



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Environmental Assessment

Cultural Landscape Report Implementation

DRAFT
September 2017

Cultural Resources
Midwest Region



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About the front cover: View toward Wilson's Creek from the corner of Ray Cornfield, November 14, 2016.

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Wilson's Creek National Battlefield

Republic, Missouri

Environmental Assessment

Implementation of Cultural Landscape Report Treatment Recommendations

DRAFT

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September 2017

Cultural Landscape Report Implementation/ Environmental Assessment

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Republic, Missouri

Executive Summary

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service (NPS) is considering a series of actions in association with the treatment recommendations developed in the 2004 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in order to balance future park requirements for protection of the battlefield through integrated cultural and natural resource management with enhancement of commemorative and contemplative qualities through installation of contemporary features and activities for visitor enjoyment, comfort, and safety. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield encompasses 2,369 acres and preserves 2,011 acres of the battleground; 172 acres are protected by Ozark Greenways, Inc., in easement outside park boundaries. The battlefield is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri in Greene and Christian counties. The purpose statement for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history and influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on April 22, 1960. Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is significant as the site of the second battle of the Civil War and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River.

This environmental assessment (EA) describes and analyzes two alternatives. One Action Alternative was developed and the required No Action Alternative. Potential impacts and recommended mitigation measures related to their implementation were analyzed. Short-term construction-related impacts and long-term impacts, as well as cumulative impacts were addressed.

Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to help fulfill the mandate of protection and management of fundamental park resources and values including the cultural landscape and features present at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek or evocative of the landscape that those present at the battle would have experienced. Changes made through the implementation of the action alternative will provide park visitors with a stronger understanding and meaningful relationship to the Civil War Battle fought onsite. It will also provide park visitors with additional enjoyable outdoor experiences that will coincide with enhanced stewardship of the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

Project Objectives

The project objectives are specific steps toward fulfilling the purpose and must be achieved to a large degree for the project to be considered a success. The Park, in its examination of the issues and needs driving the project, has identified the following primary objectives for the project:

1. Consideration of visitor safety needs associated with the interface of deer and visitor use of the park and surrounding roads.
2. Regeneration of existing vegetation within in the park in association with development of a program that reduces white-tail deer population within the park.
3. Development of prioritized and aggressive management of cultural resources and features that respect the issue of sustainability.
4. Development and installation of new wayside exhibits needed to convey accurate and compelling battlefield stories.
5. Relocation of specific trail segments that regularly erode and require repair.
6. Management of different vegetation communities through use of prescribed fire, grazing, mowing, and herbicide application in specific areas, using specific protocols.
7. Management of Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) currently shading out glade habitat areas.
8. Rehabilitation of glade areas to promote habitat for the federally-listed threatened Missouri bladderpod (*Lesquerella filiformis*).
9. Management of crop exhibits and orchard exhibits with deer presence in the park.
10. Development and installation of new trails, interpreted viewsheds, contemplative/interpretive nodes, and exhibit design for cultural features present at the time of the battle but no longer extant.

Alternatives

The No Action alternative and one Action alternative were analyzed for this environmental assessment.

Alternative 1: No Action – The No Action alternative consists of continuing existing and ongoing management strategies and includes CLR recommendations implemented since 2004.

Alternative 2: Action and NPS Preferred – This alternative implements remaining CLR treatment recommendations and includes a program for management of the white-tail deer population, expanded interpretive trails, waysides, cannons, viewshed, and contemplative nodes, and vegetation management strategies based on the *Vegetation Management Implementation Plan* (2014) and interpretive programs indicated in the *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (2005).

Impact Topics Analyzed

The following impact topics were analyzed in this environmental assessment to determine the potential effects that would occur as a result of implementation of each of the alternatives:

- Soils and Geology
- Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands
- Water Resources and Floodplains
- Water Quality
- Vegetation
- Wildlife
- White-tailed Deer
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Air Quality
- Archeological Resources
- Historic Buildings and Structures
- Cultural Landscapes
- Historic Viewsheds
- Visitor Use and Experience
- Human Health and Safety

No impairment to park resources and no adverse effects per the Section 106 process is expected under the proposed alternatives. Please refer to **Table 2-1** through **2-4** for descriptions of proposed mitigation measures.

