

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Environmental Assessment
General Management Plan

Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Oklahoma

The National Park Service (NPS) has prepared a general management plan / environmental assessment (GMP/EA) for Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma. Chickasaw National Recreation Area was authorized by an act of Congress on March 17, 1976 (Public Law 94-235). Part of Chickasaw National Recreation Area was originally set aside as Sulphur Springs Reservation in 1902, and then renamed and redesignated as Platt National Park in 1906. In 1976, Platt National Park, Arbuckle National Recreation Area, and additional lands were combined to establish Chickasaw National Recreation Area (PL 94-235). Congress established the national recreation area to protect its springs and waters, preserve areas of archeological or ethnological interest, provide outdoor recreation opportunities, protect scenic, scientific, natural, and historic values, and memorialize the Chickasaw Indian Nation. The national recreation area encompasses some 9,899 acres, of which Lake of the Arbuckles covers an average surface area of 3,127 acres.

The last comprehensive management plan for Chickasaw National Recreation Area was completed in 1979, with an amendment completed in 1994. Much has occurred since then — new facilities have been developed or are being developed, and patterns and types of visitor use continue to change. Each of these changes has implications for how visitors access and use the area, how these facilities need to be used to support those uses, how the area's resources are managed, and how the NPS staff operates the area. A new plan is needed to:

- Clearly define resource conditions and visitor experiences to be achieved in Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
- Provide a framework for NPS managers to use when making decisions about how to best protect national recreation area resources, how to provide a diverse range of visitor experience opportunities, how to manage visitor use, and what kinds of facilities, if any, to develop in Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
- Ensure that this foundation for decision making has been developed in consultation with interested stakeholders and adopted by the NPS leadership after an adequate analysis of the benefits, impacts, and economic costs of alternative courses of action.

The alternatives, which are based on Chickasaw National Recreation Area's purpose, significance, and special mandates, present different ways to manage resources and visitor use, and improve facilities and infrastructure at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Concerns identified during scoping and evaluated in the environmental assessment included: potential impacts to groundwater and flows of the area springs and Vendome Well, and surface water quality; spread of nonnative species and red cedar; use and types of visitor facilities; outdated maintenance and administrative facilities; and user capacity of the area.

Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative, Alternative B, is the selected alternative for implementation. The primary focus of this alternative will be on improving selected natural and cultural resources while enhancing visitor facilities and interpretive opportunities. Compared to the other alternatives considered, this alternative will provide a high level of protection to natural landscapes and cultural resources. The alternative will continue to offer a diversity of opportunities for visitor experiences. New facilities will be constructed in previously developed areas where possible. Disturbance to sensitive areas, such as threatened and endangered species habitat and archeological sites, will also be avoided or mitigated whenever possible.

Specific actions under this alternative will include the following:

- Chickasaw National Recreation Area will actively encourage a partnership to identify approaches to manage the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer. This will include increased monitoring, additional studies, and protection of recharge areas.
- Enhanced emphasis on preservation and protection of cultural resources (historic structures, cultural landscapes, archeological resources, ethnographic resources, and museum collections) will be provided. The *Cultural Landscape Report* will provide general guidance for the treatment of historic properties within the proposed Platt National Park Historic District.
- The bison pasture will be restored to prairie and the bison herd maintained at an appropriate size. A study will be completed to determine the possibility of introducing bison from the Platt District to the Upper Guy Sandy.
- The museum collections and archives that are currently housed at Chickasaw National Recreation Area in one of the maintenance area buildings will be moved to an appropriate site.
- The Travertine Nature Center will continue to focus on resource education, providing programs to school groups and the public, and there will be additional formal programs that more fully interpret primary interpretive themes.
- Up to two additional day use picnic shelters and the addition of shower facilities will be added to the Platt District.

- The Vendome Well will be managed to reduce the discharge of groundwater during times when it is not being used or enjoyed by the public.
- Improvements will be made to the Cold Springs campground, including adding vegetation to buffer campsites, making road repairs, improving drainage and rehabilitating the restroom facilities.
- The trail link from Central Campground to Flower Park will be reinstated.
- The Central campground and restroom facilities will be rehabilitated.
- New restrooms will be constructed and fishing dock facilities will be replaced at Veterans Lake. A trail link to the Rock Creek campground will be built and the universally accessible trail around the lake will be completed.
- The possibility of adding a recreational opportunity such as a horse camp, staging area, or group campsite at Veterans Lake will be considered.
- The maintenance and administrative operations will be relocated outside Chickasaw National Recreation Area or within Chickasaw National Recreation Area, but outside the historic district. The historic structures in the existing maintenance area will be adaptively rehabilitated and reused. Some of the nonhistoric structures will be removed or replaced.
- The trail system in the Rock Creek Corridor will be maintained and upgraded. There will be additional work to address erosion problems.
- At the Lake of the Arbuckles Area, commercial operations such as boat tours, ecotours, boat rentals, bus tours, and lakeside cabin rentals may be provided if there is sufficient interest and demand. Picnic shelters and new restrooms will be added and efforts will be made to restore areas along the lake that have been adversely affected by erosion.
- The Point and Buckhorn campgrounds will be maintained and operated with the current number of campsites. However, some of the sites that do not currently have utilities will be upgraded. There will be improvements to vegetative screening between campsites and trails in these areas. Parking within the campgrounds will be redesigned to better limit impacts. New restrooms at picnic areas near the lake will be constructed. A new restroom with showers will be constructed and the entrance road to the campground will be upgraded at the Point campground. The Buckhorn campground amphitheater and electrical service will also be upgraded.
- The Guy Sandy campground will be improved. Dock area restrooms will also be improved. A picnic shelter with additional picnic sites will be provided for day users.

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

- There will be no changes in management of the Goddard Youth Camp. It will continue to be managed under a special use permit that recognizes compliance with NPS standards.
- The Upper Guy Sandy area will continue to be restored to natural conditions.

Other Alternatives

Two other alternatives were considered for Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Alternative A (no action) consists of the continuation of existing national recreation area management and trends, and serves as the basis for evaluating the other alternatives. Under alternative A the National Park Service would have continued to manage Chickasaw National Recreation Area as it has since the approval of the 1979 General Management Plan Supplement and the 1994 amendment. There would have been no major change in the management of Chickasaw National Recreation Area under this alternative. All facilities and resource programs would have continued as they have. With the exception of the approved and funded visitor center near Vendome Well, no new facilities would have been built.

