by the identified tribes based on their beliefs and traditions.
6. Following consultations, exposed remains and associated cultural items will be subject to basic and limited archeological recordation. Identification of the burial outline will be documented by taking dimensions, noting orientation and shape, and noting soil color. The soil surrounding the skeletal remains will be removed to expose the burial, and screened to ensure all NAGPRA objects are recovered for later reinterment. A sufficient number of measurements will be taken of the outline to permit reconstruction of the shape and dimensions of the pit after excavation. When the burial is completely exposed, sketches and diagrams will be drawn. Location, deposition, position, orientation, and depth will be recorded and complete measurement of bones, artifacts, and pit will be noted *in situ*. Any pathological conditions observed while *in situ* will be described in detail. No soil samples of the burial pit will be taken. A limited number of photographs of the burial(s) will be taken in order to document that agreed upon treatments and protocols were followed. Original photographs will be kept with the project archives at PERI with access strictly controlled. Copies of photographs will be provided to the

Caddo Nation, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, and MWAC with access strictly controlled. Estimation of sex, stature, and age will be documented while *in situ*. Additional non-destructive documentation of the remains and cultural items will only be carried out after consultation with the tribes.

7. Upon consultation with tribal representatives, the human remains and any associated funerary objects will be exhumed and reinterred at a safe, undisturbed location, and the requirements of NAGPRA Section 3 will be carried out by the park in consultation with the tribes.
8. A comprehensive report, describing the archeological investigations, human remains, and funerary objects along with a record of consultation with the culturally affiliated tribes, and final disposition of NAGPRA items shall be prepared and kept on file at PERI, MWAC, and provided to the culturally affiliated tribes.

Superintendent, Pea Ridge National Military Park

Date

Caddo Nation

Date

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Date

Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma

Date

Osage Nation

Date

United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians

Date

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

Date

Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma

Date

The Chickasaw Nation

Date

Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma

Date

Scope-of-Work

Geophysical Evaluation of the Proposed Alternatives for the Highway 62 Re-alignment Project within Pea Ridge National Military Park, Benton County, Arkansas

This work plan outlines a geophysical archeological inventory and evaluation of four proposed alternatives for the Highway 62 re-alignment project within Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI), Benton County, Arkansas. The work is scheduled to be completed by staff archeologists and archeological technicians from the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) with support from volunteers under the Volunteer-In-Park (VIP) program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln faculty appointee, and the PERI staff during the period of April 22-May 3, 2013. All aspects of the project (fieldwork, analysis, and report preparation) will be conducted under the direction of the Midwest Archeological Center staff. The geophysical investigations will consist of metal detector surveys and archeological shovel testing within the selected routes and parking lot areas identified in the four construction alternatives. The results of the geophysical survey will be incorporated into the project trip report and the geophysical and archeological evaluation project report.

Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) Personnel:

Archeologist Steven De Vore, project manager (402-437-5392 ext. 141)
University of Nebraska-Lincoln Faculty Appointee (1)
Archeological Technicians (2 to 6)
VIP Volunteers (3)

Introduction:

The Pea Ridge National Military Park was created by an act of Congress on July 20, 1956 and commemorates the Civil War Battle of Pea Ridge that was fought between March 7 and 8, 1862. During the two day battle, the Federal forces under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis defeated the Confederate forces under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn, which helped gain control of border state of Missouri for the Union.

The park is located in Benton County in northwestern Arkansas and includes the 4,300-acre site of the battle. The battlefield and the remnants of Union trenches overlooking Sugar Creek to the southwest of the main battlefield are designated as 3BE184. The battlefield is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (October 15, 1969). Four prehistoric sites are also located within the park including three prehistoric lithic scatters (3BE512, 3BE513, and 3 BE589) and a lithic scatter at the Winton Spring site (3BE305).

Federal Highways Administration proposes road improvement and widening projects (Arkansas State Highways and Transportation Department [AHTD] Jobs 090065

and 090096) along Highway 62 between Avoca and Gateway, Arkansas. The planning meeting concerning the proposed re-routing of the highway in the vicinity of Pea Ridge National Military Park and the mitigation measures with regard to the impact from the Highway 62 improvement project resulted in recommendations for a Memorandum of Agreement and treatment plan to address mitigation of the proposed alternative activities within the park (Scott 2011). AHTD responded and agreed to commit actions to minimize and mitigate impact to the park as a result of the proposed road construction project (Vozel 2012). In December 2012, National Park Service (NPS) personnel from PERI, the Midwest Regional Office (MWRO), and the Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) participated in a planning meeting concerning the proposed Highway 62 and its impacts on the park (De Vore 2012). Park staff provided an overview of the Highway 62 project (Arkansas State Highways Job #09065) progress to date. An archeological inventory was completed by the State along the proposed highway route in 2011 (Branam 2011). The De Minimis impacts to Section 4(F) were completed in April 2012. A FONSI with a finding of no significant impact for the Avoca to Gateway NEPA study was also issued by the Federal Highways Administration in April 2012. A Programmatic Agreement (PA) between the Federal Highway Administration, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office, the Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department, and Pea Ridge National Military Park was signed in March 2012. The Caddo Nation, the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Osage Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians were included in the consultation and drafting of the PA, as well as being invited to be signatories.

The National Park Service (NPS) planning group discussed the project and potential mitigation issues inside the park boundaries. Starting with the proposed alternative presented to AHTD, the planning group developed three additional alternatives identifying different tour road modifications and re-routes along with proposed parking lot locations at Elkhorn Tavern, the Visitors Center and the equestrian trail head. An archeological inventory was identified as one of the first steps needed in the development of an Environmental Assessment. The metal detector/archeological inventory would be conducted in the vicinity of the Elkhorn Tavern where the alternatives consist of a) re-routing the tour road around the East Overlook to the abandoned portion of the old Highway 62 inside the park, b) bringing the tour road in from the existing Highway 62 east of the Visitors Center, c) turning the tour road between Elkhorn Tavern and the Park Visitor Center into two-way, two-lane traffic, and d) in the area of potential parking lot alternatives near Elkhorn Tavern. In addition to the mitigation modifications within the park, the park staff also proposed re-routing the existing horse trails from the park interior to a route along the park boundary. The alternatives would include increased parking space at the Visitor Center and a new parking area for the horse trail head.

Previous Archeological Investigations:

Formal archeological investigations at PERI began with the 1965 excavations at Leetown by Rex Wilson (1965). Wilson focused on identifying the small farming hamlet of Leetown south of the fields where the Confederate and Federal troops engaged on

March 7, 1862. His goals were to discover foundations and other remnants of structures that could identify the location of Leetown and to search for possible graves in a small nineteenth century cemetery. Although the investigations did not conclusively identify structure foundations, they did indicate evidence for buildings. His investigations identified 17 possible grave shafts in the cemetery. Additional excavations at the Elkhorn Tavern in search of the mass burial trench near Curtis's headquarters yielded post-Civil War materials. He also identified three clay-lined vats in Tanyard Hollow.

In 1987, Roger Coleman (1988) conducted an archeological inventory along the proposed paved trail from Elkhorn Tavern to two Civil War commemorative monuments in the open field west of the tavern site. During the pedestrian survey and shovel testing of the trail alignment, he located six historic artifacts associated with the tavern occupants. He also identified two prehistoric sites during the shovel testing (3BE512 and 3BE513). Coleman indicated that both prehistoric sites were disturbed and eroded. Therefore, he concluded that they were not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

James P. Harcourt (1993) conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey of the area identified for the construction of small equipment storage shed near the Visitors Center in 1993. He excavated series of shovel tests. He identified a sparse lithic scatter (3BE589) in the project area but found no artifacts associated with the battle of other 19th or 20th century occupations. There was no indication of intact sub-plowzone deposits identified in the shovel tests. Coleman recommended that no additional archeological investigations were warranted and construction of the storage shed would have no adverse impact on the site.

Beginning in 2000, a five year long Systemwide Archeological Inventory Program (SAIP) project was undertaken at the park (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008). The project was divided into a prehistoric inventory of the park under the direction of University of Arkansas archeologist Dr. Marvin Kay (Kay and Herrmann 2005) and a Civil War battlefield inventory under the direction of MWAC archeologist Dr. Douglas D. Scott (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008). Between 2001 and 2004, the prehistoric inventory at PERI combined traditional archeological techniques including shovel tests, pedestrian reconnaissance survey, visual examination of exposures, and review of archival records to evaluate the potential of landscape settings for prehistoric sites (Kay and Herrmann 2005:10-21). The prehistoric project also included the geographic information system (GIS) based random sampling strategy and predictive modeling. Thirty-meter squares were selected as the sampling unit size. A total of 4,336 shovel test units were dug and the fill screened at PERI in the 30-meter square sampling units. Ninety-five percent of the shovel tests yielded negative results. Four percent of the shovel tests at PERI yielded prehistoric artifacts while historic items were found in two percent of the shovel test units and historic and prehistoric artifacts were found in one percent of less of the shovel test units. The battlefield survey used metal detectors as the inventory tool based on the assumption that most of the surviving artifacts would be metal objects are associated with metal objects (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008:23-25). Metal targets identified during the metal detector survey team were excavated by the recovery team leaving them in place

for the recovery team. The recovery team plotted the artifact location with a global position system unit, assigned field specimen numbers, and recovered the artifacts for laboratory processing and analysis at MWAC. Post-battle artifacts that could be positively identified were left in place. Between 2001 and 2003, the intensive metal detector inventory covered all of Oberson's and Cox's fields, most of Foster's field, Clemon's field, the area around Elkhorn Tavern, and the area along the narrow ridge north of Elkhorn Tavern along Telegraph Road including the east slope and bottom of Middle Ravine. A more limited reconnaissance level metal detector survey was conducted in the belt of trees between Oberson's and Foster's fields, Morgan's Woods, the area between Clemon's field and Elkhorn Tavern, the southwestern portion of Broad Ridge. During the 2003 battlefield field season, William Volf (2004) conducted a resistance survey of portions of the Leetown site and at Elkhorn Tavern. He identified at least two geophysical anomalies that were appeared to represent building foundations or outlines. The resistance survey did not identify any potential structures at the Elkhorn Tavern geophysical survey area. A second geophysical investigation was conducted at Leetown by Jason Harman (2004) as part of his Master's degree studies. He re-inventoried that area covered by Volf with additional geophysical techniques. He confirmed anomalies identified by Volf and located additional geophysical anomalies associated with historic features at Leetown including a potential road alignment.

The University of Arkansas's Archeo-Imaging Lab under the direction of Dr. Kenneth Kvamme (2002) conducted a magnetometer survey of a 20-m by 200-m area in the northeast corner of Oberson's field at the Leetown battlefield in 2002. The magnetic survey identified a number of anomalies, which were identified as ferrous artifacts and potential natural occurring prairie mounds. Approximately 37% of the point anomalies identified by the University of Arkansas crew and excavated by Scott's crew were associated with the battle (Carlson-Drexler 2008:10-11).

PERI Property Evaluation:

The Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) archeological staff and volunteers will conduct a metal detector survey of the four proposed alternative routes and parking lot locations. The purpose of the metal detector investigations (Heimmer and De Vore 1995:47-50) is to provide clues on troop movements during the Battle at Pea Ridge and to locate other historic activities locations associated with the rural farming activities in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Metal detector surveys have proven extremely valuable as inventory tool for the archeological investigations of battlefields and campgrounds including the site of the Battle of Pea Ridge (Carlson-Drexler et al. 2008; Connor and Scott 1998; Scott and Fox 1987, Scott et al. 1989; Scott et al. 2005). The metal detector survey will be consistent with the methodology and research design developed for the previous Section 110 inventory project at the park (Scott 2000).

The metal detector fieldwork will consist of two phases with the inventory phase and the testing phase (Scott 2000). The inventory phase will use metal detectors, visual survey methods, and piece-plot recording techniques. The testing phase will consist of shovel test/formal test units at specific location as identified on metal detector finds. In

addition, shovel tests and formal test unit excavations will be conducted in areas where the potential for prehistoric exist (e.g., recovery of prehistoric artifacts associated with metal detector finds, landscape settings around springs, and along the route of the Trail of Tears through the park).

The metal detector inventory phase consists of the metal detector survey, the recovery of metal detector finds, and the recording of the metal detector finds. The metal detector survey is designed to locate subsurface metallic items associated with the battle and with historic farming activities. The survey crew will located and mark metal detector targets. The metal detector operators will be aligned at approximately three to five meter intervals. The operators will walk transects oriented parallel to the proposed road routes identified in the four alternatives or within the boundary of the proposed alternative parking lot locations. The operators will proceed in line using a sweeping motion to examine the ground. It is estimated that each operator can cover a sweep of 1.5 to 2.0 meters depending on a person's height and technique. Targets will be flagged for the recovery team. The recovery team will excavate the metal detector targets, leaving them in place. Excavation will occur with special care to expose just the artifact with minimal disturbance. Visual inspection of the ground surface will be carried out at the same time as the recovery efforts. The recording team will plot individual artifact locations with a global positioning system (GPS) unit or robotic total station, assign field specimen numbers, and collect the artifacts. Artifacts will be assigned sequential field specimen numbers.

