

## Chapter 7. Consultation and Coordination

### Scoping

1 An interdisciplinary team of professionals  
 2 from the park and the NPS Midwest Regional  
 3 Office met to conduct internal scoping  
 4 from April 25 to 28, 2017 and discuss the  
 5 purpose and need for the project, various  
 6 alternatives, potential environmental impacts,  
 7 impact topics to retain and dismiss, and  
 8 reasonably foreseeable actions that may have  
 9 cumulative effects. The team met again on  
 10 from February 12 to 14, 2018 to more fully  
 11 develop treatment alternatives and to identify  
 12 a preferred alternative.

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 14 The park sent letters describing the proposed  
 15 action and asking for comments to interested  
 16 individuals; organizations; state, county, and  
 17 local governments; and federal agencies.  
 18 American Indian tribes also were sent an  
 19 informational letter describing the project  
 20 and asking for comments. See Appendix B,  
 21 Consultation and Coordination for letters.

### 22 23 **Agency Consultation**

#### 24 25 **Section 106 of the National Historic** 26 **Preservation Act**

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 28 Agencies that have direct or indirect  
 29 jurisdiction over historic properties are  
 30 required by section 106 of the National  
 31 Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as  
 32 amended (16 USC 470, et seq.), to take into  
 33 account the effect of any undertaking on  
 34 properties listed in or eligible for listing in  
 35 the national register. Compliance with section  
 36 106 of the NHPA is being conducted through  
 37 ongoing consultation with the Arkansas  
 38 SHPO and park-affiliated American Indian  
 39 tribes. (See the “Consultation with American  
 40 Indians” section below.)

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 42 To meet the requirements of section 106, on  
 43 November 7, 2017, NPS sent the Arkansas  
 44 SHPO a letter describing the proposed project

45 and soliciting comment on the alternatives.  
 46 NPS will continue to coordinate with SHPO  
 47 to determine the effects of the action  
 48 alternatives on historic resources and to  
 49 develop mitigation for impacts on historical  
 50 features, if any, from the preferred alternative.

### 51 52 **Consultation with American Indians** 53

54 As part of tribal consultation, scoping letters  
 55 were sent to federally recognized tribes for  
 56 consultation with BUFF on November 7,  
 57 2017, to determine if any ethnographic or  
 58 other resources are in the project area and  
 59 to inquire whether local tribes wanted to be  
 60 involved in the environmental compliance  
 61 process. NPS will forward this EA to the  
 62 same American Indian tribes and tribal  
 63 governments that are traditionally associated  
 64 with the area now containing the park:

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- 66 • Absentee Shawnee Tribe;
- 67 • Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma;
- 68 • Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma;
- 69 • Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma;
- 70 • Osage Tribe of Oklahoma;
- 71 • Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma,
- 72 • Shawnee Tribe;
- 73 • Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana;
- 74 • United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee  
 75 Nation, and;
- 76 • Wichita and Affiliated Tribes.

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 78 None of the proposed actions being  
 79 considered in this EA would impede, prevent,  
 80 or in any way negate treaty rights. The  
 81 options being proposed here would not affect  
 82 the harvesting of plants or plant materials,  
 83 hunting, fishing, or trapping rights.

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 85 To date, the American Indian tribes have  
 86 expressed no concerns or provided additional  
 87 information regarding ethnographic  
 88 resources or traditional uses. American

1 Indian tribes traditionally associated  
2 with the lands of the park will have an  
3 opportunity to review and comment on this  
4 EA. Consultations with Native American  
5 tribes will continue throughout the planning  
6 process to ensure that tribal concerns are  
7 considered and identified resources are  
8 protected.

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10 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Section 7**  
11 **Consultation**

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13 In accordance with section 7 of the  
14 Endangered Species Act, the park contacted  
15 USFWS in a letter dated November 7, 2017 to  
16 make them aware of the project and to solicit  
17 input on federally listed species or concern  
18 that may be affect by the proposed action.  
19 The park will continue to consult with the  
20 USFWS to determine the effects of the action  
21 alternatives on threatened and endangered  
22 species.

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