Management under alternative C would have focused on the protection and restoration of natural and cultural resources. Of the alternatives considered, alternative C would have provided the highest level of protection of natural landscapes and a high level of protection to cultural resources. There would have been fewer facilities and a narrower range of visitor opportunities, although there would have been a better opportunity to experience resources in relatively natural or recovering conditions. Some roads or trails would have been removed and revegetated. Some new facilities would have been built, but generally they would have been placed outside Chickasaw National Recreation Area or in previously developed areas.

Mitigative Measures

Congress charged the National Park Service with managing the lands under its stewardship “in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (NPS Organic Act, 16 USC 1). As a result, NPS staff routinely evaluates and implements mitigation whenever conditions occur that could adversely affect the sustainability of national park system resources.

To ensure that implementation of the alternative protects unimpaired natural and cultural resources and the quality of the visitor experience, a consistent set of mitigation measures will be applied to actions proposed in this plan. The National Park Service will prepare appropriate environmental review (i.e., those required by NEPA, NHPA, and other relevant legislation) for these future actions. As part of the environmental review, the National Park Service will avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts when practicable. The implementation of a compliance-monitoring program will be within the parameters of NEPA and NHPA compliance documents, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permits, etc. The compliance-monitoring program will oversee these mitigation measures and will include reporting protocols.

The following mitigation measures and best management practices will be applied to avoid or minimize potential impacts from implementation of the alternative.

Natural Resources

General

- Chickasaw National Recreation Area's resources, including air, water, soils, vegetation, and wildlife, will be inventoried and monitored to provide information needed to avoid or minimize impacts of future development. Any museum collections generated by such activities will be managed according to NPS policies.
- Whenever possible, new facilities will be built in previously disturbed areas or in carefully selected sites with as small a construction footprint as possible. During design and construction periods, NPS natural resource staff will identify areas to be avoided.
- Fencing or other means will be used to protect sensitive resources adjacent to construction areas.
- Construction activities will be monitored by resource specialists as needed.
- Construction materials will be kept in work areas, especially if the construction takes place near streams, springs, natural drainages, or other water bodies.
- All food-related items or rubbish will be removed.
- Visitors will be informed of the importance of protecting Chickasaw National Recreation Area's natural resources (including paleontological resources) and leaving these resources undisturbed for the enjoyment of future generations.

Air Quality

- A dust abatement program will be implemented. Standard dust abatement measures could include: watering or otherwise stabilizing soils, covering haul trucks, employing speed limits on unpaved roads, minimizing vegetation clearing, and revegetating after construction.

Soils

- New facilities will be built on soils suitable for development. Soil erosion will be minimized by limiting the time soil is left exposed and by applying other erosion-control measures such as erosion matting, silt fencing, and sedimentation basins in construction areas to reduce erosion, surface scouring, and discharge to water bodies. Once work was completed, construction areas will be revegetated with native plants in a timely period.
- To minimize soil erosion on new trails, best management practices for trail construction will be used. Examples of best management practices could include installing water bars, check dams and retaining walls, contouring to avoid erosion, and minimizing soil disturbance.

Paleontological Resources

- Site-specific surveys will be undertaken before any ground disturbance occurs in areas believed likely to contain fossils. If important paleontological resources were

identified, the National Park Service will attempt to avoid, relocate, or otherwise mitigate impacts from the actions being taken. Any specimens found and collected during construction activities will be managed according to NPS museum collection policies.

- To the extent possible, efforts will be undertaken to inform and educate visitors, students, teachers, and the public about Chickasaw National Recreation Area's paleontological resources, the reasons for protecting these resources, and the laws regarding the collection of fossils from NPS lands.

Water Resources (including Floodplains and Wetlands)

- To prevent water pollution during construction, erosion control measures will be used, discharges to water bodies will be minimized, and construction equipment will be regularly inspected for leaks of petroleum and other chemicals.
- Best management practices, such as the use of silt fences, will be followed to ensure that construction-related effects were minimal and to prevent long-term impacts on water quality, wetlands, and aquatic species.
- Caution will be exercised to protect water resources from activities with the potential to damage water resources, including damage caused by construction equipment, erosion, and siltation. Measures will be taken to keep fill material from escaping work areas, especially near streams, springs, natural drainages, wetlands, and lakes.
- For new facilities, such as campgrounds, and to the extent practicable for existing facilities, stormwater management measures will be implemented to reduce nonpoint source pollution discharge from parking lots and other impervious surfaces. Such actions could include oil/sediment separators, street sweeping, infiltration beds, and use of permeable surfaces; and vegetated or natural filters to trap or filter stormwater runoff.
- Chickasaw National Recreation Area's spill prevention and pollution control program for hazardous materials will be followed and updated on a regular basis. Standard measures could include hazardous materials storage and handling procedures; spill containment, cleanup, and reporting procedures; and limitation of refueling and other hazardous activities to upland / nonsensitive sites.
- Wetlands potentially affected by new facilities will be delineated by qualified NPS staff or certified wetland specialists and clearly marked before construction work. All new facilities will be sited to avoid wetlands, or if that is not practicable, to otherwise comply with Executive Order 11990 ("Protection of Wetlands") and regulations of the Clean Water Act.
- New structures will be located outside of floodplains whenever possible. A statement of findings for floodplains will be prepared if a new facility must be located in a floodplain.

Vegetation

- Areas used by visitors (e.g., trails) will be monitored for signs of native vegetation disturbance. Public education, revegetation of disturbed areas with native plants, erosion control measures, and barriers will be used to control potential impacts on plants from trail erosion or social trailing.

- Proposed sites for new trails, campsites, and other facilities will be surveyed for sensitive species before construction. If sensitive species were present, new developments will be relocated to avoid impacts.
- Revegetation plans will be developed for disturbed areas. Revegetation plans should specify such features as seed/ plant source, seed/plant mixes, soil preparation, fertilizers, and mulching. Salvage vegetation, rather than new planting or seeding, will be used to the maximum extent possible. To maintain genetic integrity, whenever possible native plants that grow in the project area or the region will be used in restoration efforts. Use of nonnative species or genetic materials will be considered only where deemed necessary to maintain a cultural landscape or to prevent severe resource damage, and will be approved by Chickasaw National Recreation Area's natural resource specialist. Restoration activities will be instituted immediately after construction was completed. Monitoring will occur to ensure that revegetation was successful, plantings were maintained, and unsuccessful plant materials were replaced.
- Whenever possible, specimen trees will be retained and protected from construction-related damage. Trees removed during construction will be used in trail construction, mulch, or other construction material, or will remain on-site as habitat.