Shovel tests and formal test unit excavations will occur in concentrations of non-battle related artifacts to determine the extent and integrity of historic farmsteads, camp sites, or other types of sites. Shovel test units will be approximately 30 cm in diameter and excavated to a minimum of 50 cm. Shovel test units will be spaced 10 m apart with closer spacing at the discretion of the archeologist. The soil matrix will be screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. Shovel test unit location will be identified as negative or positive and the location mapped with a GPS unit or robotic total station. Archeological excavations (i.e., shovel test and test unit excavations) will also be used to delineate the site dimensions of prehistoric and historic non-battle related sites. Test units will be excavated at the discretion of the archeologist to determine the potential of subsurface archeological deposits at a site. The size of the test unit will be based on the ability to provide information on stratigraphy, depth, and artifact sample. The soil matrix will be screened through ¼ inch hardware cloth. Shovel tests will be documented with standard MWAC shovel test forms while test unit excavations will be documented on standard MWAC excavation forms.

Artifacts and documentation will be curated at the Midwest Archeological Center.

Inadvertent Discoveries:

None of the investigations being proposed are intended or designed to excavate, uncover, disturb or remove Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. In the event that human remains, funerary

objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are unintentionally exposed by some aspect of research in this study, procedures identified in “Guidance for National Park Service Compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), NPS Cultural Resource Management Guideline, Appendix R will be followed.

If Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony are inadvertently discovered, the project archeologist must stop work and immediately notify the superintendent by telephone and confirm in writing. The project archeologist will immediately stop all research activities in the area of the inadvertent discovery and make a reasonable effort to protect the remains and objects from further disturbance. As soon as possible, but not later than three working days after receipt of the written confirmation of notification, the superintendent must certify receipt of the written notification, further secure and protect the remains and/or items, and notify lineal descendants, and the appropriate Indian tribes about the inadvertent discovery. If appropriate, the cultural items may be stabilized or covered to ensure their protection and to protect them from public viewing. The superintendent will initiate consultation about the cultural affiliation and disposition of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony. Research in the area of the inadvertent discovery will not continue until a written agreement is executed between the NPS and the affiliated Indian Tribe(s) that allows the Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, or objects of cultural patrimony to remain safely *in situ* or that adopts a recovery plan for the excavation or removal of the remains and objects. The disposition of all Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony will be carried out according to the priority listing in the regulations [43 CFR 10.6].

Report of Investigations and Findings:

The report will follow the MWAC report standards and shall include the following:

- a. Description of the methods used in the geophysical/archeological investigations;
- b. Geophysical data in computer-generated plots and interpretation of their significance;
- c. Archeological analysis of soil stratigraphy and artifacts
- d. Subsurface archeological resources will be evaluated against the National Register of Historic Places criteria
- e. Conclusions and recommendations

Schedule:

Fieldwork: Will be conducted from April 22 to May 3, 2013.

Trip Report with preliminary results and recommendations: Will be submitted to the park within one week of the completed fieldwork*. The trip report will include the results of the geophysical surveys and archeological excavations with analysis of major cultural features and recommendations for further archeological investigations if needed.

Draft Report for comments: It will be submitted to the park in FY2014

* Time indicated is based on number of days in the office. Other field projects will delay the production of these reports.

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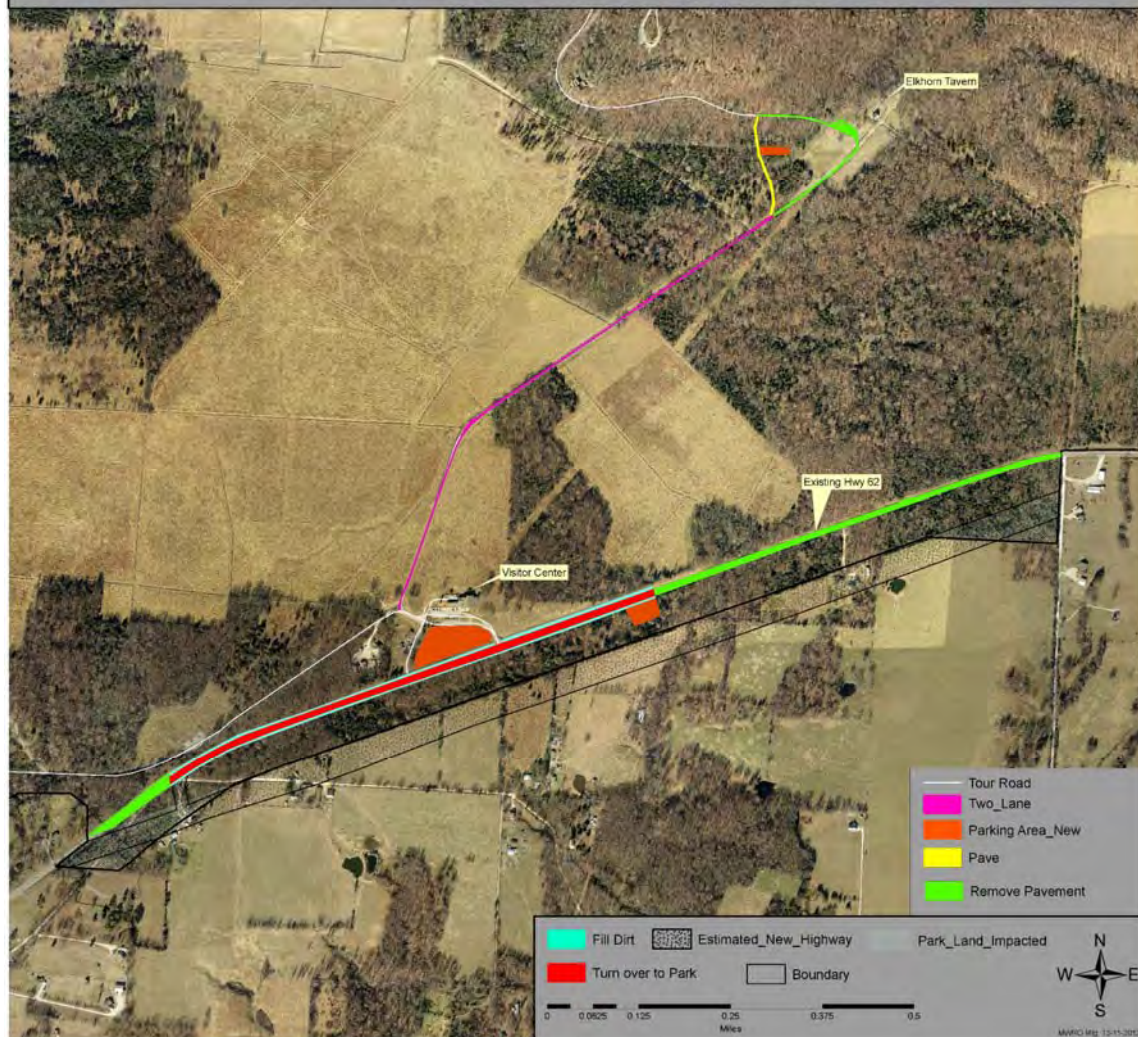
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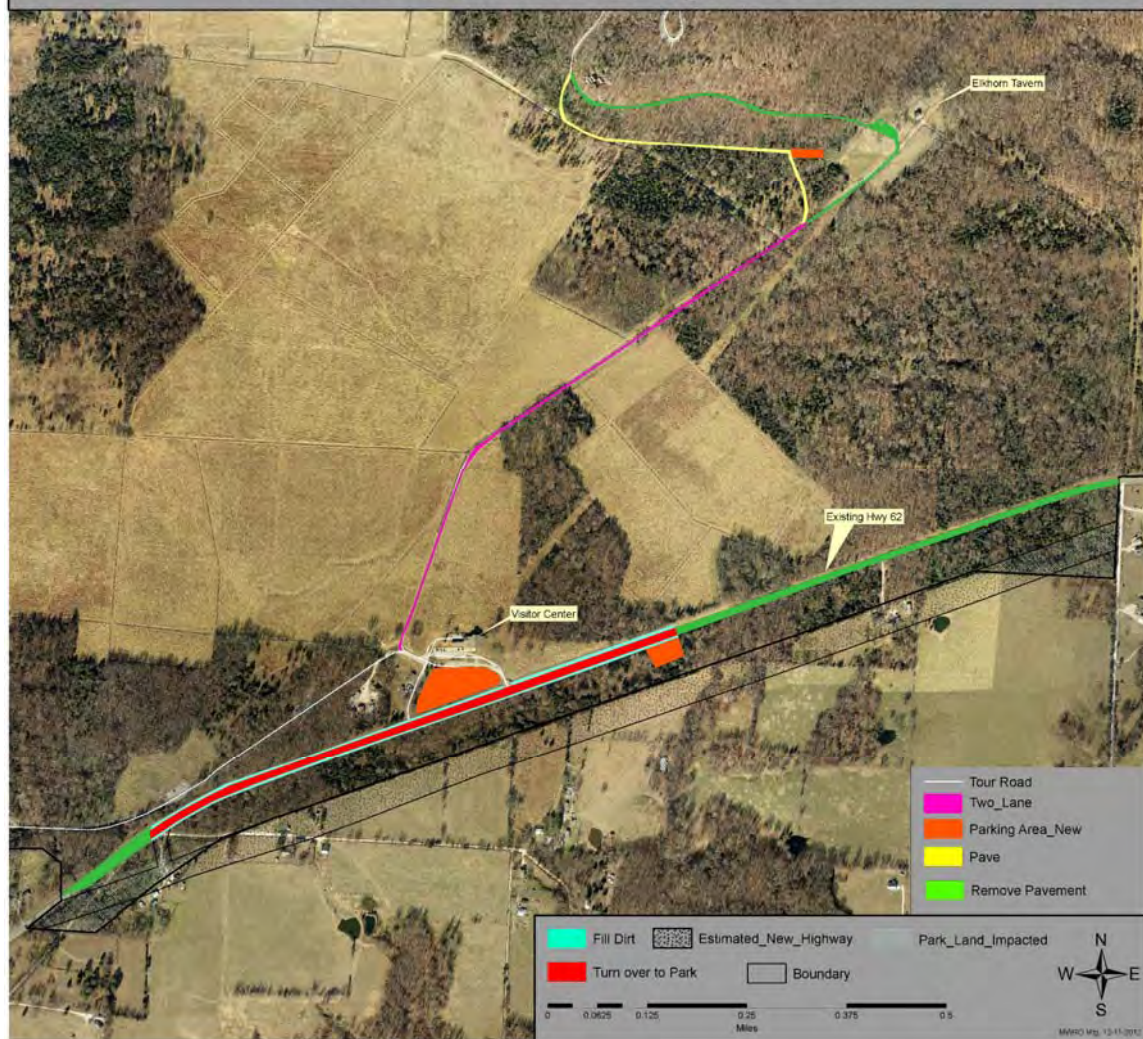
1965 Archeological Investigations in Pea Ridge National Military Park. Ms. on file, Midwest Archeological Center, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Attachments

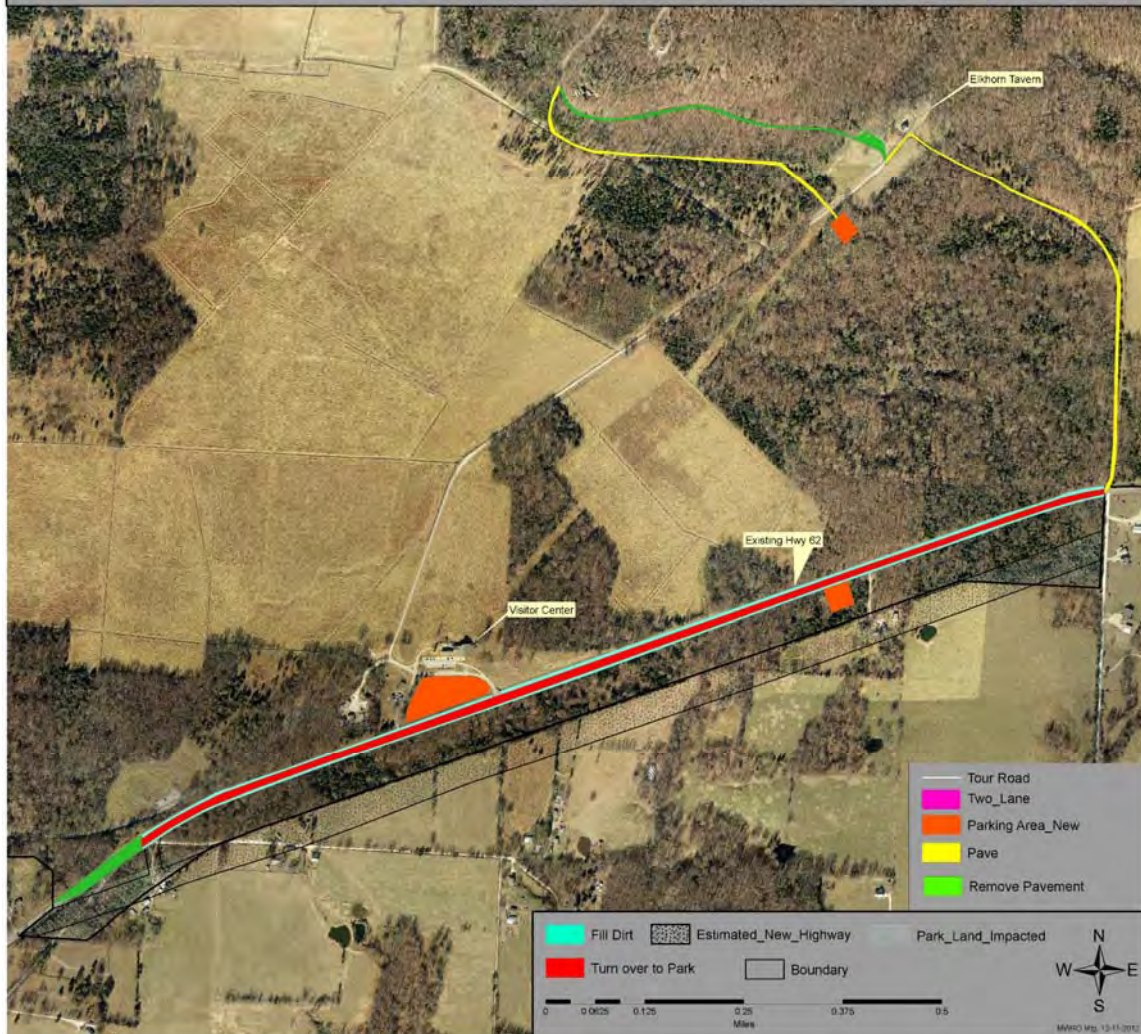
Pea Ridge National Military Park
Alternative A - MWRO/PERI Staff Mtg. 12/11/2012



