

## **Appendix B:**

### **Consultation Letters and Communication**



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield  
6424 W. Farm Road 182  
Republic, Missouri 65738-9514



Gary

COPY

January 31, 2017

Sent Jane Jacobs  
copies via  
Fed Ex 4/31/17

Judith Deel  
Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office  
PO Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Re: Environmental Assessment for Cultural Landscape Report (HPP Log Number R2877)  
*Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Wilson's Creek NB)*  
Park Notification of Combination NEPA/Section 106 Compliance

Dear Ms. Deel:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is located five miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, and three miles east of Republic, Missouri, in the southwest corner of the state. The county line between Greene and Christian counties bisects the 2,029-acre park, which includes 75% of the actual battleground. The battlefield is the site of an important battle for control of the state of Missouri during the first year of the Civil War. The park features a 4.9 mile, one-way auto tour route with interpretive stops at all the major historic points on the battlefield. The visitor center at the beginning of the tour route has interpretive displays, including an animated map depicting the sequence of the battle, a video presentation and museum exhibits. Trails and a picnic area are also available. The park is popular not only as an historic site, but for recreational uses such as hiking, biking, and running by local residents. The legislative history of the park establishes its importance as an historic site, with an abundance of natural and cultural resources. Also, it establishes the need for adequate interpretation to support the purpose established by the enacting legislation of making the site available for the enjoyment and benefit of the public. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was automatically listed on the National Register of Historic Places as part of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. National Register nomination documentation was prepared by Thomas Busch of the Midwest Regional Office of the NPS in 1976. The nomination indicates the Wilson's Creek NB is a nationally significant district under Criterion A as the site of the Civil War Battle of Wilson's Creek on August 10, 1861 which had a profound impact on the course of events associated with the Civil War history of Missouri.

A National Park Service (NPS) contractor is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of satisfying the compliance requirements for the implementation of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report (2004) (CLR). Cultural landscape treatment recommendations and guidelines were prepared to provide Wilson's Creek NB with a vision for the protection of the park's cultural landscape in order to sustain long-term management and interpretation. Although the CLR was not intended to duplicate the work of a Long-Range Interpretive Plan, the



connection between management of the park's cultural, natural, and historic resources and interpretation became a focus of the treatment recommendations, particularly as they addressed the objectives of the General Management Plan's preferred management alternative.

The treatment recommendations for Wilson's Creek NB provide resource protection measures for the site as well as specific guidance for individual resources. The concept for cultural landscape treatment at Wilson's Creek NB is to balance the park's requirement to protect and enhance the battlefield's commemorative and contemplative qualities with the need to establish contemporary features and activities that support the comfort, enjoyment, and safety of the public.

The EA will look at a reasonable range of alternative actions to implement the treatment recommendations in the CLR. Issues that may be addressed as part of this planning process include:

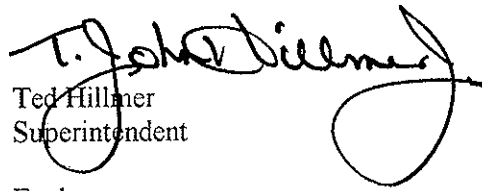
- Rehabilitation and restoration of the natural systems to support preservation of the site's cultural resources and historic integrity and respect the issue of sustainability;
- Enhancement of visual accessibility through the removal of the existing weedy thickets and densely wooded areas and rehabilitation of historic prairie and savanna plant communities;
- Reduction in the number of resident deer to a more natural density;
- Management of prescribed burning;
- Development and or realignment of trails, exhibits and interpretation;
- Management of vegetation; and
- Cultural resource management

In order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, an Environmental Assessment (EA) must be developed that will assess impacts of the proposed action alternatives on natural and cultural resources. In accordance with section 800.8(3)(c) of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations (36 CFR 800), I am notifying your office in advance of the park's intention to use the EA to meet its obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA. This EA, which will contain an Assessment of Effect for all cultural resources potentially affected by the proposed alternatives, will be available for your review and comment later this year.