Exotic Species

- Special attention will be devoted to preventing the spread of noxious weeds and other nonnative plants. Standard measures could include the following elements: ensure construction-related equipment arrives on-site free of mud or feed-bearing material, certify all seeds and straw material as weed-free, identify areas of noxious weeds before construction, treat noxious weeds or noxious weed topsoil before construction (e.g., topsoil segregation, storage, herbicide treatment), and revegetate with appropriate native species.
- If horses are permitted to stay overnight in Chickasaw National Recreation Area, they will be required to eat certified weed-free fodder.
- Efforts to control introduction and spread of nonnative animals will be implemented.

Wildlife

- To the extent possible, new or rehabilitated facilities will be sited to avoid sensitive wildlife habitats, including feeding and resting areas, major travel corridors, nesting areas, and sensitive amphibian habitat.
- Construction activities will be timed to avoid sensitive periods, such as nesting or spawning seasons. Ongoing visitor use and NPS operational activities could be restricted if their potential level of damage or disturbance warranted doing so.
- Measures will be taken to reduce the potential for wildlife to get food from humans. Wildlife-proof garbage containers will be required in developed areas (including visitor centers, picnic areas, trails, interpretive waysides, and campgrounds). Signs will continue to educate visitors about the need to refrain from feeding wildlife.
- Other visitor impacts on wildlife will be addressed through such techniques as visitor education programs, restrictions on visitor activities, and ranger patrols.

Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern

Conservation measures will occur during normal operations as well as before, during, and after construction to minimize long-term immediate impacts on rare, threatened, and endangered species. These measures will vary by specific project and the affected area of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Many of the measures listed above for vegetation and wildlife will also benefit rare, threatened, and endangered species by helping to preserve habitat. Conservation measures specific to rare, threatened, and endangered species will include the following:

- Surveys will be conducted for special status species, including rare, threatened, and endangered species, before deciding to take any action that might cause harm. In consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, measures will be taken to protect any sensitive species whether identified through surveys or presumed to occur.
- If breeding or nesting areas for threatened and endangered species were observed in Chickasaw National Recreation Area, these areas will be protected from human disturbance.
- New facilities and management actions will be located and/or designed to avoid adverse effects on rare, threatened, and endangered species. If avoidance of adverse effects on rare, threatened, and endangered species is not possible, appropriate conservation measures will be taken in consultation with the appropriate resource agencies.
- Restoration and/or monitoring plans will be developed as warranted. Plans should include methods for implementation, performance standards, monitoring criteria, and adaptive management techniques.
- Measures will be taken to reduce adverse effects of nonnative plants and wildlife on rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- No trees will be removed that are being used by bald eagles for roosting.

Noise Abatement

- Standard noise abatement measures will be followed during construction. Standard noise abatement measures could include the following elements: a schedule that minimizes impacts on adjacent noise-sensitive resources, the use of the best available noise control techniques wherever feasible, the use of hydraulically or electrically powered impact tools when feasible, and the location of stationary noise sources as far from sensitive resources as possible.
- Facilities will be located and designed to minimize objectionable noise.
- Personal watercraft users will be encouraged to use the new quieter vehicles currently being produced.

Cultural Resources

All projects with the potential to affect historic properties will be carried out in compliance with Section 106 of NHPA to ensure that the effects are adequately addressed. All reasonable measures will be taken to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects in consultation with the

Oklahoma state historic preservation officer and, as necessary, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and other concerned parties, including American Indian tribes. In addition to adhering to the legal and policy requirements for cultural resources protection and preservation, the National Park Service will also undertake the following measures as required to further protect or mitigate resources potentially at risk of disturbance because of implementing proposed actions:

- All areas selected for construction will be surveyed to ensure that cultural resources (e.g., archeological, historic, ethnographic, and cultural landscape resources) in the area of potential effects are adequately identified and protected. Compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) will apply in the unlikely event that human remains believed to be Native American would be discovered inadvertently during construction. Prompt notification and consultation with the tribes traditionally associated with Chickasaw National Recreation Area will occur in accordance with NAGPRA. If such human remains were believed to be non-Indian, standard reporting procedures to the proper authorities will be followed, as will all applicable federal, state, and local laws.
- Archeological documentation will be done in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation.
- New facilities will be constructed in previously disturbed areas. Archeological surveys and/or monitoring, as appropriate, will precede any construction to ensure that potential impacts to archeological resources will be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent.
- As necessary, archeological monitoring will accompany ground-disturbing construction activities in areas of high resource probability or sensitivity to assist with the identification and protection of discovered resources.
- Should construction unearth previously unknown archeological resources, work will stop in the area of discovery until the resources were properly recorded by the National Park Service and evaluated under the eligibility criteria of the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with Section 106 procedures. Data recovery excavations and/or other mitigating measures will be carried out where site avoidance is not possible.
- New construction and/or alterations and rehabilitation of historic structures will be sensitively carried out in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation to ensure that character-defining features are protected.
- Vegetation screening and sensitive topographic and/or other site selection criteria will be used to minimize the visual intrusion of new construction on historic viewsheds or in historic areas.
- Ethnographic resources will be protected and mitigated by such means as identifying and maintaining access for recognized groups to traditional, spiritual/ceremonial, or resource gathering and activity areas. As practical, new developments will be screened from these areas, and conflicting uses will be relocated or timed to minimize disruptions.
- Cultural landscape rehabilitation measures might include vegetation thinning, removal of exotic species, removing noncontributing or nonhistoric structures and landscape features, and incorporating compatible designs for new construction.

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

- Further background research, resource inventories, and National Register of Historic Places evaluation of historic properties will be carried out where management information is lacking. The results of these efforts will be incorporated into site-specific planning and compliance documents.
- All options for preserving historic properties will be considered and evaluated. However, if historic buildings, structures, or landscapes could not be reasonably preserved, historical and architectural documentation will be completed in accordance with the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER), and/or the Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS). The nature and scope of these mitigation measures will be developed in consultation with the Oklahoma state historic preservation officer, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other concerned parties.
- No national-register-listed or eligible structure will be removed or allowed to decay naturally (molder) without prior review by recreation area and regional cultural resource specialists, including approval by the regional director and consultation with the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office. Before a national-register-listed or eligible structure is removed or allowed to molder, appropriate documentation recording the structure will be prepared in accordance with Section 110(b) of NHPA and the documentation submitted to the HABS/HAER/HALS program.
- Visitors will be educated on the importance of protecting Chickasaw National Recreation Area's historic properties and leaving these undisturbed for the enjoyment of future visitors.
- Artifacts and cultural materials will be carefully protected according to NPS guidelines and policies to minimize the risk of loss, theft, and/or disturbance.
- New facilities will be constructed in previously disturbed areas. However, archeological surveys and/or monitoring, as appropriate, will precede any construction to ensure that potential impacts to archeological resources will be avoided or minimized to the greatest extent possible.