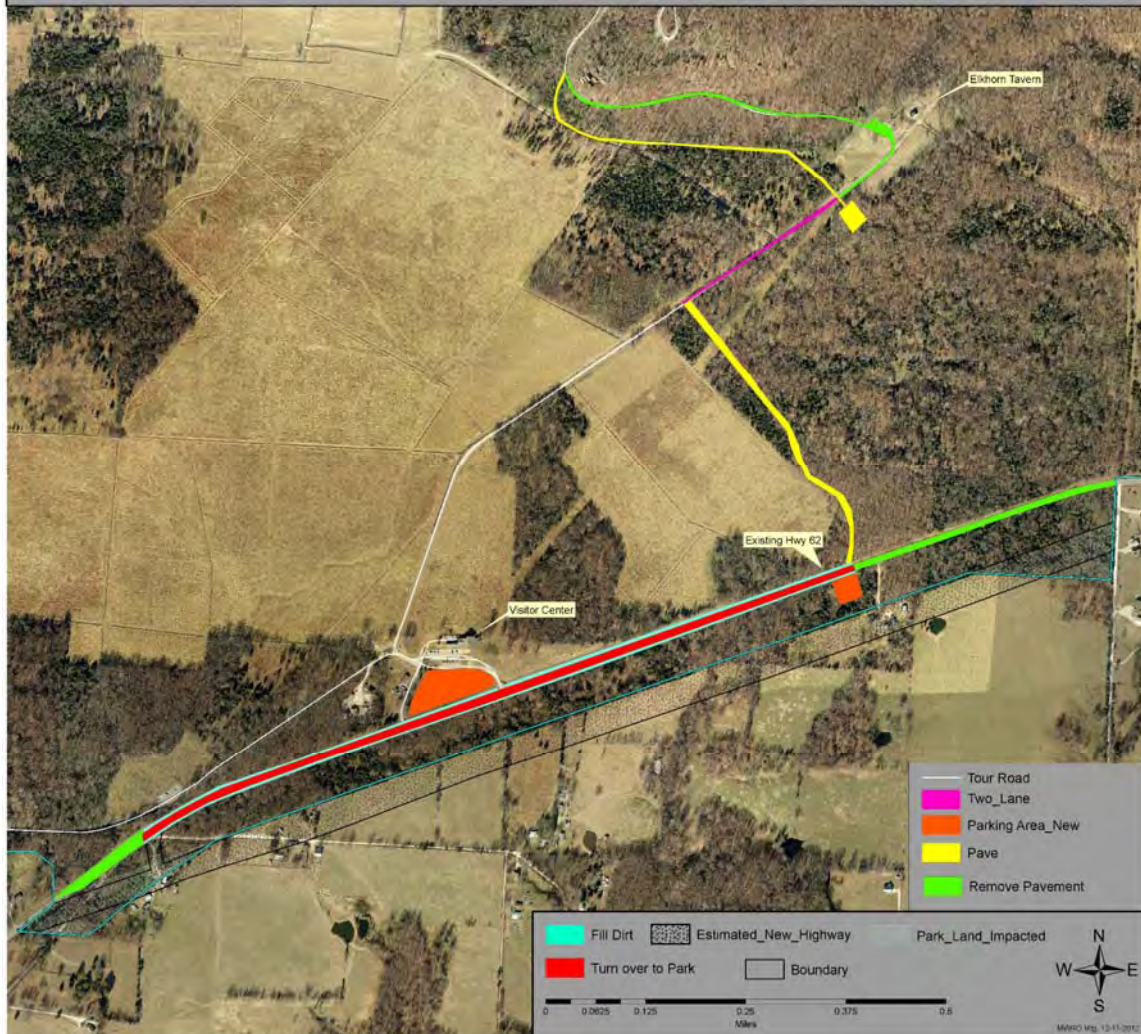
Pea Ridge National Military Park
Alternative B - MWRO/PERI Staff Mtg. 12/11/2012



Pea Ridge National Military Park
Alternative C - MWRO/PERI Staff Mtg. 12/11/2012



Pea Ridge National Military Park
Alternative D - MWRO/PERI Staff Mtg. 12/11/2012





Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

RE: Pea Ridge National Military Park - Ltr dated March 12, 2013

1 message

Terry Cole <tdcole@mcn-nsn.gov>
To: "Eads, Gregory" <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Thu, Apr 11, 2013 at 10:39 AM

Will do. thanks

From: Eads, Gregory [mailto:kevin_eads@nps.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 11, 2013 10:28 AM
To: Terry Cole
Subject: Re: Pea Ridge National Military Park - Ltr dated March 12, 2013

Mr. Cole,

I appreciate your response and will update my mailing list. Please let us know if you ever have any questions or need anything from this end.

sincerely

Kevin Eads

On Thu, Apr 11, 2013 at 10:22 AM, Terry Cole <tdcole@mcn-nsn.gov> wrote:

Kevin Eads: The Muscogee(Creek)Nation concurs that the Caddo Nation, the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma and the Osage Nation are most likely to have shared group identity and be culturally affiliated with earlier peoples who occupied and used PERI in past centuries. Therefore we defer this project to those tribes listed. We are sending you an updated list of the Tribal Contacts for future projects that may be in the areas of interest for the Muscogee(Creek)Nation. George Tiger, Principal Chief; Alfred Berryhill, Cultural Preservation Manager; Emman Spain, THPO; Terry Cole, Deputy THPO and NAGPRA Specialist. Thank you

Sincerely,

Terry Cole, Deputy THPO/NAGPRA Specialist

Muscogee(Creek)Nation

—

Kevin Eads

Chief of Resource Management

Pea Ridge NMP

(479) 451-8122 X 239



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

March 12, 2013

Mr. A.D. Ellis, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Dear Principal Chief Ellis:

On March 01, 2013, I sent you a letter identifying a Mitigation Environmental Assessment (Mitigation EA) that was being planned due to the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park. I also referenced an archeological inventory that was to be conducted as part of this EA and its associated written plan of action to cover any inadvertent discoveries.

I am pleased to write that we have developed a draft plan of action, attached, for your review and would like to invite you to comment on it. Please send us any changes or recommendations you would like made to this draft plan so we can incorporate them into the final document. It would be very helpful if we receive any changes you may have prior to the proposed start date for the archeological project, which is April 22, 2013.

The following documents are enclosed:

1. Draft NAGPRA Plan of Action
2. Geophysical Evaluation of the Proposed Alternatives Scope of Work

I have designated Kevin Eads, Chief of Resource Management, to be the park's lead for this project. He can be reached at (479) 451-8122 extension 239, or email at kevin_eads@nps.gov. If you have any questions or concerns about this request, or if you require additional information, you can contact Kevin or me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Mr. Ted Isham, Cultural Preservation Office Manager, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Pea Ridge National Military Park NPS

Kim Jumper <kim.jumper@shawnee-tribe.com>
To: kevin_eads@nps.gov

Mon, May 20, 2013 at 1:11 PM

This letter is in response to the above referenced project.

The Shawnee Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Department concurs that no known historic properties will be negatively impacted by this project. We have no issues or concerns at this time, but in the event that archaeological materials are encountered during construction, use, or maintenance of this location, please re-notify us at that time as we would like to resume consultation under such a circumstance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Kim Jumper, THPO

Shawnee Tribe



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Re: Pea Ridge National Military Park NPS

1 message

Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Tue, May 21, 2013 at 10:11 AM

To: Kim Jumper <kim.jumper@shawnee-tribe.com>

Thank you for the response, I appreciate it and will make sure your comments are incorporated. I did have a quick question though, would you mind sending another email referencing the particular project? It didn't show in this email.

I sincerely appreciate it.

Kevin Eads

On Mon, May 20, 2013 at 1:11 PM, Kim Jumper <kim.jumper@shawnee-tribe.com> wrote:

This letter is in response to the above referenced project.

The Shawnee Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Department concurs that no known historic properties will be negatively impacted by this project. We have no issues or concerns at this time, but in the event that archaeological materials are encountered during construction, use, or maintenance of this location, please re-notify us at that time as we would like to resume consultation under such a circumstance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Kim Jumper, THPO

Shawnee Tribe

—

Kevin Eads
Chief of Resource Management
Pea Ridge NMP
(479) 451-8122 X 239



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

FW: Pea Ridge National Military Park NPS

1 message

Kim Jumper <kim.jumper@shawnee-tribe.com>
To: kevin_eads@nps.gov

Tue, May 21, 2013 at 2:15 PM

From: Kim Jumper [mailto:kim.jumper@shawnee-tribe.com]
Sent: Monday, May 20, 2013 1:12 PM
To: 'kevin_eads@nps.gov'
Subject: Pea Ridge National Military Park NPS

This letter is in response to the above referenced project.

The Shawnee Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Department concurs that no known historic properties will be negatively impacted by this project. We have no issues or concerns at this time, but in the event that archaeological materials are encountered during construction, use, or maintenance of this location, please re-notify us at that time as we would like to resume consultation under such a circumstance.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

Kim Jumper, THPO

Shawnee Tribe



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
P.O. Box 700
Pea Ridge, AR 72751-0700

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

February 27, 2013

Mr. George McCluskey
Senior Archeologist and Section 106 Coordinator
The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR. 72201

Dear Mr. McCluskey,

Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI) hosted Midwest Region Staff, National Park Service (NPS), in a site visit and internal scoping meeting, December 2012, on the mitigation efforts that will occur on the park because of the removal of U.S. State Highway 62. As a result it was determined that an environmental assessment (Mitigation EA) was required to address a full range of alternatives, consistent with the mitigation actions identified in previous environmental compliance documents, regarding this removal, digital copies included. This Mitigation EA, and its subsequent implementation, will allow for the achievement of the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences outlined in the park's General Management Plan EIS, 2006, (GMP), digital copy attached.

The preliminary mitigation actions considered in the meeting were identified in the environmental assessment conducted by the Arkansas State Highway Commission, "Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) – AHTD Job Number 090204 Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33)," and the associated Section 4(f) De Minimis finding, and Programmatic Agreement.

Preliminary alternatives resulted from this meeting, attached for your review, and considered past and present disturbance, historic accounts and locations of the battle, surveyed and non-surveyed areas, the Trail of Tears route, and the potential effect on the cultural landscape and setting. The NPS believes that each of the alternatives is in keeping with the agreed upon mitigations while specifically addressing and satisfying the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences in the GMP, Cultural Landscape Inventory, and Long Range Interpretive Plan, as well as NPS policy and law.

It was also determined that an intensive level archeological inventory will be conducted, to address Section 110 and Section 106, for each alternative in those areas mitigative efforts are proposed to occur. The archeological inventory, completed as part of this Mitigation EA, will begin sometime in mid-March or early April 2013.

As such, this letter will serve as a record that the NPS is initiating consultation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2 .c.1.

The following enclosed documents provide information about the existing conditions and park guiding document(s) as well as background information on this project, denoted by an *:

1. Pea Ridge National Military Park General Management Plan
2. Project Area Map
3. 1940 Aerial Map of Pea Ridge National Military Park
4. 2011 Aerial Map of Pea Ridge National Military Park
5. Cultural Landscape Inventory
6. Alternative Map(s)
7. * Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) – AHTD Job Number 090204
Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33)
8. * Section 4(f) De Minimis finding
9. * Job# 090204 Pea Ridge National Military Park Programmatic Agreement

Please respond to Kevin Eads, Chief of Resource Management, at (479) 451-8122 extension 239, or email at kevin_eads@nps.gov if you have any questions or concerns about this request, or if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

John C. Scott
Superintendent

Enclosures

CC:

Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Mike Beebe
Governor

Martha Miller
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program



323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer

April 12, 2013

Mr. John C. Scott
Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park
P.O. Box 700
Pea Ridge, Arkansas 72751-0700

RE: Benton County – General
Section 106 Review – FHWA
Proposed Environmental Assessment for
Activities at Pea Ridge National Military
Park in Benton County, Arkansas
AHTD Job Number 090204
AHPP Tracking Number 74790

Dear Mr. Scott:

My staff has reviewed the information submitted regarding a proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for a range of activities at Pea Ridge National Military Park (NMP). While the development of an EA may be appropriate for your General Management Plan and other plans, it is not necessary for your Section 110 responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) completed its NEPA review on the Avoca to Gateway (Highway 62) project in 2008 and its 4f evaluation under the National Transportation Act in 2012. Finally, the FHWA developed a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Avoca to Greenway project and this agreement which was signed by the NPS and other consulting parties in 2012 now governs Section 106 review on this undertaking.

It is also important to note (as per the terms of PA) that the FHWA is the lead federal agency on the Avoca to Gateway project. As such, the NPS must coordinate any cultural resources surveys it conducts on this undertaking with that agency. Section I.B. of the PA also requires the FHWA to develop a separate Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that details the specific division of responsibilities for the mitigation on the NMP and an associated treatment plan for historic properties if necessary. The signatory parties on this MOA would be the FHWA, NPS, SHPO, and the AHTD. To remind the FHWA that it needs to develop this MOA, this letter is being copied to them as notification.