This letter also serves as notification that we have begun the NEPA compliance process requiring information collection of existing resources within the project area, shown on the attached USGA Quadrangle map. At this early stage, we are seeking information on any cultural resource restraint or concern that may be a possible planning issue. Extensive documentation of cultural and natural resources at Wilson's Creek NB is found in previous planning documents including the *Cultural Landscape Report (CLR)* (2004), the *General Management Plan (GMP)* (2003) and *GMP amendment* (2007), *Battlefield Archeology of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Missouri* (2008 Midwest Archeological Center Technical Report No. 109), and *In Search of the Gwin Farm at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, National Park Service* (2007 MSU Archeological Field School).

If you are aware of any cultural resource restraint, concern, or issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would greatly appreciate your participation to ensure that any concerns or suggestions you or your staff may have are considered and adequately addressed. At this time, we anticipate no significant cultural resource impacts associated with the project, and we look forward to receiving any guidance or comments you may have regarding the process or the project itself. Thank you for helping in this matter, and if you need any additional information or should you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact Gary Sullivan at (417) 732-2662, ext. 286 or in writing at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 West Farm Road 182, Republic, Missouri 65738-9514.

Sincerely,

  
Ted Hillmer  
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Gary Sullivan, NPS-WICR  
Jane Jacobs, Commonwealth Heritage Group





## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield  
6424 W. Farm Road 182  
Republic, Missouri 65738-9514



COPY

January 31, 2017

Amy Salveter  
Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Columbia Ecological Services Field Office  
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A  
Columbia, Missouri 65203-0057

Re: Environmental Assessment for Implementation of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park  
Cultural Landscape Report, (2004)(CLR)  
*Wilson's Creek National Battlefield (Wilson's Creek NB)*  
Informal Consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife for Threatened and Endangered Species

Dear Ms. Salveter:

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is located five miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, and three miles east of Republic, Missouri, in the southwest corner of the state. The county line between Greene and Christian counties bisects the 2,029-acre park, which includes 75% of the actual battleground. The battlefield is the site of an important battle for control of the state of Missouri during the first year of the Civil War. The park features a 4.9 mile, one-way auto tour route with interpretive stops at all the major historic points on the battlefield. The visitor center at the beginning of the tour route has interpretive displays, including an animated map depicting the sequence of the battle, a video presentation and museum exhibits. Trails and a picnic area are also available. The park is popular not only as an historic site, but for recreational uses such as hiking, biking, and running by local residents. The legislative history of the park establishes its importance as an historic site, with an abundance of natural and cultural resources. Also, it establishes the need for adequate interpretation to support the purpose established by the enacting legislation of making the site available for the enjoyment and benefit of the public.

A National Park Service (NPS) contractor is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the purpose of satisfying the compliance requirements for the implementation of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report (2004) (CLR). Cultural landscape treatment recommendations and guidelines were prepared to provide Wilson's Creek NB with a vision for the protection of the park's cultural landscape in order to sustain long-term management and interpretation. Although the CLR was not intended to duplicate the work of a Long-Range Interpretive Plan, the connection between management of the park's cultural, natural, and historic resources and interpretation became a focus of the treatment recommendations, particularly as they addressed the objectives of the General Management Plan's preferred management alternative.

The treatment recommendations for Wilson's Creek NB provide resource protection measures for the site as well as specific guidance for individual resources. The concept for cultural landscape treatment at



Wilson's Creek NB is to balance the park's requirement to protect and enhance the battlefield's commemorative and contemplative qualities with the need to establish contemporary features and activities that support the comfort, enjoyment, and safety of the public.

The EA will look at a reasonable range of alternative actions to implement the treatment recommendations in the CLR. Issues that may be addressed as part of this planning process include:

- Rehabilitation and restoration of the natural systems to support preservation of the site's cultural resources and historic integrity and respect the issue of sustainability;
- Enhancement of visual accessibility through the removal of the existing weedy thickets and densely wooded areas and rehabilitation of historic prairie and savanna plant communities;
- Reduction in the number of resident deer to a more natural density;
- Management of prescribed burning;
- Development and or realignment of trails, exhibits and interpretation;
- Management of vegetation; and
- Cultural Resource management.