Visitor Safety and Experiences

- A traffic control plan will be implemented, as warranted. Standard measures will include strategies to maintain safe and efficient traffic flow during road construction periods.
- Measures to reduce adverse effects of construction on visitor safety and experience will be implemented.
- Visitor safety concerns will be integrated into interpretative and educational programs. Directional signs and education programs to promote understanding among visitors will continue.
- An accessibility study will be conducted to understand barriers to recreation area programs and facilities. Based on this study, a strategy to provide the maximum level of accessibility will be implemented.

Scenic Resources

Mitigation measures are designed to minimize visual intrusions. These include the following:

- Where appropriate, facilities such as boardwalks and fences will be used to route people away from sensitive natural and cultural resources, while still permitting access to important viewpoints.
- Facilities will be designed, sited, and constructed to avoid or minimize visual intrusion into the natural and/or cultural landscape.
- Vegetative screening will be provided, where appropriate.

Sustainable Design and Aesthetics

- Projects will avoid or minimize adverse impacts on natural and cultural resources.
- Development projects (e.g., buildings, facilities, utilities, roads, bridges, and trails, etc.) or reconstruction projects (e.g., road reconstruction, building rehabilitation, and utility upgrades) will be designed to work in harmony with the surroundings, particularly in historic districts.
- Projects will reduce, minimize, or eliminate air and water nonpoint source pollution.
- Projects will be sustainable whenever practicable by recycling and reusing materials, minimizing materials, minimizing energy consumption during the project, and minimizing energy consumption throughout the lifespan of the project.

Socioeconomic Environment

- During the future planning and implementation of the approved management plan for Chickasaw National Recreation Area, NPS staff will work with local communities and county governments to further identify potential impacts and mitigation measures that will best serve the interests and concerns of both the National Park Service and the local communities.
- Partnerships will be pursued to improve the quality and diversity of community amenities and services.

Environmentally Preferred Alternative

The environmentally preferred alternative is defined as “the alternative that will promote national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act.” Section 101 states that it is the continuing responsibility of the federal government to . . .:

- fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;
- assure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

- attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences;
- preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage; and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and a variety of individual choices;
- achieve a balance between population and resource use which will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

The environmentally preferable alternative is the NPS preferred alternative for Chickasaw National Recreation Area in this GMP. This alternative satisfies the national environmental goals: the alternative provides a high level of protection of natural and cultural resources while concurrently providing for a wide range of neutral and beneficial uses of the environment. The alternative maintains an environment that supports a diversity and variety of individual choices, and it integrates resource protection with an appropriate range of visitor uses and understanding.

The preferred alternative (alternative B) surpasses the other alternatives in realizing the full range of the §101 national environmental policy goals. The no-action alternative does not provide as much resource protection as the preferred alternative — more resource impacts would have been expected in the no-action alternative. Thus, compared to the preferred alternative, the no-action alternative does not meet the following national environmental policy goals either:

- attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation
- preserve important natural aspects and maintain an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice
- achieve a balance between population and resource use

Alternative C provides for higher levels of natural resource protection; however, there would have been reduced visitor use in Chickasaw National Recreation Area compared with the preferred alternative. Thus, compared to the preferred alternative, alternative C does not meet the following national environmental goals as well:

- attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation
- maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and a variety of individual choices
- achieve a balance between population and resource use

Why the Preferred Alternative will not Have a Significant Effect on the Human Environment

As defined in 40 CFR §1508.27, significance is determined by examining the following criteria:

Impacts that may be both beneficial and adverse

None of the impacts identified for the preferred alternative will result in more than a moderate level impact (although the impacts to the flows of the national recreation area's springs were identified as being beneficial but of unknown magnitude). Moderate beneficial impacts for the preferred alternative were identified for ethnographic resources, due to improvements to trail access, and museum collections, due to the addition of more space and improved conditions. But most impacts identified for the preferred alternative were negligible to minor in intensity. Most minor to moderate impacts were beneficial and included impacts to: soils due to improvements to trails, the Cold Springs campground, and shoreline restoration work around Lake of the Arbuckles, vegetation due to restoration efforts; wildlife populations due to continuing efforts to restore prairie and forest in the Upper Guy Sandy area; ethnographic resources due to water monitoring efforts; visitor experiences due to additional opportunities for visitors in the national recreation area; and national recreation area operations. Minor to moderate adverse impacts were identified to the natural soundscape in local areas due to construction and restoration activities; and to museum collections and archives due to the change in their location, causing inconvenience for researchers and staff.

Degree of effect on public health or safety

Visitor safety will remain a priority under the preferred alternative. None of the actions proposed in the preferred alternative will adversely affect public health or safety. Indeed, several of the actions will beneficially affect public health and safety, including: increasing park ranger presence in the Platt District and Lake of the Arbuckles areas, repairing roads at the Cold Springs campground, maintaining and upgrading the Rock Creek trail system, and redesigning parking in the Point and Buckhorn areas.

Unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas

As described in the environmental assessment, Chickasaw National Recreation Area contains significant historic and cultural resources, and small wetlands along streams, springs, and other water bodies. All of the area's springs will continue to be protected and their flows monitored for potential adverse changes. No adverse effects will occur to cultural landscapes and historic structures, and no impacts to wetlands as a result of the alternative will be expected. Although prime farmland soils exist within Chickasaw National Recreation Area, primarily along or near drainages, the preferred alternative will not adversely affect these areas — no new developments will be proposed in these areas. No wild and scenic rivers, ecologically critical areas, or other unique characteristics are within the national recreation area boundaries.

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Degree to which effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial

None of the actions proposed in the preferred alternative have the potential to be highly controversial. This is supported by the fact that the planning team received only a handful of comments in response to the draft environmental assessment.

Degree to which the possible effects on the quality of the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks

Under the preferred alternative, action will be taken to control flows from the Vendome Well, which will be expected to have a long term beneficial impact on the flows of the national recreation area's springs. But due to a lack of information on the Arbuckle-Simpson aquifer and the impact of the Vendome Well on the aquifer, it is not possible to predict the extent of the impact. Likewise, it is not possible to predict the potential for cumulative impacts on the flow of the springs due to actions occurring outside the national recreation area. But these actions are independent of what is being proposed in the preferred alternative. (Actions being proposed in the preferred alternative, such as encouraging a partnership to identify approaches to manage the aquifer, will be expected to help reduce the uncertainty and risks to the aquifer and the springs.)

Degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration

No actions are proposed in the preferred alternative that are inconsistent with the enabling legislation for Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The preferred alternative will not set any NPS precedent for future actions with significant effects, nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration.

Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts

As noted in the environmental assessment, there could be long term adverse cumulative impacts of unknown magnitude to the recreation area's paleontological resources and to the aquifer and the flow of the springs. However, the actions proposed in the preferred alternative will add a very small increment to the overall adverse cumulative impacts, most of which will be due to actions independent of the preferred alternative (with the possible exception of the changes in the operation of the Vendome Well, which will add a beneficial increment of unknown magnitude to the overall cumulative adverse impact). In addition, when the adverse and beneficial impacts of the preferred alternative are added to actions that have occurred, and are likely to occur, in the area surrounding Chickasaw National Recreation Area, there will be a major, long-term, adverse cumulative impact on the area's native vegetation and native wildlife populations and habitats. But as noted in the environmental assessment, the actions in the preferred alternative will add both a small positive increment and a small negative increment to the overall impact, given how much change has already occurred to the vegetative communities and wildlife populations and habitats once present.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed on National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.

As described in the environmental assessment, no significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources will be lost or destroyed as a result of the preferred alternative. Compliance with §106 of the National Historic Preservation Act was completed with a concurrence with the NPS determination of no historic properties effected by the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Office on July 16, 2007.

Degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its critical habitat

No federally listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the preferred alternative. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with the determination of no effect on threatened or endangered species on July 13, 2007.

Whether the action threatens a violation of Federal, state, or local environmental protection law

This action violates no federal, state, or local environmental protection laws.

Impairment

In analyzing impairments in conjunction with the NEPA analysis for this project, the National Park Service takes into account the fact that if an impairment were likely to occur, by operation of the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations at 40 CFR, such impacts will be considered to be major or significant. This is because the context and intensity of the impact will be sufficient to render what will normally be a minor or moderate impact to be major or significant. Taking this into consideration, NPS guidance documents note that "Not all major or significant impacts under a NEPA analysis are impairments. However, all impairments to NPS resources and values will constitute a major or significant impact under NEPA. If an impact results in impairment, the action should be modified to lessen the impact level. If the impairment cannot be avoided by modifying the proposed action, that action cannot be selected for implementation." "Interim Technical Guidance on Assessing Impacts and Impairment to Natural Resources" National Park Service, Natural Resource Program Center, July 2003.

In addition to reviewing the list of significance criteria, the National Park Service has determined that implementation of the preferred alternative will not constitute an impairment to the integrity of Chickasaw National Recreation Area's resources and values. This conclusion is based on a thorough analysis of the environmental impacts described in the environmental assessment. The environmental assessment identified less than major adverse impacts on paleontological resources, water quantity associated with the area's springs, surface water quality, vegetation, wildlife, soundscape, archeological resources, ethnographic resources, museum collections and archives, and cultural landscapes and historic structures. This conclusion is further based on the superintendent's professional judgment, as guided by the direction in *NPS Management Policies, 2006*. Although the

preferred alternative has some negative impacts, in many cases these adverse impacts are the result of actions taken to preserve and restore other national recreation area resources and values. Overall, the plan results in benefits to national recreation area resources and values, opportunities for their enjoyment, and it does not result in their impairment.

Public Involvement

The environmental assessment was made available for public review during a 60-day period ending July 2, 2007. Public meetings were held during the comment period at the national recreation area, Sulphur, and with the Chickasaw Nation in Ada. These meetings were primarily informational in nature, with no substantive comments for the plan being expressed. Written comments were received from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory, and five citizens. Three of the individuals (from the same family) opposed all of the alternatives. One individual supported alternative A (no action) and opposed the preferred alternative. A few minor changes were made in the text as a result of comments and are included in the attached errata sheet. Selected public comments and NPS responses are also included as an attachment to this document.

Conclusion

The preferred alternative does not constitute an action that normally requires preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS). The preferred alternative will not have a significant effect on the human environment. Negative environmental impacts that could occur are no more than minor to moderate in intensity. There are no significant impacts on public health, public safety, threatened or endangered species, sites or districts listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, or other unique characteristics of the region. No highly uncertain or controversial impacts, unique or unknown risks, significant cumulative effects, or elements of precedence were identified. Implementation of the action will not violate any federal, state, or local environmental protection law.

Based on the foregoing, it has been determined that an EIS is not required for this project and thus will not be prepared.

Recommended:	<u><i>Bruce Noble</i></u>	<u>11/6/07</u>
	Superintendent	Date
Approved:	<u><i>Murkel D. Bender</i></u>	<u>11/21/07</u>
	Intermountain Regional Director	Date

Attachment 1: Errata Sheets Chickasaw National Recreation Area General Management Plan

Corrections and revisions to the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* are listed in this section. Revisions were made in response to comments from public and agency reviews of the environmental assessment. These revisions have not resulted in substantial modification of the preferred alternative. It has been determined that the revisions do not require additional environmental analysis. Additions to the text are shown in bold and text removed is shown with strikeout. The page numbers referenced are from the *Draft General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment*.

When the draft *Chickasaw National Recreation Area General Management Plan / Environmental Assessment* was written, the bald eagle was listed as threatened on the federal list of threatened and endangered species. However, as of August 8, 2007, the bald eagle was delisted-- the eagle will not longer be protected as a threatened species (although it will continue to be protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act). Thus, all references to this species being listed as a federally threatened species in the draft environmental assessment (see pages 22, 39, 43, 87, 106, 143, 152, 170, 192) should be dropped.

The national recreation area continues to refine visitor use data as new information is collected. Additional information has been collected for the recreation area since the writing of the draft plan by the University of Idaho. This data has been reviewed and has not resulted in any changes to the alternatives or impacts presented in the draft plan.