Thank you for your interest and concern for the cultural heritage of Arkansas. If you have any questions, please contact George McCluskey of my staff at (501) 324-9880.

Sincerely,

George M. Cluskey

for

Francis McSwain
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mr. Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Mr. Lynn P. Malbrough, Arkansas State Highway and Transportation
Department
Mr. Michael Reynolds, National Park Service, Midwest Region
Dr. Ann M. Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

RE: Pea Ridge NMP - PA for Hwy 62 mitigation.

1 message

George McCluskey <George@arkansasheritage.org>
To: "Eads, Gregory" <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Wed, Jan 16, 2013 at 2:25 PM

Kevin,

Yes, that is a big part of the PA. However, that is part of the undertaking and is not mitigation. Mitigation will take place to address any significant archeological deposits in the area of potential effect. All such work should be coordinated with the FHWA.

I hope that helps.

George

From: Eads, Gregory [mailto:kevin_eads@nps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 2:14 PM
To: George McCluskey
Subject: Re: Pea Ridge NMP - PA for Hwy 62 mitigation.

George,

One last thing, I apologize, but does the PA cover the mitigation within the park that is described in the appendix (e.g., removing roads, creating a new road, parking lots, etc...) ?

I appreciate it

Sincerely

Kevin Eads

On Wed, Jan 16, 2013 at 2:05 PM, George McCluskey <George@arkansasheritage.org> wrote:

Kevin,

That is correct. The FHWA is the lead federal agency on the project.

George

From: Eads, Gregory [mailto:kevin_eads@nps.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2013 11:11 AM
To: George McCluskey
Subject: Pea Ridge NMP - PA for Hwy 62 mitigation.

George,

We are beginning the process of completing compliance requirements for the mitigation work that will be done on the park as a result of the highway 62 work/removal and I had a question.

Last fall when Nolan and I met with you I remember visiting with you about the mitigation work inside the park and if it was covered by the PA. I was thinking that you said it was and that we needed to go through the Federal Highways Contact, Randal Looney, per the PA for consultation. However, I was wanting to double check with you to make sure that what I was remembering was correct.

After reading the PA again and looking at the appendix I think it bears that out, but again, wanted to double check with you to make sure.

Sincerely

Kevin

—

Kevin Eads

Chief of Resource Management

Pea Ridge NMP

(479) 451-8122 X 239

—

Kevin Eads

4/23/14

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - RE: Pea Ridge NMP - PA for Hwy 62 mitigation.

Chief of Resource Management

Pea Ridge NMP

(479) 451-8122 X 239



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
P.O. Box 700
Pea Ridge, AR 72751-0700

IN REPLY REFER TO:
D50-10 (PERI Mitigation EA)

February 27, 2013

Mr. Jim Boggs
Field Supervisor
Arkansas Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, AR. 72032

Dear Mr. Boggs,

Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI), National Park Service (NPS), plans to prepare an Environmental Assessment addressing mitigations (Mitigation EA) identified for the park through Section 4(f) because of the removal of US Highway 62 out of the park.

An environmental assessment for the widening of this highway that incorporated those portions that ran through the park was conducted, "Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) – AHTD Job Number 090204 Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33). Section 4(f) was initiated and incorporated in this EA document because it affected federal lands. During this process, the park developed an additional alternative that was presented to and accepted by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Arkansas Highway Transportation Department (AHTD). As a result, preliminary mitigations were discussed and accepted by the NPS, FHWA, and AHTD as part of this proposed/preferred alternative. Section 4(f), due to the acceptance of these mitigations and enhancement measures, was halted and a De Minimis finding was prepared and signed, attached.

This Mitigation EA will address a full range of alternatives, consistent with the mitigation actions identified in previous environmental compliance documents, referenced above, regarding this removal, in order to achieve the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences outlined in the park's General Management Plan EIS, 2006, (GMP). In addition, this Mitigation EA is an implementation document identifying treatments in selected corridors that will include the removal of sections of the existing tour road and highway 62 as well as the parking lot at the Elkhorn Tavern and Visitor Center. It will establish a horse trailhead parking area as well as new parking lots, to accommodate current and expected visitation, at the Visitor Center and Elkhorn

Tavern and provide for improved circulation on the tour road from the Elkhorn Tavern to the Visitor Center, project area map attached. This area is comprised of 330 acres and lies within Township 20 North, Range 29 West, Section 2 and Township 21 North, Range 29 West, Sections 25, 26, 34, 35, and 36.

PERI is located in Benton County in Northwest Arkansas; map attached, and is contained primarily within the Pea Ridge, Arkansas USGS Quadrangle with a small portion residing in the Garfield, Arkansas Quadrangle. Specifically, PERI is located in the following Township(s), Range(s), and Section(s) in the aforementioned Quadrangles:

- (1) Township: 20 North, Range: 29 West, Sections 2, 3, 10.
- (2) Township: 21 North, Range: 29 West, Sections 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36.
- (3) Township: 21 North, Range: 28 West, Sections 30, 31.

The park is made up of 4,300 acres and is broken into two units. The main unit contains 4,244 acres; the detached area consists of 56 acres. The administrative area, 12 acres, is located in the main unit and includes the visitor center, administrative and maintenance buildings, and associated parking and mowed areas. The remainder of the park is comprised of the Arkansas Highlands and Pea Ridge zones (GMP).

Currently, of the 4,300 acres, the park contains 1,000 acres of solid stands of Eastern Red Cedar, 540 acres of historic fields, 240 acres identified as forest in 1862 but cleared for agriculture prior to park establishment, 70 acres of reestablished prairie, 12 acres of administrative areas, 22 acres in paved roads, approximately 2 acres in parking lots, 30 acres of mowed grass, and 2,384 acres of mixed hardwoods.

Winton Spring and its associated, unnamed creek, totaling 1,642 feet, and seven ephemeral stream channels totaling 37,302 feet are contained within the 4,244 acres of the main unit. The 56 acre detached area is bounded by Little Sugar creek on the southern end, 1,696 feet, and contains 1,028 feet of ephemeral creek channel.

The following list of species is identified as being found in Benton County, Arkansas.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Fed Status</u>
Benton Ozark Cavefish (<i>Amblyopsis rosae</i>)	LT
Cave Crayfish (<i>Cambarus aculabrum</i>)	LE
Bald Eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	BGEPA
Gray Bat (<i>Myotis grisescens</i>)	LE
Indiana Bat (<i>Myotis sodalis</i>)	LE
Ozark Big-Eared Bat (<i>Corynorhinus townsendii ingens</i>)	LE
Neosho Mucket (<i>Lampsilis rafinesqueana</i>)	Cand.
Arkansas darter (<i>Etheostoma cragini</i>)	Cand.
Rabbitsfoot (<i>Quadrula cylindrica cylindrica</i>)	Cand.
Piping Plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	LT

LT = Listed threatened, LE = Listed Endangered, Cand. = Candidate species, BGEPA = Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protected

None of these species has been documented on the park (GMP, Fire Management Plan) nor have any of these species, with the exception of the Bald Eagle, been sighted by park staff or recorded through studies or inventories.

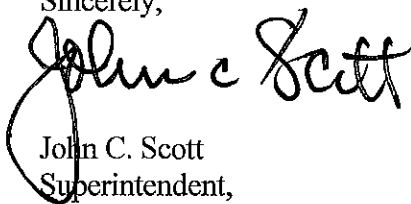
The following enclosed documents provide information about the existing conditions and park guiding document(s) as well as background information on this project, denoted by an *:

1. Pea Ridge National Military Park General Management Plan
2. Pea Ridge National Military Park Fire Management Plan
3. Project Area Map
4. Section 4(f) De Minimis finding
5. * Avoca to Gateway, NEPA Study (Highway 62) -- AHTD Job Number 090204
Federal Aid Project No. NH-0004(33)
6. * Job# 090204 Pea Ridge National Military Park Programmatic Agreement

This letter constitutes initiation of informal consultation under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act for the Mitigation Environmental Assessment for Pea Ridge National Military Park. No adverse effects to listed species are expected as a result of the proposed action. Bald eagles do not nest in the project area and no other species have been identified as residing in the park. Based on this information, the attached GMP/EIS, of which this project is an implementation document, and the attached FMP and De Minimis Finding, Pea Ridge National Military Park has made a no effect determination concerning this project.

Please respond to Kevin Eads, Chief of Resource Management, at (479) 451-8122 extension 239, if you have any questions or concerns about this request, or if you require additional information.

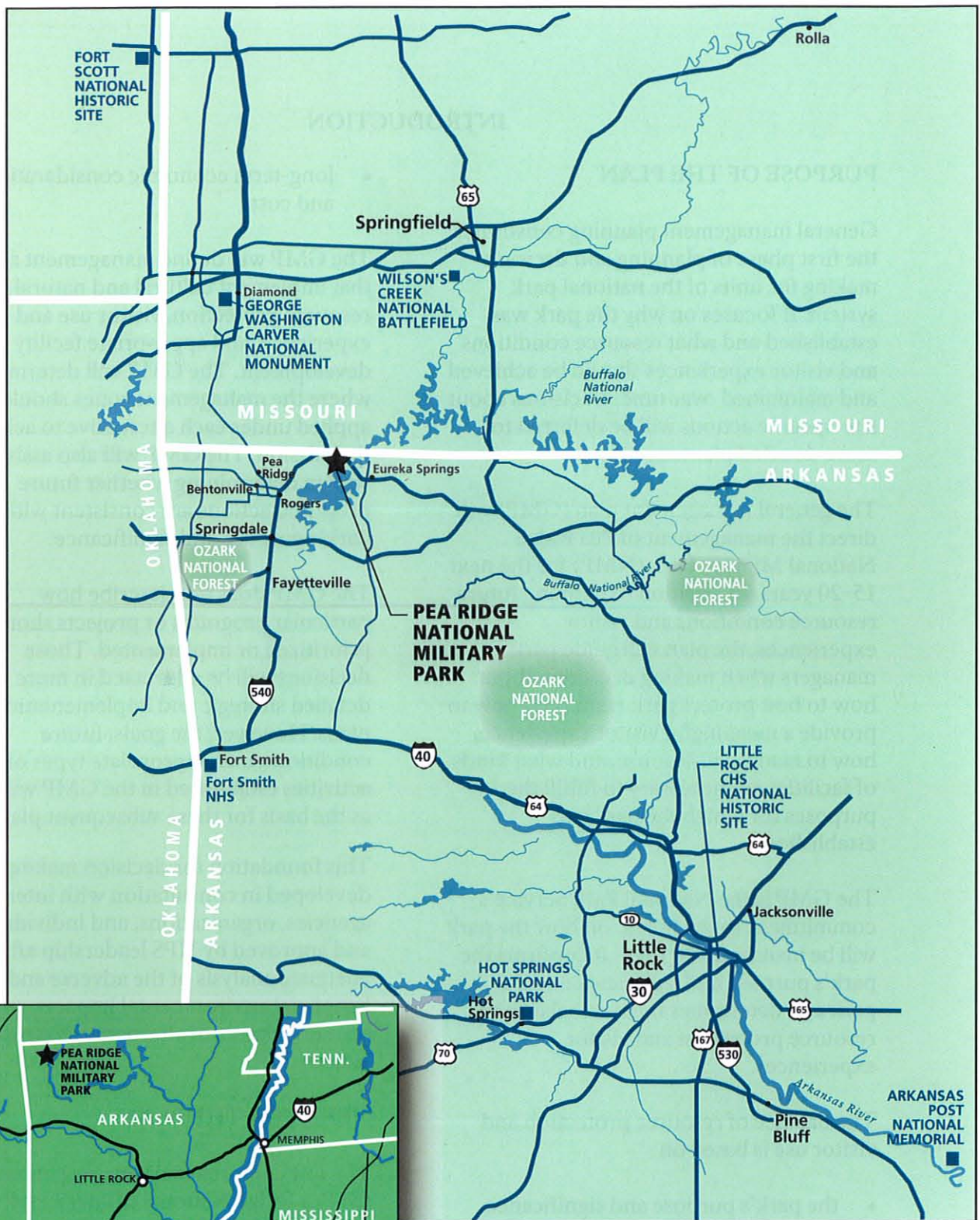
Sincerely,



John C. Scott
Superintendent,

Enclosures
CC:

Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



Vicinity

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

General Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DSC • 409 • 20,017 • Aug. 2005