Environmental Review Process

Following public review of this plan and assessment of public comments, either a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) or a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement will be prepared. If a FONSI is prepared, it would document the NPS selection of an alternative for implementation, include any necessary errata sheet(s) for factual changes required in the document and would include responses to substantive comments by agencies, organizations, and the general public. Once the FONSI is signed by the NPS regional director it would be made available to the public. Implementation of the selected action would occur as resources allow.

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Chapter 1 – Purpose and Need

1.1 Introduction

The National Park Service (NPS) is considering a series of actions in association with the treatment recommendations developed in the 2004 Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield. In September 2004, a CLR was prepared that included treatment recommendations and guidelines to provide park staff with a long-term vision for protecting, managing, sustaining, and interpreting the park’s cultural landscape. The treatment recommendations for Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield provide resource protection measures for the site as well as specific guidance for individual resources. A number of treatment recommendations have been implemented since 2004 and are part of the current existing conditions within the park. Actions implemented since 2004 were determined as categorically excluded or were addressed incrementally through the NEPA compliance process and determined to have no adverse environmental impacts. (Implemented projects are described in detail in the Updated Cultural Landscape Report in the appendix of this document.) The CLR treatments and actions strive to balance park requirements for protection of the battlefield through integrated cultural and natural resource management with enhancement of commemorative and contemplative qualities through installation of contemporary features and activities for visitor enjoyment, comfort, and safety.

The purpose for preparing the Environmental Assessment (EA) is to identify and disclose the potential impacts of a reasonable range of alternatives developed to address remaining actions not yet implemented from the CLR and in association with the *Natural Resource Management and Inventory Monitoring Program* plans focused on native vegetation and white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) population, and the *Vegetation Management Implementation Plan* (2014). The EA facilitates identifying one “Action Alternative” plus determining the potential impacts and recommended mitigation measures related to its implementation. As part of an EA, describing a “No Action Alternative” is required by CEQ. The EA addresses short-term construction-related impacts and long-term impacts, as well as the cumulative impacts that would result from this and

other projects that have been recently completed, are currently under development, or proposed within the park.

Overall actions addressed as part of the EA process include:

- Rehabilitation and restoration of the natural systems to support preservation of the site's cultural resources and historic integrity;
- Enhancement of visual accessibility through the removal of the existing weedy thickets and densely wooded areas;
- Rehabilitation of historic prairie and savanna plant communities and rehabilitation of the glade communities;
- Reduction in the number of resident deer to meet carrying capacity targets; and
- Development and installation of trails, wayside exhibits, cannons, viewsheds, and contemplative nodes;
- Construction of an equestrian parking area to enhance recreational opportunities.

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared the EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA [40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1500-1508], the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), NPS Director's Order-12 (as reflected in the DO-12 Handbook); and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended, and implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800. The NEPA process is being used to comply with Section 106.

1.2 Relationship to Park Planning Efforts

The planning team relied on the park's previous planning documents for guidance in developing the alternatives. Documents include: *Cultural Landscape Report for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield* (2004); *General Management Plan: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield* (2003); *General Management Plan Amendment* (2007); *Long Range Interpretive Plan* (2009); *Vegetation Management Implementation Plan* (2014); *Fire Management Plan and Environmental Assessment* (1986, 2004); and *Deer Inventory and Monitoring Data* (NPS Heartland I & M Network 2005 – Present/Ongoing). Combined, these documents provide Wilson's Creek National Battlefield with a vision and clear direction for the protection of the park's cultural landscape in order to sustain

long-term management and interpretation and the preservation of the overall character of the park with priorities on natural and cultural resource conditions and visitor use and experiences.