This letter serves as notification that we have begun the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and are proposing to have an Environmental Assessment (EA) available for public and regulatory review later this year. In addition, this letter serves as a record that the NPS is initiating informal consultation with your agency pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, that 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 endangered or threatened species or candidate species or that may result in adverse modification of critical habitat. The compliance process requires we request information concerning federal and state rare, threatened, and endangered species documented or reasonably suspected within 0.5 miles of the project site, which is depicted on the attached USGS Quadrangle map. The project team reviewed the most current list of federally listed species that may occur in Greene and Christian counties which are listed below. Also the team reviewed EA compliance documents for recent projects within the park which included analysis of impacts to threatened and endangered species.

The USFWS Columbia Ecological Services Field Office website identifies the following species as potentially present in Christian and Greene counties:

<u>Species</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
Gray Bat ( <i>Myotis grisescens</i> )	Christian and Greene	Endangered
Indiana bat ( <i>Myotis sodalis</i> )	Christian and Greene	Endangered
Northern long-eared bat ( <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i> )	Christian and Greene	Threatened
Missouri bladderpod ( <i>Physaria filiformis</i> )	Christian and Greene	
	Threatened	
Running buffalo clover ( <i>Trifolium stolonifereum</i> )	Christian	Endangered
Virginia sneezeweed ( <i>Helenium virginicum</i> )	Christian	Threatened
Niangua darter ( <i>Etheostoma nianguae</i> )	Greene	Threatened /
		Critical Habitat
Ozark cavefish ( <i>Amblyopsis rosae</i> )	Greene	Threatened
Geocarpon ( <i>Geocarpon minimum</i> )	Greene	Threatened
Western prairie fringed orchid ( <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> )	Greene	Threatened

Species that have been identified as present in the park and included in more recent EA compliance documents are the Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*) and the gray bat (*Myotis grisescens*). A large population of Missouri bladderpod resides in the park. The Bloody Hill Glade supports one of the

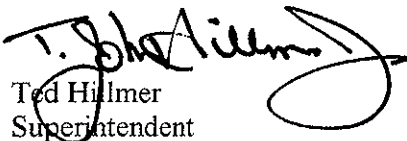
largest protected populations of the federally endangered plant. Population size has been monitored since 1988 and studies developed for management recommendations to restore habitat since the early 1990s. Gray bats were discovered in an inventory of cave resources initiated by the park staff in 1996. A small population (less than 50 individuals) was hibernating in a cave in the park. Proposed actions in the Fire Management Plan EA (2004) avoided prescribed fire activities in the vicinity of caves where bats hibernate and/or bear young. Also under all alternatives there was the recommendation to return to a more natural fire regime that would benefit habitat for endangered plant species. Future actions included ecosystem-level management practices in the park which would enhance habitat for threatened and endangered species.

Bald eagles are common migrants and fly over the park and occasionally perch on several trees along Wilson's Creek. The eagles typically stay one or two days each year, however, some winters they do not visit the park at all. They are no longer protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act, but remain protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

We would appreciate your confirmation of the list of species to be addressed in the Environmental Assessment for the cultural landscape treatment alternatives. Also, should you know of or come across any other resource constraint that may be a possible planning issue, please do not hesitate to contact us. We anticipate no significant environmental impacts associated with the project and look forward to receiving any guidance or comments you may have regarding the process of the project. Once prepared, we will provide you with a draft of the Environmental Assessment with preliminary effects determination and proposed mitigation, if any, for your review and concurrence.

Thank you for helping in this matter, and if you need any additional information or should you have any questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact Gary Sullivan at (417) 732-2662 ext. 286 or in writing at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, 6424 West Farm Road 182, Republic, MO 65738.