Regional Map

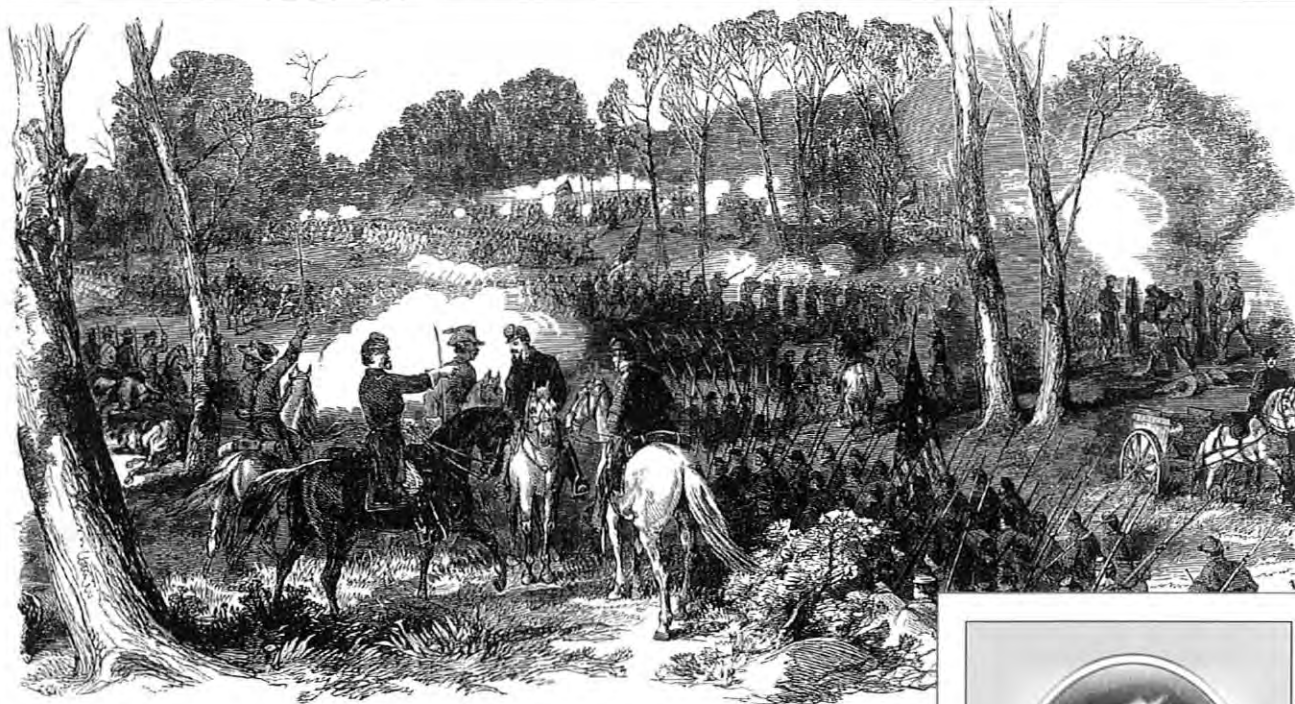
United States Department of the Interior • National Park Service
DSC • 037 • 20006 • AUG 2001





Draft
General Management Plan
Environmental Impact Statement

PEA RIDGE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



NATURAL RESOURCES

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The National Park Service consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission to obtain current lists of Special Status Species that could occur in the park. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identified one threatened and three endangered species that could occur in the park (see table 5).

TABLE 5: THREATENED AND
ENDANGERED SPECIES

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status
Ozark cavefish	<i>Amblyopsis rosae</i>	Threatened
Cave crayfish	<i>Cambarus aculabrum</i>	Endangered
Gray bat	<i>Myotis grisescens</i>	Endangered
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered

The cave crayfish (*Cambarus aculabrum*) and Ozark cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*) require karst streams with pools. There are no known karst streams in the park. The gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*) requires well-developed caves providing specific temperatures for roosting, hibernacula, and maternity. The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) typically uses limestone caves with midwinter temperatures between 37 and 43 degrees Fahrenheit for hibernation. Hibernating colonies of the Indiana bat disperse in late March and most migrate to more northern habitat for the summer.

The Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission conducted a survey of the park for plants of special concern 2001 (ANHC 2001). That survey identified two occur-

rences of the Ozark chinquapin, a member of the chestnut family, the lobed spleenwort (*Asplenium pinnatifidum*), and Ashe's juniper (*Juniperus ashei*). Although none of these species are considered endangered or threatened by the state, they are uncommon or have conservation concerns. Ozark chinquapin is affected by the chestnut blight. Most of these trees persist as stump sprouts with few producing fruit. Ash's juniper and the lobed spleenwort are on the periphery of their ranges in Arkansas. A single specimen of Kentucky spleenwort (*Asplenium X kentuckiense*) was recorded in the park in 1943. It is the exceedingly rare hybrid of *A. pinnatifidum* and *A. platyneuron*. The plant was not found in the 2001 survey. Both progenitors occur in the park and it is possible that the plant grows in the park. There are no state wildlife or fish special status species in the park.

NPS policy directs that all species listed as threatened or endangered be identified and protected, and that listed species that are native to a park unit be recovered. Policy also directs the Park Service to inventory, monitor, and manage state and locally listed special status species in a manner similar to the treatment afforded federally listed threatened and endangered species.

The identified species and their habitat requirements were reviewed to determine the presence of threatened or endangered species. There are no suitable cave habitats for the four federally listed threatened or endangered species. In earlier surveys the Ozark chinquapin was found growing in the park.

PLANT COMMUNITIES

The park is on the Springfield Plateau, which is a component of the larger Ozark Plateau. Rolling hills, narrow hollows, and broad uplands define the landscape. The predominant climax vegetation type is oak-hickory forest. Historic documentation describes much of the landscape as wooded except for the Round Prairie area and areas cleared for cultivation. Climax vegetation communities include post oak/blackjack oak, black oak, mixed oak (white oak, black oak, and post oak), and white oak. Disturbed sites are forested by eastern red cedar.

Pea Ridge was the home of an agricultural community during the Civil War. After the war agriculture expanded, resulting in additional clearing. Since the park was established, cleared land, other than that in agricultural use at the time of the battle has been allowed to revert to woodland. Fire, a natural element influencing the landscape, decreased in frequency, a direct result of the policy of suppression. Fire reduces the frequency of shade tolerant species and maintains the oak-hickory composition.

Vegetation at Pea Ridge National Military Park is a mosaic of second growth oak-hickory forest with some mature oak-hickory interspersed, and woodland, prairie plantings, and fescue fields with numerous nonnative species intermixed. Each vegetation type exhibits various stages of succession. Composition and density vary in accordance with historic and current use patterns or fire frequency

and suppression. Some areas have a high density of red cedar, a manifestation of succession from open field or open woodland without the benefit of fire to control this plant. Some of these areas were cleared after the battle but reverted to forest when agricultural use ended. Fields cultivated at the time of the battle have been maintained by planting with domestic grasses for agricultural purposes.

The Park Service has initiated a vegetation management program for Pea Ridge. The program includes management treatments such as prescribed fire and the use of herbicides to accelerate succession and manage plant community structure and composition.

WETLANDS

There are limited surface water sources within Pea Ridge National Military Park. There are several streams that originate in the park, and a number of stock ponds, which are remnants from agricultural practices prior to park establishment. The actions considered in the alternatives would have a negligible effect on surface or ground water within the park.

However, there is the potential that former and potential wetlands may be found in the Leetown area. If historic drainage patterns are restored as a result of implementation of the management zones, these wetlands could be restored. This would impact approximately 100 acres in the park.

Pea Ridge National Military Park

Pea Ridge, Arkansas

Fire Management Plan



April 2005



U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



- Ozark cavefish– This small, colorless, blind fish lives its entire life in springs, cave streams, and underground waters. It is well-adapted to the cave environment, living most or all of its life in total darkness. It also has a relatively restricted range. Water pollution, habitat destruction, human disturbance, and collection have placed the Ozark cavefish's survival in jeopardy (CCM, 2000).
- Bald eagle – The bald eagle was listed by the USFWS in the 1970's as a result of drastically declining numbers from habitat destruction, poaching, but primarily pesticide poisoning, which thinned eggshells and decimated the species' reproduction. Since the banning of DDT and other organochlorine insecticides in the 1970's and 1980's, this species has been making a gradual comeback throughout North America, and has subsequently been de-listed.

In addition to the above Federally-listed species, which are found not on the park proper but on adjacent lands, one variety of species of vascular plants have been documented in the park itself which is listed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission as an Inventory Element and is a state listed species: the Ozark chinquapin (*Castanea pumila* var. *ozarkensis*). The Ozark chinquapin grows in oak-pine and oak-hickory forests on relatively dry, acidic soils on ridge tops and upper slopes adjacent to ravines (ONH, 1999). It is endemic to the Ozark Plateau region of Arkansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. Currently, this variety of chinquapin is threatened by the same chestnut blight (caused by the fungus *Endothia parasitica* brought to the U.S. in 1904) which decimated the American chestnut in the Appalachians. The Ashe's juniper (*Juniperus ashei*), which is also listed by the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, may occur on the park. It typically grows in upland hardwood areas around glades, generally restricted to limestone-dolomite outcrops.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

Impacts to threatened and endangered species from the alternative FMP's were qualitatively assessed by means of a literature review of the effects of fire on these species, consultation with biologists and agencies, and professional judgment.

3.5.2.1 Alternative 1 – No Action

None of the Federally-listed species known to occur on adjacent lands is likely to be adversely affected by the suppression efforts, mechanical thinning, and prescribed fire associated with this alternative. Conceivably, smoke from prescribed fires could temporarily cause bald eagles, gray bats and Indiana bats to move away toward cleaner air, but this effect would be transitory and not severe. The possibility of prescribed fire escaping the park and causing direct or indirect harm to either of these species is negligible. Any Ozark cavefish occurring on adjacent lands in springs or caves would not likely to be adversely affected in any way.

Chinquapins are a fire adapted species. They may be topkilled by a fire, particularly smaller individuals, but they sprout vigorously following the fire (Silker 1957). Prescribed fires should have minimal impact on the population. Individuals of this species would be avoided in mechanical treatments.

opportunities for enjoyment of the park, and (3) identified as a goal in the park's plans or other Park Service planning documents. Indeed, Alternatives 1 and 2 are likely to have beneficial effects on the Park's wildlife resources.

3.5 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

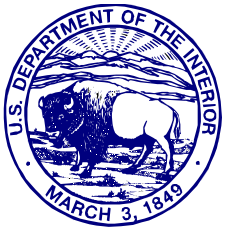
3.5.1 *Affected Environment*

No Federal threatened or endangered species of plants or animals are documented at Pea Ridge National Military Park (Dikeman, 2001). However, three listed species do occur on adjacent lands: the endangered gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*), Indiana Bat (*Myotis sodalis*) and the endangered Ozark cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*). The bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) has also been frequently sighted on adjacent lands.

- Gray Myotis – Most members of the known surviving populations of this species are concentrated in only nine cave hibernacula each winter, where they are extremely vulnerable to human disturbance. Exceptionally cold caves are needed for hibernation and exceptionally warm caves for the rearing of young. Human disturbance and vandalism of these critical caves, along with the adverse effects of siltation and pollution of waterways over which the bats feed, resulted in a precipitous 80% decline in total gray myotis numbers in under two decades. In 1976, this bat was one of the first to be listed as Endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Since the gray bat was listed, several critical hibernation and maternity caves have been gated, leading to stable and growing populations in many areas (BCI, 2002).

- The Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) was listed as endangered throughout its range in March 1967. There are currently about 500,000 individuals of this species in existence. It is a medium size myotis, closely resembling the little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*). The Indiana bat occurs in the Midwest and eastern United States. Its historic range extends from the western edge of the Ozark region in Oklahoma to southern Wisconsin, east to Vermont, and south to northern Florida. In winter, the bat hibernates in limestone caves with a preferred temperature range of from 37 to 43 degrees Fahrenheit. The bat typically forms tight clusters on the cave ceiling during hibernation. In summer the females and young generally roost in trees with scaly or sloughing bark. The females and young forage in and around riparian and floodplain trees. Males may roost under bridges, in old buildings, or in caves and tend to forage over floodplain ridges and hillside forests. Foraging areas average 11.2 acres per animal in midsummer. The bat typically leaves its hibernaculum in late March and migrates north to its summer habitat. The bats begin returning to their hibernation area in August, and feed heavily through September and October before entering hibernation by late November.

The decline in the species population has been attributed to commercialization of roosting caves, wanton destruction by vandals, disturbances caused by increased numbers of spelunkers and bat banding programs. Some winter hibernacula have been rendered unsuitable as a result of blocking or impeding air flow into the caves and thereby changing the cave's climate. The Indiana bat is nearly extinct over most of its former range in the northeastern states, and since 1950, the major winter colonies in caves of West Virginia, Indiana, and Illinois have disappeared. A high degree of aggregation during winter makes the species vulnerable. During this period approximately 87 percent of the entire population hibernates in only seven caves.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, Arkansas 72032
Tel.: 501/513-4470 Fax: 501/513-4480



March 12, 2013

Mr. John C. Scott
Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park
P.O. Box 700
Pea Ridge, Arkansas 72751-0700

Re: Mitigation Environmental Assessment for U.S. Hwy. 62 Relocation from Pea Ridge National Military Park, Benton County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Scott:

This responds to your letter dated February 7, 2013, requesting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) concurrence and informal consultation on the above referenced project. Our comments are submitted in accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

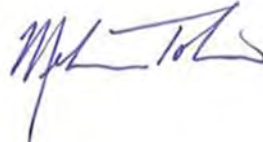
According to your letter, the Federal Highway Administration in cooperation with Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department is proposing to relocate existing U.S. Highway 62 mostly outside of park boundaries. Park personnel are proposing a series of improvements including parking areas, a new paved road as well as other improvements.

A review of the project area revealed that no federally listed or candidate species occur in the project area. The Service concurs that the project will have no effect on listed species. No further consultation is required for this project unless new information concerning listed species is presented prior to project completion. The Service requests that if any karst features such as cave openings, sink holes or other subterranean features are discovered during project construction that construction cease until Service personnel are able to conduct a biological investigation. Storm water runoff from parking surfaces should be captured in detainment ponds/basins designed to store the first one inch of rainfall from such surfaces. Porous asphalt surfaces may also be appropriate in lieu of detention structures.