1.3 Park Background

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield encompasses 2,369 acres and preserves 2,011 acres of the battleground; 172 acres are protected by Ozark Greenways, Inc., in easement outside park boundaries. The battlefield is located approximately 10 miles southwest of Springfield, Missouri, in Greene and Christian Counties. Most visitors drive along the 4.9-mile tour road and stop at eight pullouts featuring the major historic points of the battle. The park is popular not only as an historic site, but for recreational uses such as horseback riding, hiking, biking, and jogging.

Interpretation and visitor services are focused at the visitor center, which offers a 30-minute film overview of the battle, permanent exhibits of the battle and the war in the Trans-Mississippi theater, a gift shop, rotating interpretive exhibits, and a multipurpose room used for special programs and exhibits.

1.4 Park Purpose and Significance

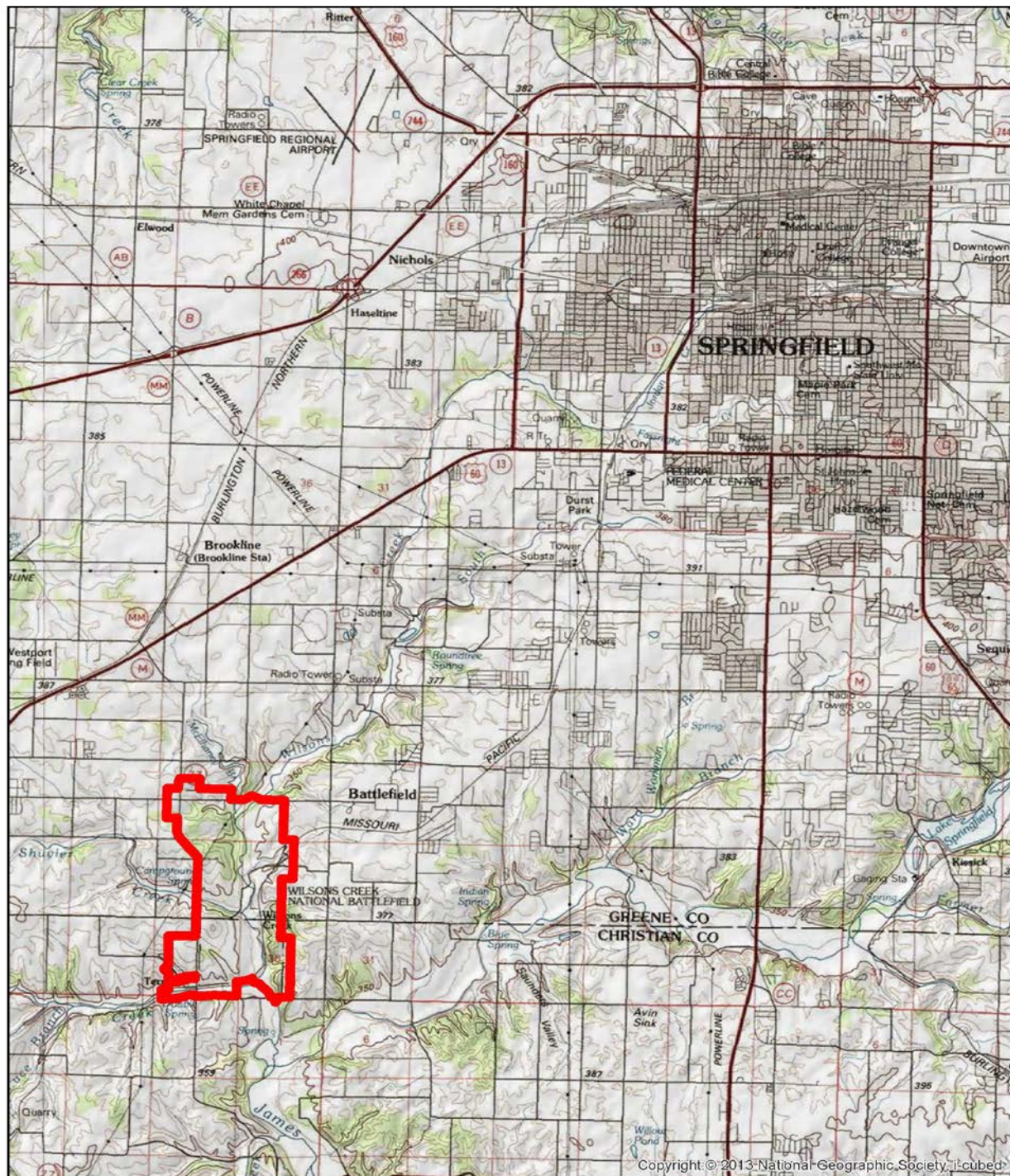
The purpose statement for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on April 22, 1960. The purpose statement was changed in the *GMP Amendment* (2007) as a result of the addition of the General Sweeny Museum collections that allowed the park to interpret the battle within the context of the Trans-Mississippi theater.