Page 34 – Under Surface Water Quality

Water quality is an important issue for Chickasaw National Recreation Area, both for visitors and NPS staff. Although the recreation area's water quality is generally considered to be good, swimming waters often test above allowable limits for contaminants, although the source of these contaminants is not known. Rock Creek and Lake of the Arbuckles are included on the Oklahoma 303(d) list of impaired waters because of elevated nutrients, siltation, and salinity. Beginning in the summer 2003, the National Park Service posted advisory notices along Travertine Creek because bacterial levels had exceeded NPS standards. **The national recreation area continues to monitor water quality and the state is scheduled to reevaluate quality in 2009.**

Page 49 – Under Introduction

It should be noted that under all alternatives, the planned and approved visitor center near Vendome Well is a "given." This facility was approved in the 1994 Amendment to the general management plan (GMP) and has been planned to be constructed in the near future. The visitor center near Vendome Well has been shown as an action under each alternative. **This facility continues to wait for funding.**

Page 102 – Under Vegetation and People

However, all areas designated as grassland in an 1871 General Land Office survey had been converted to agricultural fields. These fields remained in agricultural use until 1977 when the area became part of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. ~~However, haying operations have continued on several of the old fields.~~ (Reason for change: haying operations have ceased)

Page 123 – Under Visitor Access, Circulation and Activities

Currently there are no concession operations ~~or active incidental business permits~~ at Chickasaw National Recreation Area. **Currently there are six incidental business permits issued. These are for photography (3), guided tours (2), and boat rentals (1).**

Pages 156, 175, and 196 - Under cumulative impacts

~~A current proposal for certain ranchers drawing upon the Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer to sell and pump water north, as the water supply for Oklahoma City is under hydrological study by the Oklahoma Board of Water Resources.~~

This proposal continues to be modified.

Page 203 – Under Visitor Use and Experience - Visitors would continue to engage in the same recreational activities on Lake of the Arbuckles; and Buckhorn and the Point campgrounds would be operated with their current level of facilities. ~~The Guy Sandy campground would be improved and consolidated to provide a better camping experience (albeit to fewer campers).~~ Overall, these changes would provide minor positive impacts for those visitors who enjoy a more rustic camping experience. (Reason for change: the Guy Sandy campground would have been removed under Alternative C)

Page 204 – Under Socioeconomic Environment - *Analysis*. Alternative C includes the designation of management prescriptions focused on protecting the cultural and natural landscapes that could possibly impact recreation area visitation and visitor use patterns, and subsequently have associated effects on the regional socioeconomic environment. These focus on resource protection and include the following:

- modifications and possible removals of sites/facilities in some other areas in Chickasaw National Recreation Area
- improvement of the trail system in the Rock Creek corridor ~~and provision of two or three backcountry campsites~~ (Reason for change: there were no provisions for backcountry campsites under any alternative)

Attachment 2: Responses to Selected Comments Received during the Public Review of the Draft General Management Plan

The following written and oral comments and concerns were received during the public review of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment. There were letters from five individuals with many of the same comments being mentioned in more than one letter. The comments have been summarized and responses given below.

Comments or Concerns	Responses
<i>Why was the cultural landscape report used as guidance for actions within the GMP?</i>	Treatment recommendations provided in the cultural landscape report provide reasoned approaches for management of the Platt Historic District in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> . They are intended to provide general guidance and thus are appropriate direction for the GMP. However, any specific treatment undertakings stemming from the recommendations will, as necessary, include more detailed planning, design and compliance efforts to ensure preservation and protection of the landscape's integrity. Similar evaluations and management approaches will be followed for other potential cultural landscapes that may be identified at Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
<i>Why does the plan place so much emphasis on the Civilian Conservation Corps era?</i>	The CCC is the most prominent force involved in shaping the present-day appearance of the Platt District. Both as a planning idea and as a physical construction, it appears to far outweigh Mission 66 changes to that landscape in overall significance. It should be noted, however, that the 1960s changes to the landscape such as the three comfort stations, nature center, parking areas, and trails may contribute to later periods of significance. Once a cultural resource inventory is completed for the entire Platt District, other significant prehistoric and historic archeological resources will be recognized and protected.
<i>The National Park Service has ignored properties that may qualify for the National Register of Historic Places and instead focuses on just a 10 year time period. Doesn't the law require that all historical time periods be considered?</i>	The NPS staff has not focused just on a ten-year time period in the history of the Platt District. The Cultural Landscape Report for the Platt Historic District begins with the national recreation area's earliest history and continues the story until 2003. Only certain properties were found to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places given that the 50- year limit must be reached to achieve National Register status. However, less than 50- year-old portions of the Platt District are integral parts of both the cultural landscape report and the general management plan. In addition, the NPS staff is seeking funding needed to conduct archeological work in order to better understand the early settlement era and the pre-European/American settlement period of this area's history.
<i>The Travertine Nature Center and the national environmental study area could be considered potential cultural landscapes.</i>	The Travertine Nature Center and the Environmental Study Area east of the center were not identified as historic properties contributing to the significance of the Platt Historic District of Chickasaw NRA. Although the nature center (dedicated in 1969) and the Environmental Study Area (also established in 1969) are located in the Antelope / Buffalo Springs portion of the district, their development occurred too recently to fall within the district's recognized period of significance which ended in 1940.

Comments or Concerns	Responses
	<p>However, as indicated in the <i>Cultural Landscape Report – Platt Historic District</i> (2004, p.248), future evaluations of the nature center and the study area may be undertaken to determine whether these properties and potential cultural landscape elements meet the criteria of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places for their association with the National Park Service’s “Mission 66” period of park development and architecture. Pending future evaluations, Chickasaw NRA will ensure the preservation of the nature center and the character-defining features of its landscape in a manner that does not diminish the integrity of these properties and the era they represent.</p> <p>If funding permits, the NPS staff plans to nominate the Travertine Nature Center to the National Register well before it turns 50 years of age in 2019. The final decision about whether the nature center qualifies for National Register listing will be made by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in the Washington, D.C. office of the National Park Service.</p>
<p><i>Programming within the Travertine Nature Center should remain focused on nature.</i></p>	<p>NPS policy states that each park unit shall have a comprehensive interpretive plan that includes a long-range vision of the interpretive program, an annual component to implement the vision, and a reference database. The comprehensive interpretive plan is the implementation plan that defines the park unit’s interpretive program. All interpretive activities including programming at the Travertine Nature Center are based on the comprehensive interpretive plan. The resulting interpretive program communicates – in the most effective and efficient way – Chickasaw National Recreation Area’s significances and meanings while promoting the protection and preservation of Chickasaw National Recreation Area resources.</p> <p>The Travertine Nature Center offers a wide selection of interpretive programming which support the following primary national recreation area’s interpretive themes:</p> <p>A — Chickasaw National Recreation Area's 500-million-year record of sedimentary deposition, complex hydro-geological system, and diverse flora and fauna foster enriched connections with the dynamic relationships among geology, water, and life.</p> <p>B — The attractive and intimate scale of the landscape, the wide range of recreational opportunities, the history of the freshwater and mineral springs, and the comfortable, rustic built environment of Chickasaw National Recreation Area invite an exploration of the concepts of personal and societal health and well-being.</p> <p>C — The Eastern Woodlands-Western Plains ecotone at Chickasaw National Recreation Area offers outstanding opportunities to appreciate the rich ecological relationships that nurture and sustain our civilization.</p>