Additionally, numerous species of migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are located in the area and may be nesting on structures to be replaced or otherwise affected by the project. Surveys should be conducted prior to initiation of project construction and special consideration given to the times and dates of construction to avoid impacts to these species which typically nest in Arkansas from March through September.

Thank you for allowing our agency the opportunity to comment on the proposed project. For future correspondence on this matter, please contact Mitch Wine of this office at (501) 513-4488 or mitch_wine@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melvin Tobin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Melvin Tobin
Deputy Project Leader

cc:

Randal Looney, Federal Highway Administration
Lynn Malbrough, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX B. SCOPING LETTERS AND RESPONSES

Public Scoping Letters and Responses

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Pea Ridge

National Military Park Arkansas

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Highway 62 Mitigation: Environmental Assessment Planned at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Date: June 24, 2014

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Pea Ridge National Military Park is pleased to announce that it is in the process of developing an environmental assessment (EA) addressing mitigations identified for the park through Section 4(f) because of the removal of Highway 62 from the park boundaries. The EA will be prepared 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 issues and impacts on park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. The EA will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient

We invite you to participate, through consultation with the park, in the analysis of draft alternatives by going to our Planning, Environment and Public Comment website located at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=46500>.

Public review for this plan is currently open and will close July 25, 2014. The public's participation in the development of the EA is greatly valued and desired.

Pea Ridge National Military Park was established in 1956 to commemorate and preserve the site of the March 1862 Civil War battle that helped Union forces gain control of Missouri. The park is located 10 miles north of Rogers on Highway 62.

Highway Mitigation Maps

[Highway 62 Removal Mitigation EA Project Area Map](#)

Preliminary Highway 62 Mitigation - Alternative A

Preliminary Highway 62 Mitigation - Alternative B


Preliminary Highway 62 Mitigation - Alternative C

Preliminary Highway 62 Mitigation - Alternative D

Did You Know?



When Confederate General Van Dorn heard news that Curtis pushed Price out of Missouri, he set out to take personal charge of an attack on Curtis, along with Price and McCulloch. He arrived at Price's headquarters in an ambulance, braving a severe illness resulting from falling into an icy stream.



National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior


SITE MAP


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
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
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Last Updated: 06/27/2014



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Ms. Edwina Butler-Wolfe, Governor
Absentee Shawnee Tribe
2025 S. Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, OK 74801

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Governor Butler-Wolfe:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Mr. Joseph H. Blanchard, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Absentee Shawnee Tribe
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Ms. Brenda Shemayne Edwards, Chairperson
Caddo Nation
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Chairperson Shemayne Edwards:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 12, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Mr. Robert Cast, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Caddo Nation
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Bill John Baker, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 948
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Principal Chief Baker:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Dr. Richard Allen, Policy Analyst & NAGPRA/Section 106 Review, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Ms. Cheryl Smith, Principal Chief
Jena Band of the Choctaw Indians
P.O. Box 14
Jena, LA 71432

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Principal Chief Smith:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

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Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Ms. Dana Masters, Cultural Heritage Director, Jena Band of the Choctaw Indians
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. George Tiger, Principal Chief
Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, OK 74447

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Principal Chief Tiger:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

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Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Mr. Emman Spain, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Ron Sparkman, Chairman
Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 189
Miami, OK 74355

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Chairman Sparkman:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

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- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
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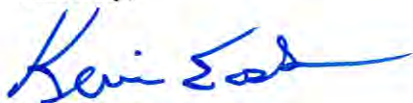
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Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Ms. Kim Jumper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Bill Anoatubby, Governor
The Chickasaw Nation
2020 Arlington, Suite 4
P.O. Box 1548
Ada, OK 74821-1548

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Governor Anoatubby:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

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- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Ms. Ladonna Brown, Historic Preservation Officer, The Chickasaw Nation
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. John D. Red Eagle, Principal Chief
The Osage Nation
P.O. Box 779
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Principal Chief Red Eagle:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

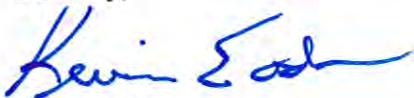
- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Dr. Barker Fariss, Senior Archaeologist, The Osage Nation
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. John Berrey, Tribal Chairperson
Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Tribal Chairperson Berrey:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Mr. Everett Bandy, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Chief Wickliffe:

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 01, 2013 to notify your tribe of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate agency scoping for the project and to continue Section 106 consultation with your tribe. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO) and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate historic structures and other archeological resources are near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. A programmatic agreement has also been prepared to address mitigation for potential cultural resource impacts. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 36 CFR 800 requirements, we are eliciting your comments and invite you to review the proposed project. We appreciate any input you have regarding traditional use, ethnographic resources, and/or traditional cultural properties within or near the proposed study area.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your tribe and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Ms. Lisa Larue-Baker, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Eric Gilliland
Senior Archeologist and Section 106 Coordinator
The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR. 72201

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Gilliland,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

Previous communications with your office are as follows. A letter was sent on February 27, 2013 to notify your office of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information and maps for the project. We received a response from your office on April 12, 2013 acknowledging the project and stating that the Programmatic Agreement developed by the Federal Highway Administration now governs Section 106 review on this undertaking. In addition, a site visit was held on June 11, 2014 to review and discuss potentially eligible Mission 66 resources within the project area.

In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to continue Section 106 consultations with your office. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with identified Native American tribes and the ACHP. In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies, and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor

center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.

- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate there are historic structures and other archeological resources near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

I invite your participation in the scoping for the proposed undertaking to provide review and consultation regarding the definition of the area of potential effect, and to ensure that any concerns your office has regarding potential impacts on historic properties are raised and addressed early in the planning process.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your office and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

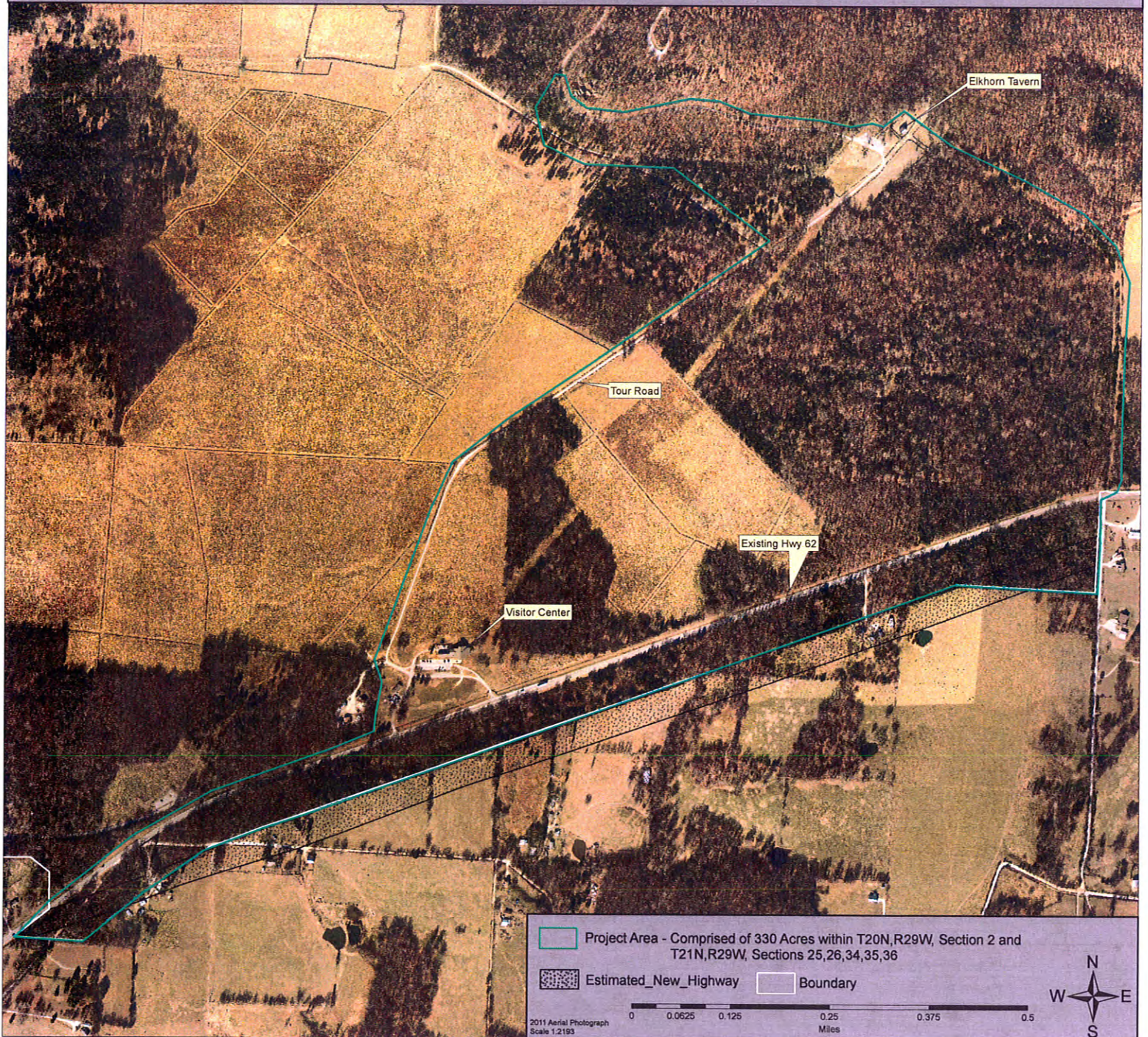
Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

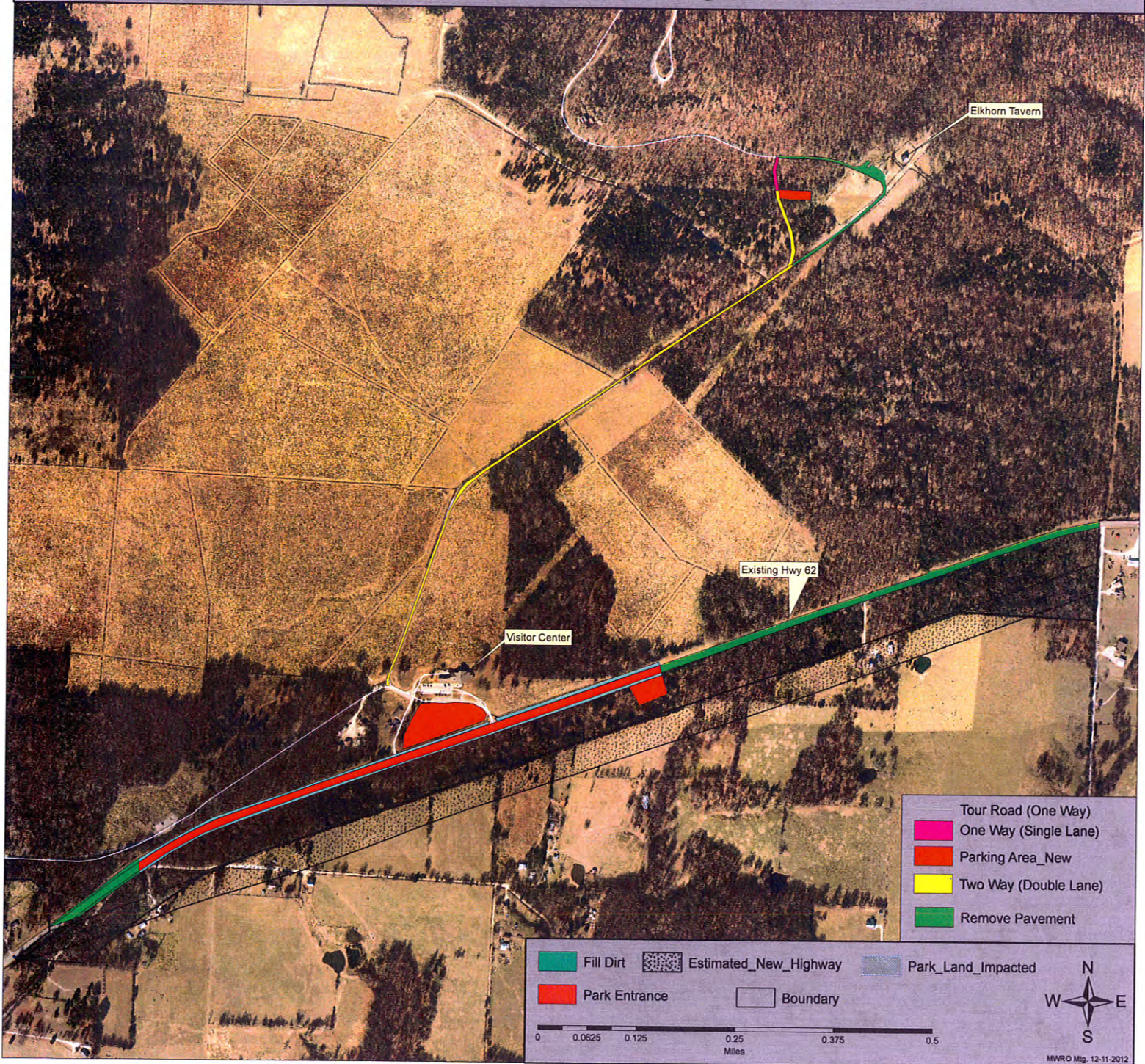
CC:

Mr. Ralph Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator, The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Mr. Lynn Malbrough, Environmental Division Head, AHTD
Ms. Brenda Price, Assistant Division Head, AHTD
Mr. Randal J. Looney, Federal Highway Administration – Arkansas Division Office

Pea Ridge National Military Park Highway 62 Removal Mitigation EA Project Area Map