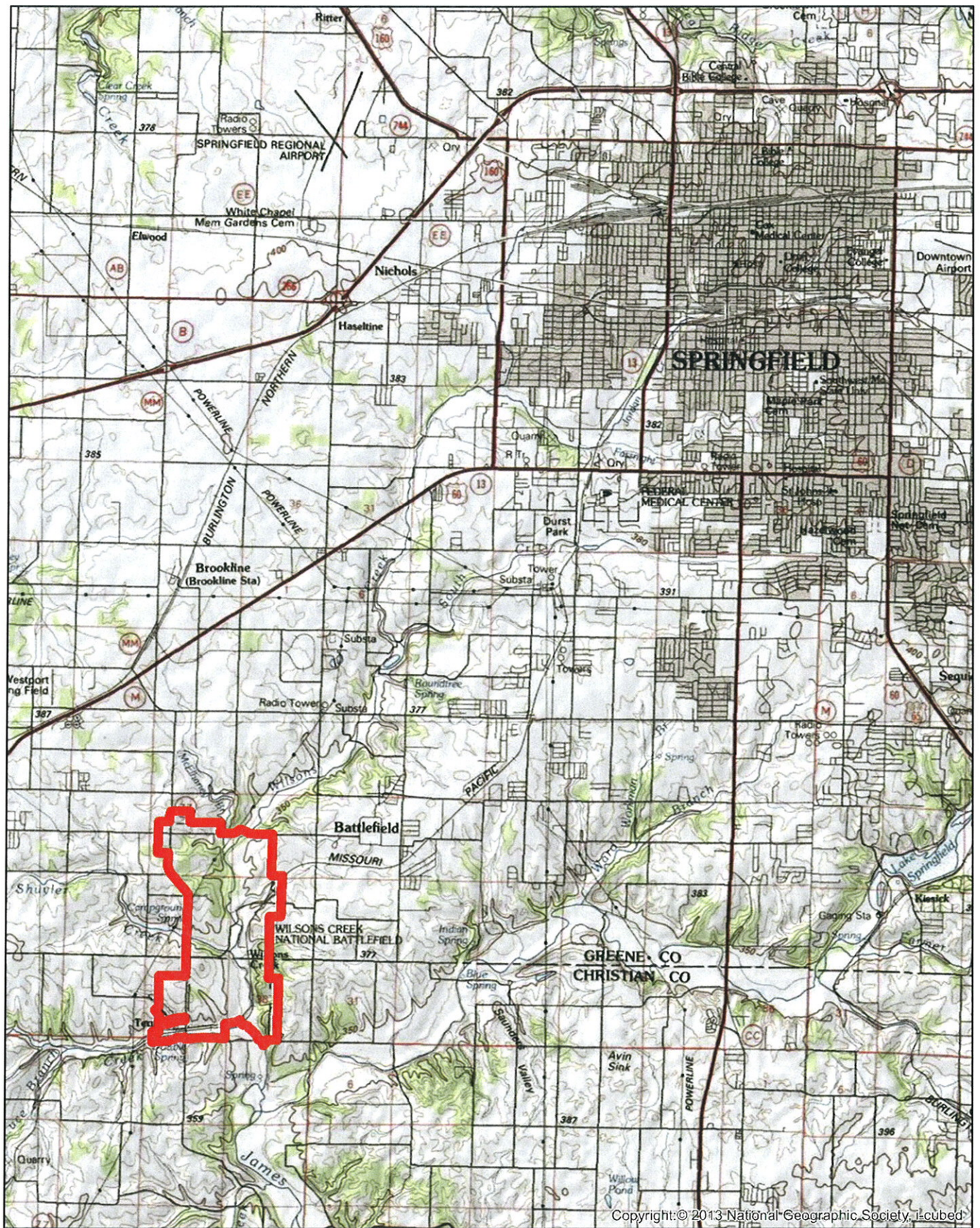
Sincerely,

  
Ted Hillmer  
Superintendent

Enclosure

cc: Gary Sullivan, Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist (WICR)  
Jane Jacobs, Commonwealth Heritage Group





Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary 2017



0 2,500 5,000 10,000 Feet



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Jane Jacobs

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**From:** Sullivan, Gary <gary\_p\_sullivan@nps.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 03, 2017 4:25 PM  
**To:** Marla McEnaney; Jane Jacobs; Liz Sargent  
**Cc:** David Peitz; Michael DeBacker  
**Subject:** Fwd: Implementation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park Cultural Landscape Report

All,

I received this email response from FWS in reply to our CLR EA scoping letter.