Comments or Concerns	Responses
	<p>Regularly scheduled interpretive programs that originate at the nature center include: <i>Morning Quest</i>, a ranger led nature hike (1-1/2 mile hike to Antelope and Buffalo Springs); <i>Discover Nature</i>, a formal ranger talk interpretive program (30 minute interpretive presentation); informal ranger talks on the floor of the nature center highlighting a natural feature of the national recreation area (15 minute roving contacts); night hikes (1-1/2 mile hike studying nocturnal activity); nature films; area orientation video; and school visits to the nature center for ranger led presentations. Special interpretive events and outreach activities originate out of the nature center and have included, e.g.: Bald Eagle Days in January, Winter Lecture Series, NPS Week, The Great Outdoors Family Workshop, Outdoor Women Workshops, Territory Tellers Storytelling event, Murray County Association Poetry Reading Event.</p> <p>There are no substantial changes planned regarding the use of the Travertine Nature Center and it is logical that the nature center remain the central location for personal and non-personal services such as interpretive talks, guided walks, films, demonstrations, education programs, and as an outlet for sales of the Western National Parks Association. The Travertine Nature Center would continue to focus on resource education, providing programs to school groups and the public, and there would be additional formal programs that more fully interpret primary interpretive themes. However, the nature center concept is not a static interpretive device, but continues to evolve as the NPS staff seeks to communicate in the most effective and efficient way the significances and meanings of Chickasaw National Recreation Area resources.</p>
<p><i>New exhibits are needed at the Travertine Nature Center.</i></p>	<p>The nature center over its life history since 1969 has functioned in a zoo-like manner where a significant number of live animals and plants have been held and placed on exhibit. At present, the nature center currently features nine live animal exhibit areas with a combined total of 25 live animal species; 12 taxidermy or model exhibit areas; several individual animal taxidermy mounts; a 12'x20' native habitat diorama; a touch table; numerous live potted plant specimens; birdfeeders; reading table with magazines; puppet stage; a discovery room with live animal exhibits; a library; bookstore; staff office space; storage area; and visitor auditorium with audio-visual equipment.</p> <p>In 2005 the nature center received seven new interpretive and information modules, with a total of 15 informational and interpretive panels. These modules were designed for the national recreation area's proposed visitor center, but due to the indefinite postponement of construction of this facility, they were placed on display at the nature center in 2005. The material content of these exhibits make these exhibits suitable for use at the nature center. Other than the native habitat diorama placed on exhibit in 2003, there had not been any other new significant interpretive exhibits at the nature center. The new interpretive and informational modules and the native habitat diorama have been well received by the visiting public and nature center staff routinely receives positive comments from the visiting public about the exhibits. Most recently, in May 2007, a new exhibit was introduced to the floor of the nature center, a full-size bison taxidermy mount.</p>

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Comments or Concerns	Responses
	<p>For the Travertine Nature Center to more fully interpret the national recreation area’s primary themes, new exhibits are desirable at the nature center to augment existing exhibits. Live animal, diorama, and taxidermy animal mounts and model exhibits will continue to be used at the nature center. Exhibits interpreting the non-living part of the natural world need to be developed. Greater emphasis will be placed on interpreting the national recreation area’s water resources, and geological and hydro-geological resources. The stream flow of Travertine Creek underneath the nature center building structure presents a unique opportunity to interpret the area’s water resources, which were the impetus for the creation of this park, and continue today as the principal reason for the area’s national significance.</p>
<p><i>The National Park Service appears to be planning substantial changes in the use of the nature center. Why?</i></p>	<p>The Travertine Nature Center has operated in a relatively consistent manner over the last few decades. No substantial changes are planned for the facility. However, much of its operational identity to local residents, the visiting public, and the NPS staff flows from the interpretive program’s use of captive animals. This practice defines, in large measure, the identity of the entire interpretive program of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. It is, therefore, paramount that this practice be studied in depth to better articulate reasons for its continuation (in present or updated form), the potential benefits derived from it, and the potential risks associated with such activity. As a result, the identity of the interpretive program bears re-examination and program re-evaluation will occur as a normal part of the area’s operations and evaluation.</p>
<p><i>Changes to the exterior appearance of the nature center will lessen its chances of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places in the future.</i></p>	<p>No substantial changes to the exterior appearance of the nature center are planned. Project funding has been requested to rehabilitate exterior building elements yet retain the integrity of this important building so it will easily qualify for the National Register of Historic Places.</p>
<p><i>At what point in time will the nature center become 50 years old, thus allowing it to be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places?</i></p>	<p>The nature center will technically become eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 2019, 50 years after its construction. However, less than 50 year old properties can be listed in the national register provided that a case for “exceptional significance” can be made. If funding permit, management officials at Chickasaw National Recreation Area are committed to nominating the nature center to the national register before it becomes 50 years old. The final decision about whether the nature center possesses the exceptional significance necessary to be listed before turning 50 will be made by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in the Washington, D.C. office of the National Park Service.</p>
<p><i>Why was the history of the Travertine Nature Center and the environmental study area ignored in the general management plan?</i></p>	<p>The history of this building and landscape was not ignored. It fully recognized that the 1960s era buildings and landscapes need to be preserved and need to be evaluated using national register criteria.</p>