Pea Ridge National Military Park Highway 62 Mitigation EA - Alternative A

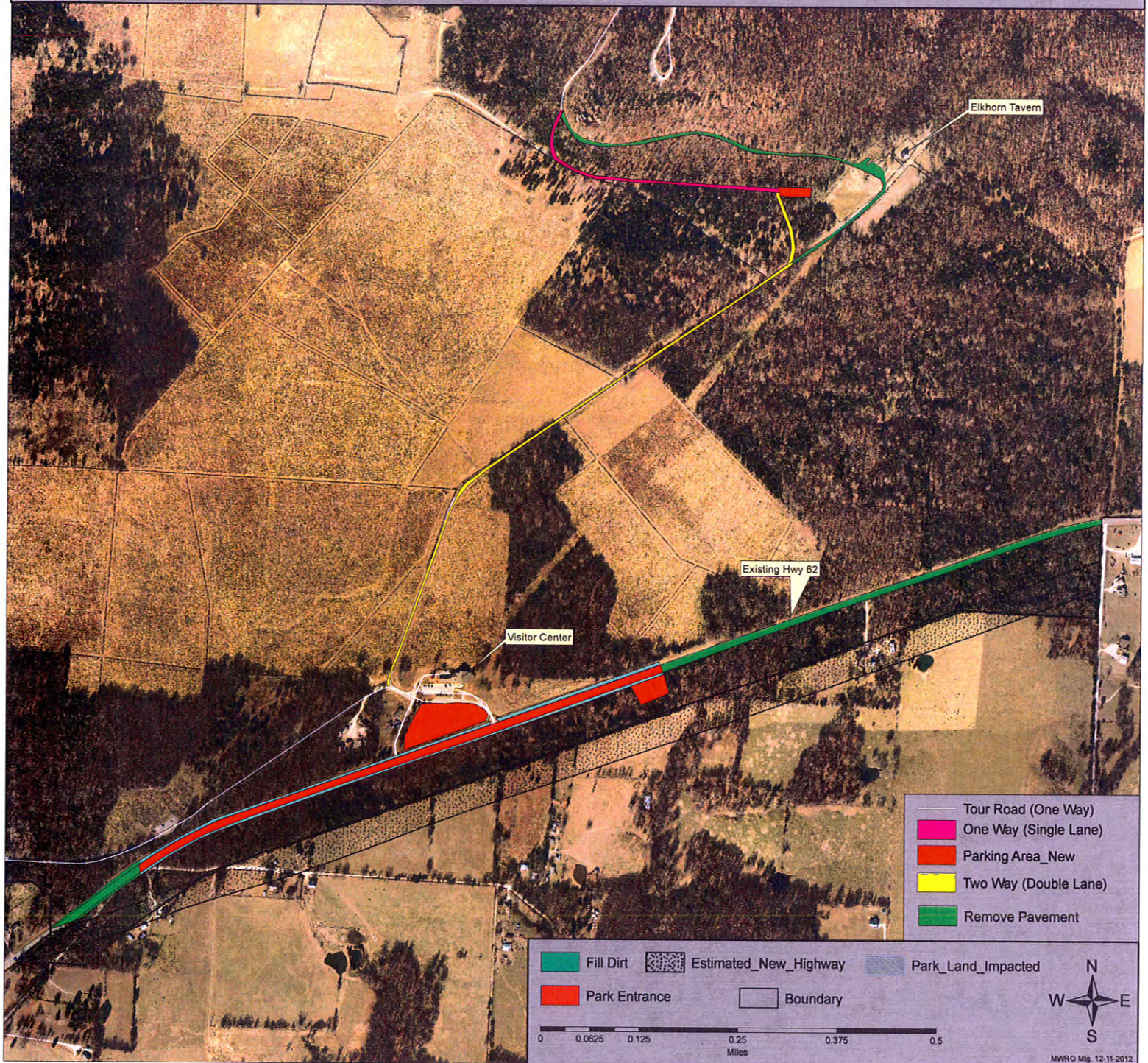


APPENDICES

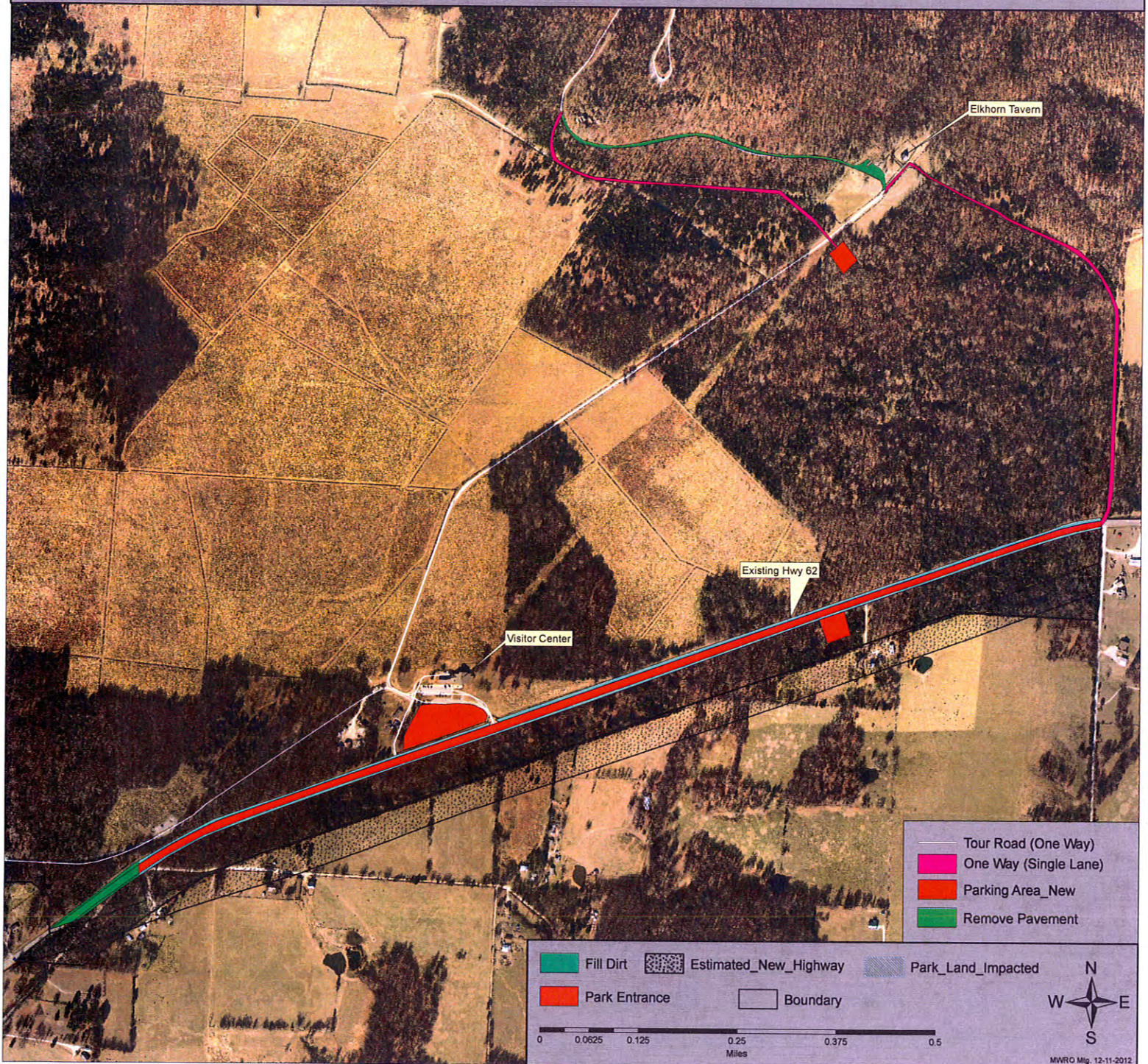
APPENDIX B. SCOPING LETTERS AND RESPONSES

Public Scoping Letters and Responses

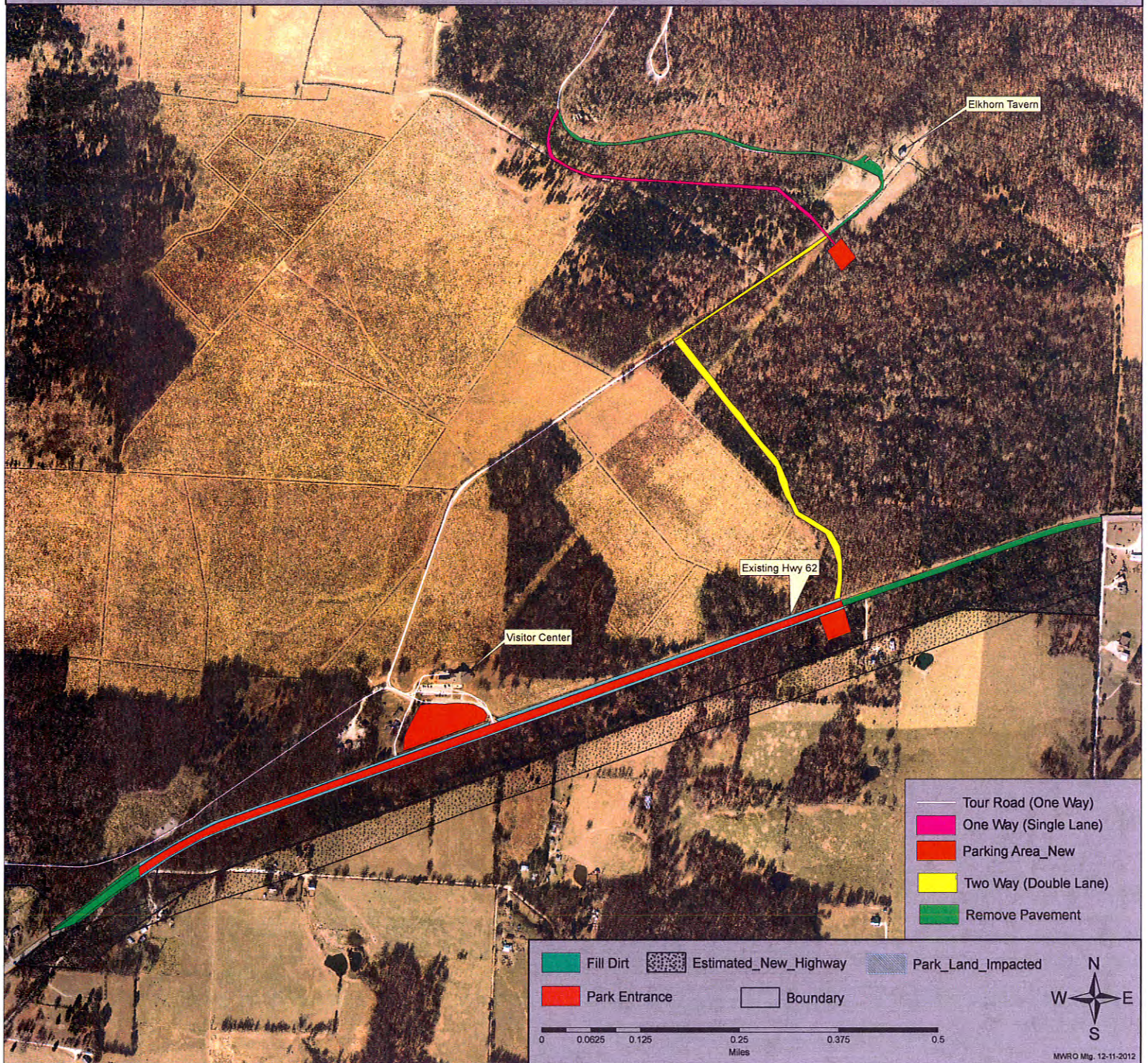
Pea Ridge National Military Park Highway 62 Mitigation EA - Alternative B



Pea Ridge National Military Park Highway 62 Mitigation EA - Alternative C



Pea Ridge National Military Park Highway 62 Mitigation EA - Alternative D





The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Martha Miller
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



July 24, 2014

Mr. Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)
National Park Service
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 U.S. Highway 62 East
Garfield, Arkansas 72732

Re: Benton County – Pea Ridge National Military Park
Section 106 Review – NPS
Comments on Scoping Notice for Preparation of an Environmental
Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)
AHPP Tracking Number 90607

Dear Mr. Eads:

This letter is in response to your recent request for consultation regarding the potential alternates for the configuration of Pea Ridge National Military Park (hereafter 'park') roads and other facilities following the relocation of U.S. Highway 62 to the southern margins of the park.

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has reviewed the alternates submitted for the project. Based on this review, it is our opinion that Alternate A is the best choice. This choice is based on the fact that this alternate appears to result in the least removal of the old Tour Road, which we feel is likely eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the Mission 66 initiative within the National Park Service and the rarity of Mission 66-associated facilities in Arkansas. Also, because this alternate appears to entail the least ground disturbance, it appears least likely to impact archeological resources.

We look forward to working with you to complete this exciting project. Please refer to the AHPP Tracking Number listed above in all correspondence. If you have any questions, please call Eric Gilliland of my staff at 501-324-9270.