Figure 1-1: Artifacts and archival collections are housed at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center and Museum.



Figure 1-2: The Ray house and orchard offer interpretive opportunities to enhance the visitor experience.



Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Boundary 2017

1 **Map 1-1**

2

The purpose of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is to commemorate the Battle of Wilson's Creek, preserve the associated battlefield, and interpret the battle within the context of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West.¹

The 2007 General Management Plan Amendment outlines the park's primary significance as the following:

- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is significant as the site of the second battle of the Civil War and the first major battle west of the Mississippi River.
- Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is the site of the death of General Nathaniel Lyon, the first Union general killed in the Civil War. Lyon's death focused national attention on the potential loss of Missouri to the Confederacy.
- Wilson's Creek rural character evokes the setting experienced by the combatants.
- The artifacts and archival records in Wilson's Creek National Battlefield's museum collections represent a nationally prominent and comprehensive documentation of the Civil War in the Trans-Mississippi West.

1.5 Purpose and Need for the Plan

The purpose of the proposed action is to help fulfill the mandate of protection and management of fundamental park resources and values including the cultural landscape and features present at the time of the Battle of Wilson's Creek or evocative of the landscape that those present at the battle would have experienced.²

The CLR (2004) provided treatment recommendations and guidelines articulating a vision for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield that addressed 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. Changes made through the implementation of treatment recommendations will provide park visitors with a stronger understanding and meaningful relationship to the Civil War Battle fought onsite. Proposed changes will also provide park visitors

¹ *Foundation Document: Wilson's Creek National Battlefield*, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, January 2017, p.5.

² *Ibid*, p.7.

with additional enjoyable outdoor experiences that will coincide with enhanced stewardship of the park's significant natural and cultural resources.

The project is needed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Consideration of visitor safety needs associated with the interface of deer and visitor use of the park and surrounding roads;
- Regeneration of existing vegetation within the park in association with development of a program that reduces white-tail deer population within the park;
- Development of prioritized and aggressive management of cultural resources and features that respect the issue of sustainability;
- Consideration of haying as one of the tools of sustainable vegetation management, including within warm season grass fields;
- Development and installation of new wayside exhibits needed to convey accurate and compelling battlefield stories;
- Relocation of specific trail segments that regularly erode and require repair;
- Management of different vegetation communities through use of prescribed fire, grazing, mowing, and herbicide application in specific areas, using specific protocols;
- Management of Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) currently shading out glade habitat areas;
- Rehabilitation of glade areas to promote habitat for the federally-listed threatened Missouri bladderpod (*Lesquerella filiformis*);
- Management of crop exhibits and orchard exhibits with deer presence in the park;
- Development and installation of new trails, interpreted viewsheds, contemplative/interpretive nodes, and exhibit design for cultural features present at the time of the battle but no longer extant.