Gary Sullivan

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Crabill, Trisha <[trisha\\_crabill@fws.gov](mailto:trisha_crabill@fws.gov)>  
**Date:** Fri, Mar 3, 2017 at 3:19 PM  
**Subject:** Implementation for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Park Cultural Landscape Report  
**To:** [t\\_john\\_hillmer@nps.gov](mailto:t_john_hillmer@nps.gov)  
**Cc:** Gary P Sullivan <[Gary\\_P\\_Sullivan@nps.gov](mailto:Gary_P_Sullivan@nps.gov)>, "Herrington, Karen" <[karen\\_herrington@fws.gov](mailto:karen_herrington@fws.gov)>

Dear Mr. Hillmer,

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the information provided in your January 31, 2017 letter regarding development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for implementation of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and occurs in Christian and Greene counties in Missouri. The Service offers the following comments pursuant to the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347), and the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544).

According to information in your letter, an EA is under development to satisfy compliance requirements of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Cultural Landscape Report. Below is the list of federally listed species, proposed species, candidate species, and designated and proposed critical habitat that you identified as potentially present in Christian and Greene counties (per the Service's website for the Midwest Region).

Gray bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)  
Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)  
Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)  
Missouri bladderpod (*Physaria filiformis*)  
~~Running buffalo clover (*Trifolium stolonifereum*)~~  
Virginia sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*)  
~~Niangua darter (*Etheostoma nianguae*)~~  
Ozark cavefish (*Amblyopsis rosae*)

~~Geocarpon (*Geocarpon minimum*)~~

~~Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*)~~

Although present in Christian and Greene counties, the running buffalo clover, Niangua darter, Geocarpon, and western prairie-fringed orchid are not known to occur near Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Thus, these species do not need to be considered in the EA. We confirm that the remaining species identified above should be evaluated as part of the EA.

Also, please note that the new Field Supervisor for our office is Karen Herrington ([Karen\\_Herrington@fws.gov](mailto:Karen_Herrington@fws.gov); 573-234-2132 x 166).

We look forward to reviewing the EA and appreciate your efforts to conserve threatened and endangered species.

Sincerely,

Trisha Crabill  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services  
101 Park DeVille Drive, Suite A  
Columbia, MO 65203  
Office: 573-234-2132 x 121  
Fax: 573-234-2181

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Gary Sullivan

Supervisory Natural Resource Management Specialist  
Wilson's Creek National Battlefield  
6424 West Farm Road 182  
Republic, MO 65738

Office Phone: 417-732-2662 ext. 286  
Fax: 417-732-1167  
Cell Phone: 417-880-2119  
email: [gary\\_p\\_sullivan@nps.gov](mailto:gary_p_sullivan@nps.gov)





National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wilson's Creek National  
Battlefield  
6424 W. Farm Road 182  
Republic, MO 65738

(417) 732-2662 x227 phone  
[www.nps.gov/wicr](http://www.nps.gov/wicr)

## Wilson's Creek National Battlefield News Release

For Immediate Release: November 04, 2016  
Contact: Angela Pirotte @ 417-732-2662 x221,

### Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Hosts Open House

Republic, MO – Wilson's Creek National Battlefield will host an Open House on November 15, 2016 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the park visitor center, located at 6424 West Farm Road 182, Republic, Missouri 65738. The park is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to determine impacts from implementing cultural landscape treatments and managing deer populations in the park. Cultural landscape treatments include: modifications to trails; installation of cannon and wayside exhibits; managing the vegetation of historic views; and managing vegetation throughout the battlefield using a variety of treatments, including prescribed fire. According to Supt Hillmer, "Come and let your input be a part of the EA. Your input is important to us in making Wilson's Creek National Battlefield a better place to visit."

The purpose of the EA is to guide management, treatment, and use of resources at the property and evaluate impacts to natural and cultural resources. The proposed action is needed at this time to provide park staff with a detailed plan that supports cultural resource management in accordance with NPS planning and management policies. The NPS is in the initial scoping phase of the project and encourages public input during this open house.

Wilson's Creek was the first major Civil War battle fought west of the Mississippi River, and the site of the death of Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in action. The costly Southern victory on August 10, 1861, focused national attention on the war in Missouri. Wilson's Creek NB commemorates and interprets the battle within the context of the war in the Trans-Mississippi West. For further information, call (417) 732-2662, x227.

**[www.nps.gov/wicr](http://www.nps.gov/wicr)**