Sincerely,

for: Frances McSwain
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Mr. Steve Adams, National Park Service
Dr. Richard Allen, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
Mr. Everett Bandy, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma

Ms. Rebecca Brave, Osage Nation
Mr. Ken Carleton, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians
Dr. Ann Early, Arkansas Archeological Survey
Mr. John Fleming, AHTD
Ms. Lisa LaRue-Baker, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians
Ms. Dana Masters, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians
Mr. Emman Spain, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma
Dr. Ian Thompson, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS

HERITAGE

, Suite 1500, Little Rock, AR 72201

Hasler

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PEA RIDGE

2014

Mr. Kevin Eads, Chief of Resources Management
National Park Service
Pea Ridge Military Park
15930 Hwy. 62E
Pea Ridge, AR 72732

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

IN REPLY REFER TO

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Mitch Wine
Biologist
Arkansas Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
110 S. Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Wine,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

A letter was sent on March 12, 2013 to notify your office of the proposed project and mitigations and included background information on the project. We received your letter of response on March 12, 2013 and acknowledge that no further notifications are necessary. As a courtesy, we are notifying you that we are initiating agency scoping. An EA will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, requires that a federal agency consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the National Marine Fisheries Service on any action that may affect threatened, endangered, or proposed species; or that may result in adverse modification of designated or proposed critical habitat. This letter will serve as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and NPS *Management Policies 2006*.

I invite your participation in the scoping for the proposed undertaking to provide review and consultation regarding federally listed species and to ensure that any concerns your office has regarding potential impacts are raised and addressed early in the planning process.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached, in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930 U.S. Hwy 62 Garfield AR. 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your office on this project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives maps



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Bird report for Hwy mitigation area

1 message

Peitz, David <david_peitz@nps.gov>
To: Gregory Eads <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Tue, Jun 10, 2014 at 8:47 AM

Kevin,

I talked with Mr. Mitch Wine with the Conway, AR office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He does not need a report on our birding efforts at this time. If in the future a threatened or endangered species is identified then you will need to contact him with that information. Mr. Wine's only concern is that during the Hwy removal / construction process all bridges and structure have ex closure netting to prevent birds like Phoebe's and Swallows from trying to nest, if the work is done during the breeding season. Removal of an active nest during construction would be a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The construction contractors should be aware of this. The attached report is for your use as you move forward with construction plans. The suggestion within the attached report are just that, suggestions. Per my conversation with Mr. Wine you are pretty much good to go now during any time of the year. However, if you want to survey for nesting species prior to the start of construction in the park let me know and I may be able to help.

Also, Mr. Wine has been trying to contact you to let you know that the Vegetation Plan EA has been given the go ahead by his office as well.

Give me a call and we can discuss the report results and my conversation with Mr. Wine.

—

David G. Peitz, Wildlife Ecologist
National Park Service
[Heartland Inventory & Monitoring Network](#)
417-732-6438 x 276

"The prey must have the predator, just as the predator needs the prey. One without the other eventually becomes something less. The wolf becomes a dog. The deer becomes a cow. And what does man become?" Marchington (1991)



PERI Bird Report for area within Construction Zone.docx
425K



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Re: Mitigation Efforts within Pea Ridge NMP Environmental Assessment Correspondence

1 message

Wine, Mitch <mitch_wine@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 11, 2014 at 9:07 AM

To: "Eads, Gregory" <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Kevin,

I apologize as I was unaware the June 24, 2014 letter required a response from our office. The four alternatives proposed to provide access to park facilities once Highway 62 is relocated to the south of the park each appear to have minor adverse effects to fish and wildlife resources, with no effects anticipated to listed species. The Service has no further substantive comments on the proposed project. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed project and feel free to contact me if you require further documentation.

Mitch Wine
Fish & Wildlife Biologist

United States Fish and Wildlife Service
Ecological Services
110 South Amity Road, Suite 300
Conway, AR 72032

(501) 513-4488 (voice)
(501) 513-4480 (fax)
(501) 350-7663 (cell)
email: mitch_wine@fws.gov
<http://www.fws.gov/arkansas-es/>

On Sat, Aug 9, 2014 at 11:37 AM, Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov> wrote:

Mitch,

Were preparing an environmental assessment for the work that will be done within the park as a result of the removal of highway 62 out of the park.

I sent a letter, February 2013, which you responded to March 2013 for initial consultation, attached. David Peitz a Biologist with our Inventory and Monitoring, NPS, conducted a bird survey and was in contact with you as well. I have his information and report that resulted with his conversations

with you, attached.

We had progressed with the EA to the point of Public Scoping so I sent you another letter this past June that explained the preliminary alternatives that were proposed for the work inside the park, attached.

I was wondering if I could get a response from you on the second letter? An email would work fine or letter, which ever you prefer. I hate to ask but, if possible, was wanting additional documentation for the EA.

I sincerely appreciate it,

Kevin

--

Kevin Eads
Chief of Resources Management
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 E. Hwy 62
Garfield, Arkansas 72732
Office (479) 451-8122 X 239



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy. 62 East
Garfield, AR 7232

IN REPLY REFER TO:
H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Reid Nelson
Director, Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20001-2637

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Nelson,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

In accordance with Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations, 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties, the NPS will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. This letter serves to initiate Section 106 consultation with your office. Section 106 consultation is also being initiated with identified Native American tribes and the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (SHPO). In addition, scoping has been initiated with other federal, state, and local agencies, and the public.

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would be a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

Previous cultural resource surveys of the project area indicate there are historic structures and other archeological resources near the proposed project area. The NPS will evaluate potential impacts on cultural resources concurrently with the preparation of the EA. The EA, including Section 106 compliance, will be sent to you for comment when available.

I invite your participation in the scoping for the proposed undertaking to provide review and consultation regarding the definition of the area of potential effect, and to ensure that any concerns your office has regarding potential impacts on historic properties are raised and addressed early in the planning process.

I will continue to keep you informed as the planning effort progresses, and we appreciate receiving any preliminary comments you have by July 25, 2014. If you have questions or need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me. I can be reached in writing at Pea Ridge National Military Park, 15930, US Hwy 62, Garfield, AR 72732; by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov; or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239. I look forward to continued consultations with your office and believe these communications will help ensure that historic properties are adequately considered and protected throughout the planning and implementation of the project.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives

CC:

Mr. Eric Gilliland, Section 106 Coordinator, The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.



Preserving America's Heritage

August 4, 2014

Mr. Kevin Eads
Acting Superintendent
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, Arkansas 72732

**Ref: *Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park
Benton, Arkansas***

Dear Mr. Eads:

The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received your letter providing notice of scoping pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and initiation of Section 106 consultation regarding the referenced undertaking. We understand that the current Environmental Assessment (EA) will be a more detailed analysis of the alternatives and effects of the mitigation previously negotiated, committed to, and documented in the *Programmatic Agreement (PA) Among the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Arkansas State Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD), Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), National Park Service (NPS) Pea Ridge National Military Park, Caddo Nation, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Osage Nation, and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians Regarding the Construction of AHTD Job Number 090204 Avoca-Gateway (Hwy. 62), Benton County, AR*, executed in March 2012 and filed with the ACHP.

Since the ACHP did not participate in the 2012 PA, we do not plan to participate in the current Section 106 consultation, unless controversy should develop and the NPS or another party should contact us or request our involvement.

If no changes to the effects of the mitigation are revealed through the consultation, then NPS and FHWA may conclude the process with concurrence from the consulting parties on such a finding. Should the consultation result in a finding of adverse effects to historic properties that were unanticipated by the 2012 PA, the ACHP recommends that NPS and FHWA conclude the Section 106 process for the EA by amending the 2012 PA with any agreed upon measures to resolve such adverse effects. Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.6(b)(1)(iv), you would need to file the final amended PA and related documentation with the ACHP at the conclusion of the consultation process. The filing of the amended PA and supporting documentation with the ACHP is required in order to complete the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Thank you for providing us with your notification of scoping and initiation of Section 106 consultation. If

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

401 F Street, Suite 308 • Washington, DC 20001-2637

Phone: 202-517-0200 • Fax: 202-517-6381 • achp@achp.gov • www.achp.gov

you have any questions or require our further assistance, please contact Katry Harris by telephone at (202) 517-0213 or by e-mail at kharris@achp.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Caroline D. Hall", with a stylized, cursive script.

Caroline D. Hall
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Real Property Management Section



Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

RE: Pea Ridge Correspondence for Hwy 62 Mitigation EA

1 message

Katry Harris <kharris@achp.gov>
To: "Eads, Gregory" <kevin_eads@nps.gov>

Fri, Aug 1, 2014 at 7:40 AM

Thanks, Eric, for this additional documentation and the clarifications we discussed yesterday. I'll take this into account as I prepare our letter to the NPS on the subject undertaking. You can expect an e-mail with an electronic copy of our letter next week. Please call or e-mail me if you have any questions.

Katry Harris
ACHP
202.517.0213

From: Eads, Gregory <kevin_eads@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2014 6:07 PM
To: Katry Harris
Subject: Pea Ridge Correspondence for Hwy 62 Mitigation EA

Katry,

It was a pleasure visiting with you and I am sincerely thankful that you gave me a call. My hope is that I didn't further confuse you.

I've attached the letter I sent to Eric (SHPO) as well as his response.

Please don't hesitate in letting me know if you need anything else or have any more questions.

Sincerely,

Kevin

--

Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)
Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 E. Hwy 62
Garfield, Arkansas 72732
Office (479) 451-8122 X 239
Cell (479) 903-6296



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Dr. George Sabo
Director
Arkansas Archeological Society
2475 North Hatch Ave.
Fayetteville Arkansas 72701

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Dr. Sabo,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

An EA will be prepared 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 issues and impacts on park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. The EA will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. The park is currently in the scoping phase of the proposed project and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=46500>. Comments also may be sent to the address below no later than July 25, 2014.

Superintendent at Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 U.S. Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment – including personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives maps



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

IN REPLY REFER TO

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Jackie Crabtree
President
Pea Ridge National Park Foundation
P. O. Box 925
Pea Ridge, AR 72751

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

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Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
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The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. The park is currently in the scoping phase of the proposed project and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=46500>. Comments also may be sent to the address below no later than July 25, 2014.

Superintendent at Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 U.S. Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

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If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives maps



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Jackie Crabtree
Mayor
P. O. Box 10
Pea Ridge, AR 72751

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Crabtree,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

An EA will be prepared 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 issues and impacts on park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. The EA will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
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Superintendent at Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 U.S. Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

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If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives maps



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

IN REPLY REFER TO

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Laura Hamilton
Mayor
P.O. Box 131
Garfield, AR. 72732

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Ms. Hamilton,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

An EA will be prepared 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 issues and impacts on park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. The EA will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

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- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

The park encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. The park is currently in the scoping phase of the proposed project and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=46500>. Comments also may be sent to the address below no later than July 25, 2014.

Superintendent at Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 U.S. Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

Commenters should be aware that their entire comment – including personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While commenters can ask that their personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the NPS cannot guarantee that this will be possible.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me by email at kevin_eads@nps.gov or by phone at (479) 451-8122, ext. 239.

Sincerely,



Kevin Eads
Superintendent (Acting)

Enclosure:

Maps illustrating the project area and preliminary alternatives maps



IN REPLY REFER TO

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Mr. Thomas O'Dell
Mayor
P. O. Box 160
222 North Old Wire Road
Avoca, AR 72711

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. O'Dell,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

An EA will be prepared 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 issues and impacts on park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts. The EA will also be used to coordinate compliance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.8(c).

Four action alternatives for mitigation are being considered by the park and are described below. Elements common to all alternatives include a new parking area at the visitor center, extension of the new park road to the new horse trail parking and trailhead east of the visitor center, and a new restroom near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative A** – This alternative would locate the new horse trailhead to just east of the visitor center, replace the one-way tour road with a two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern, and would provide a short new one-way route from the tour road on Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the two-way portion of the tour road.
- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

- **Alternative C** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be located south of Ruddick's field, the park road would extend the full length of the southern boundary, the tour road between the visitor center and the Elkhorn Tavern would remain a one-way route, a new road would be added from the Elkhorn Tavern along historic Huntsville Road to the new park road on the southern boundary, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.
- **Alternative D** - In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative C, the park road would extend to the parking area, a new vehicular route would extend to the north to connect with the existing tour road, and a new two-way (two-lane) route would extend from the new connecting point to the new parking area at the Elkhorn Tavern. The new tour road route along the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) would extend to the new parking area on the south side of the tour road near the Elkhorn Tavern.

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15930 U.S. Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

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Kevin Eads
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
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Garfield, AR. 72732

IN REPLY REFER TO

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Dr. William Shea
Professor of History
School of Social Sciences
University of Arkansas at Monticello
P.O. Box 3619, UAM
Monticello, Arkansas 71656

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Dr. Shea,

The National Park Service (NPS) is beginning an environmental assessment (EA) to evaluate a range of alternatives and associated impacts of providing new access and improved circulation to the park in conjunction with the relocation of Highway 62 in northwestern Arkansas. The existing highway alignment runs along the southern boundary of Pea Ridge National Military Park (park) and provides the only visitor access to the park. The project is needed because the Highway 62 relocation further south will leave the park without an access point to its key features. The purpose of the EA is to identify a safe and convenient access road (and parking) to key features in the park while minimizing impacts on cultural and natural resources.

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- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Pea Ridge National Military Park
15930 US Hwy 62 East
Garfield, AR. 72732

H42 (PERI Mitigation EA)

June 24, 2014

Glenn Jones
Commissioner
Benton County Historical Preservation Commission
1428 W. Walnut Street, Ste. 6
Rogers, AR. 72756

Subject: Scoping Notice — Preparation of an Environmental Assessment for Highway 62 Mitigations at Pea Ridge National Military Park

Dear Mr. Jones,

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- **Alternative B** – In this alternative, the new horse trail area would be in the same area as in Alternative A, the two-lane (two-way) tour road between the visitor center and Elkhorn Tavern

would be retained, and a longer new route would extend down the slope of Elkhorn Mountain (below the east overlook) to the new parking area near the Elkhorn Tavern.

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