1.6 Public Process

An internal scoping meeting was held at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield on November 14–15, 2016, and included NPS and park staff and the project team members from Commonwealth Heritage Group (CHG) and Liz Sargent HLA (LSHLA). The meeting focused on CLR treatment recommendations implemented since 2004,, implications for the EA, and park goals, objectives,

and needs identified since 2004 to be accommodated in the preferred alternative. Stakeholder groups were identified in the meeting and include the following:

- Executive Director of Ozark Greenways, Incorporated, Springfield, Missouri
- Southwest Missouri Council of Governments, Springfield, Missouri
- Judith Deel, Archeologist, Missouri Department of Natural Resources (SHPO Office), Jefferson City, Missouri
- Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC)
- Missouri Department of Transportation (District 8)
- Greene County Highway Department, Springfield, Missouri
- City Administrator, City of Republic, Missouri
- Transportation Department, City of Springfield, Missouri
- Department of Planning and Development, City of Springfield, Missouri
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- THPO/Tribe representatives
- Bicycle Club, Springfield, Missouri
- Wilson's Creek N.B. Foundation
- Equestrian Riders
- Public School District
- Air Quality, Water Quality, Waste Management, City of Springfield, Missouri
- Fort Leonard Wood Training Center
- Civil War Trust
- Sons of Union Veterans
- Sons of Confederate Veterans
- Civil War Roundtable

All identified stakeholders will receive letters of invitation to the public meeting scheduled for the fall of 2017, to review the draft EA.

A public open house was held at the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center on the evening of November 15, 2016. The purpose of the open house was to introduce the project to interested friends, neighbors, visitors, and recreational users of the park and provide the project

team and park staff additional input from the community. One person attended the meeting and contributed insight and suggestions for the expansion and or realignment of some equestrian trails. The park superintendent also received email comments from members of the community unable to attend the public meeting at the park.

Informal consultation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (SHPO Office) was initiated on January 31, 2017. Letters were sent from the park to both agencies, serving as notification that the park has begun the NEPA process and are proposing to have an EA available for public and regulatory review in the fall of 2017. (See Chapter 5: Consultation and Coordination for more detailed information)

Public input received during scoping was important in the development of the alternatives. The public scoping process helped the planning team understand the public's values and preferences regarding visitor experiences in the park including their concerns, issues and suggestions related to recreational use of the park, trail alignments and conditions, and deer management.

1.7 Impact Topics

Impact Topics Retained for Analysis

Impact topics are the resources of concern that may be affected by the range of alternatives reviewed in the EA. Specific impact topics were developed to ensure alternative comparison was based on the most relevant issues. Impact topics are derived from issues raised during scoping and from NPS guidelines concerning topics that should be taken under consideration when conducting NEPA and Section 106 analysis.

The following impact topics were retained for further analysis: soils and geology, prime and unique farmland, water resources/floodplains, water quality, vegetation, wildlife, white-tailed deer, threatened and endangered species, air quality, archeological resources, historic buildings and structures, cultural landscapes, historic viewsheds, visitor use and experience, and human health and safety. A brief rationale for the selection of each impact topic is provided and each impact topic is further discussed in detail in Chapter 3: Affected Environment.

Soils and Geology. The National Park Service actively seeks to understand and preserve the soil resources of parks, and to prevent to the extent possible, the erosion, physical removal, or contamination of the soil or its contamination of other resources. There is potential for soil

disturbances from the implementation of the alternatives. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands: Prime farmland soils and soils of statewide importance have been determined to be found at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Approximately 908 acres fall into the category and are currently being farmed as hayfields or other crop exhibits. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Water Resources and Floodplains. There are six unnamed springs within the park including the Double Spring parcel added to the southwest. There are three streams, Wilson's Creek, Terrell Creek, and Skegg's Branch. Flooding has periodic effects on the creek beds and adjacent vegetation and results in erosion and scoured or buried river banks. The watershed hydrology can be further affected by implementation of the alternatives. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis. Wetland mapping from USFWS shows wetlands associated only with the creeks and branches and their associated floodplains.

Water Quality. Currently, Wilson's Creek has poor water quality and is classified as a 303(d) stream (Missouri Department of Natural Resources 2009). Treatment recommendations in the alternatives would impact water quality and because of the ongoing concern for the conditions in Wilson's Creek, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Vegetation. Currently, the vegetation of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is approximately half open grassland and shrub land and half woodland and forest, about 90% of which is deciduous. Small, open glades support unique plant communities and prairie restoration efforts have helped establish native warm-season grasses in some areas. Vegetation within the picnic area and the visitor center/museum complexes is highly managed and manicured, with some proportion of non-native trees and shrubs. Also, there is a higher than desirable invasive non-native vegetation and problematic species at the park. Vegetation disturbance would occur and the introduction of more invasive non-native species is possible from activities implemented in the alternatives. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Wildlife. The landscape of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield supports a variety of wildlife. Disturbances from the implementation of the action alternative would impact critical wildlife and associated habitat. In addition, initiation of a program that diminishes deer population in the park is prescribed within the action alternative. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

1 **White-tailed Deer.** Due to increased development, altered ecosystems and concerns over visitor
2 safety at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, the deer population at the parks has been monitored
3 since 2005. Because of the growth in the deer population since 2005, there continues to be
4 accidents in the park due to the collisions of deer with vehicles and bicycles. Deer also destroy
5 vital vegetation within the cultural landscape of the battlefield. Therefore, this topic was retained
6 for further analysis.

7 **Threatened and Endangered Species.** Species of concern (flora and fauna) are present at
8 Wilson's Creek National Battlefield. Disturbances due to the implementation of the alternatives
9 would impact critical species on the site and within the site's regional context. Therefore, this
10 topic was retained for further analysis.

11 **Air Quality.** Wilson's Creek National Battlefield is designated as a Class II quality area, defined as
12 an area of the country set aside under the Clean Air Act but identified for somewhat less stringent
13 protection from air pollution damage than Class I areas. The Missouri Department of Natural
14 Resources Southwest Region, exempts authorized agencies in Christian and Green counties from
15 permitting requirements for prescribed burns for natural resource purposes. Due to vegetation
16 management techniques including prescribed burns outlined in the alternatives, this topic was
17 retained for further analysis.

18 **Archeological Resources.** Ground disturbing construction activities and vegetation removal
19 associated with implementation of the treatment alternatives have the potential to impact known
20 and yet undiscovered archeological resources. Therefore, this topic was retained as "cultural
21 resources for analysis" in the EA.

22 **Historic Buildings and Structures.** The future of historic structures within the landscape of
23 Wilson's Creek National Battlefield are key issues. Therefore, historic buildings and structures are
24 retained as "cultural resources for analysis" in the EA.

25 **Cultural Landscapes.** The preservation and integration of the cultural landscape into visitor use
26 and experience of the park and the interpretation of the landscape are key concerns in the CLR,
27 which contains several treatments and actions. Some actions may require ground disturbances or
28 removal of vegetation with potential impact to the cultural landscape of the park. Therefore, this
29 topic was retained for further analysis.

Historic Viewsheds. As part of interpretation at the park, views have been maintained at the east and west battlefield overlooks, at the Ray House precinct, and in association with various interpretive waysides. Alternatives recommend more clearing of historic viewsheds to better understand the battle in the landscape and to replicate the views of soldiers at the time of battle. Maintenance of established viewsheds and recommended vegetation clearing for new viewsheds have potential impacts on the site. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Visitor Use and Experience. The alternatives would impact overall visitor understanding of the entire landscape and the story of Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, including interpretive and educational opportunities. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Human Health and Safety. When recommended actions are implemented, visitor use could increase and with it, continual maintenance and management of facilities, trails, bridges, and roads, to ensure the safety and welfare of the public. Natural conditions of heat and weather-related storms and subsequent damage are also ongoing. Therefore, this topic was retained for further analysis.

Impact Topics Considered but Not Retained for Analysis

Environmental Justice. Presidential Executive Order 12898, General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, requires all federal agencies to incorporate environmental justice into their missions by identifying and addressing the disproportionately high and/or adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs and policies on minorities and low-income populations and communities. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies. The goal of fair treatment is not to shift risks among populations, but to identify potentially disproportionately high and adverse effects and identify alternatives that may mitigate these impacts.

The communities surrounding Wilson's Creek National Battlefield contain both minority and low-income populations; however, environmental justice is dismissed as an impact topic for the following reasons:

- Implementation of all alternatives would not result in any identifiable adverse human health effects. Therefore, there would be no direct or indirect adverse effects on any minority or low-income populations.
- The impacts associated with implementation of all alternatives would not disproportionately affect any minority or low-income population or community.
- Implementation of all alternatives would not result in any identified effects that would be specific to any minority or low-income community.
- The impacts to the socioeconomic environment resulting from implementation of any of the action alternatives would be beneficial. In addition, NPS and the planning team do not anticipate the impacts on the socioeconomic environment to alter the physical and social structure of the nearby communities.

Ethnographic Resources. Because no ethnographic resources or traditional cultural properties exist in the areas under consideration in this document, this topic has been dismissed from further analysis.

Indian Trust Resources. Indian trust resources include tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights. Any anticipated impacts to Indian trust resources that would result from a federal action must be explicitly addressed in environmental documents. There are no Indian trust resources within the boundaries of Wilson' Creek National Battlefield. Therefore, this topic has been dismissed from further consideration.

Museum Collections. The actions described in the alternatives would have no impact on museum collections. Therefore, this topic has been dismissed from further analysis.

Carbon Footprint. For the purposes of this planning effort, "carbon footprint" is defined as the sum of all emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, including methane and ozone, that would result from implementation of the action alternative. Understanding the carbon footprint of the alternatives is important for determining contribution to climate change. This impact topic was dismissed from further analysis for several reasons: 1) no changes would occur in the way visitors reach the project area as a result of the alternatives; 2) the minimal new developments proposed in the project area would not noticeably increase greenhouse gas emissions; and 3) newer sustainable building practices should help limit additional greenhouse gas emissions.

1 **Natural Soundscape.** An important part of the NPS mission is preservation of natural
2 soundscapes associated with national park units as indicated in NPS Management Policies, 2006,
3 and Director's Order 47: Sound Preservation and Noise Management. There is development
4 south of the park around the town of Clever, MO and other areas that has contributed to
5 increased traffic on Highway ZZ. However, the action alternative does not introduce additional
6 noise and traffic from visitors and park staff. Because the alternative would not increase noise
7 levels, natural soundscapes was dismissed as an impact topic.

8 **Lightscape.** In accordance with NPS Management Policies, 2006, the NPS strives to preserve
9 natural ambient lightscapes, which are natural resources and values that exist in the absence of
10 human-caused light. There has been an addition to the lightscape due to the construction of
11 sports fields associated with the high school north of the park. The lighting is associated only
12 with periodic events at night and are not a permanent disruption to the night sky. The action
13 alternative would not increase any use of night lighting, specifically at the visitor center and the
14 entrance to the site. Therefore, lightscape was dismissed as an impact topic.

15 **Natural or Depletable Energy Resource Requirements and Conservation Potential.** In
16 accordance with NPS Management policies, 2006, and Executive Orders 12873 and 12902, there
17 are requirements in everything the NPS does that will have some small affect in improving our
18 environmental footprint (green buying and sustainable building materials, etc.). However,
19 individual changes at Wilson's Creek National Battlefield are unlikely to have adverse impacts to
20 the wider universe of energy use and depletable resources. Therefore, this impact topic was
21 dismissed from further analysis.