Comments or Concerns	Responses
<i>The legislative history of the environmental study area is not mentioned.</i>	The Environmental Study Area resulted from a program initiative of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, but is no longer an active program initiative of the National Park Service. The Travertine Nature Center will continue to be the center for resource education with outdoor educational opportunities conducted throughout the entire national recreation area. The value of this area of the national recreation area will be recognized appropriately in future planning.
<i>What is the future management of the environmental study area?</i>	The management of the area known as the environmental study area will be guided by the management prescription presented in the general management plan. This area has been included in the historic/cultural prescription due to the high number of cultural features found in the area. The management of the area will be in accordance with the historic district and any additional recommendations that may be provided in the future after the additional Mission 66 era changes have been evaluated on their own merits.
<i>The general management plan really only focuses on preserving a 10-year period in the history of the Platte District. Why?</i>	The GMP calls for the preservation of significant cultural resources throughout the national recreation area regardless of a time period. This includes archeological sites that are hundreds of years old as well as potentially significant “Mission 66” era facilities. While most of the national recreation area’s prehistoric and historic resources may have been identified, many more will be identified in the future as more cultural resource inventories are completed.
<i>Designating the Platt District as a national historic landmark is really going to prevent any recreational activities from taking place in this part of the national recreation area in the future.</i>	Management decisions will have to be made in the future about what types of recreational activities are appropriate in the Platt District, but if and when the national historic landmark is approved the designation will not put an end to recreational activity in this area of the national recreation area. All existing recreational activities will continue and additional recreational activities can be approved provided that natural and cultural resources are protected.
<i>What will happen regarding the former road to Buffalo and Antelope Springs?</i>	A portion of the former roadbed that once provided public vehicular access to the Antelope and Buffalo Springs is largely intact including historic stone culverts. Cedar trees will be removed from the former road corridor and from other areas within the Antelope and Buffalo Springs area. This former road corridor portion will be used to provide maintenance access to the Buffalo Springs comfort station and other historic and non-historic structures in the area as well as function as a fire break. This former road will not be used for public vehicular access.
<i>Why not consider using the old road to Antelope and Buffalo Springs as an access road for the disabled?</i>	With proper maintenance, the existing trail will provide access to the springs for the disabled. Both human and electrically-powered wheel chairs can also be used on this trail to travel close to the springs. The rehabilitation of Buffalo Springs comfort station will allow universal access to sanitary facilities and thus allow users to extend their stay at the springs.

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Comments or Concerns	Responses
<i>Is the plan to convert a former national recreation area road into a fire break really just an effort to reopen the road to Buffalo Springs to vehicular traffic?</i>	When cedar trees are removed from the former road, it will serve as a fire break as well as an access for maintenance vehicles. General public vehicular access will not be allowed to use this access road.
<i>Is the approved visitor center being located in the 500 year floodplain?</i>	Although the proposed location for the new visitor center is located within the 500 year flood plain area, considerations have been incorporated into the design and layout of the structure to raise it above the designated flood zone. This action is consistent with NPS floodplain management guidelines.
<i>The reduction of eastern red cedar is incomplete and what have been the impacts on archeological resources from its removal?</i>	Archeological surveys are performed prior to any cedar removal, or prescribed fire projects. Extreme care is taken to avoid known archeological sites. During the “Golf Course” project, several artifacts were collected for accessioning into the museum collection. The area remains under protection and violations of laws and policies will be prosecuted. Cedar removal will continue as funding becomes available.
<i>Why are cedars being removed along Highway 177, while other portions of the national recreation area have many untouched cedars?</i>	The cedars that have been removed along Highway 177 just happen to be the most visible to the public. Since 2001, the area’s staff have mechanically treated and removed 611 acres throughout the national recreation area. The areas include: Buckhorn, Veterans Lake, the multi-use trail south of Veterans Lake, the Upper Guy Sandy Hunting Area, the sewage treatment facility, the Goddard Youth Camp Area, and an area adjacent to the Arbuckle Dam Overlook. In addition, cedars have been treated with prescribed fire on over 2,000 acres throughout the national recreation area.
<i>Why continue to have a buffalo herd at Chickasaw National Recreation Area? Isn’t that job best left in the hands of places like Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge or Yellowstone National Park?</i>	The bison in the national recreation area have been an important part of the cultural landscape, and cultural experience since 1923 when they were originally brought to Platt National Park. Perpetuating natural bison herds is better accomplished by other parks and agencies (e.g., Yellowstone and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). However, the area’s herd is small and not considered to be in a natural state. The herd is managed as an interpretive exhibit that displays a snapshot of the past. Previous discussions about the removal of the herd have been met with tremendous public opposition. The option to relocate the herd to the Upper Guy Sandy area on a temporary basis would facilitate the rehabilitation of the historic pasture, and enable prairie restoration under natural conditions in the Upper Guy Sandy area. If the decision were made to move forward, the herd would only be rotated to the area during non-hunting seasons. None of the current hunting opportunities would be decreased.
<i>What would future studies include regarding introducing bison to the upper Guy Sandy Area?</i>	The preferred alternative for the general management plan states that a study will be done to determine the possibility of establishing an additional bison herd at upper Guy Sandy. This study would include analyses of the feasibility, cost of facilities needed, and environmental impact of a possible introduction prior to taking any action.

Comments or Concerns	Responses
<i>Why does the general management plan include no recreation plan when the park unit is a national recreation area?</i>	The GMP contains a great deal of information about recreational activity including hiking, camping, fishing, hunting, boating, etc. The National Park Service does not write general recreation plans for its national park units. The GMP, however, does in fact provide general guidance for recreation (e.g., see the management prescriptions,) In addition, the GMP will serve as the foundation for future site-specific recreational planning that could occur if needed.
<i>What was the process of the document being changed from an environmental impact statement to environmental assessment?</i>	A notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on September 23, 2002. The National Park Service determined that an environmental assessment rather than an environmental impact statement was the appropriate environmental documentation for the general management plan in late 2005. The notice of termination of the environmental impact statement was published in the <i>Federal Register</i> on January 30, 2006. This was done in accordance with NPS policy after public scoping and public input on the preliminary alternatives yielded only a minimal amount of public comments with no major controversy and there was no potential for significant impact by any alternative.
<i>Why was there no public input into the three alternatives in the general management plan?</i>	Extensive public input has been accepted at various points in the GMP process including during the public scoping phase, the preliminary alternatives stage and during the draft plan/environmental assessment.
<i>Why publish notices in the Federal Register when nobody reads it?</i>	Publishing notices regarding planning in the <i>Federal Register</i> is NPS policy. Publishing notices in the <i>Federal Register</i> provides official notice of the document's existence and its contents.
<i>Why didn't the general management plan provide more details about existing deficiencies in the national recreation area maintenance area?</i>	The core of the maintenance area, originally constructed in the 1930s, was designed to provide adequate maintenance facilities for the 800-acre Platt National Park. It is, however, too small an area to provide adequate space for buildings, equipment, and material storage to meet the functional needs of the 10,000-acre Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Through the years, many deficient and inadequate buildings were added to the area. Unfortunately, this rough piece of ground can only accommodate a disjointed, constricted, inefficient, and poorly functioning facility. A flatter and larger area is needed to provide an efficient and fully functioning maintenance facility. Recognition of the fact that the facility is no longer viable for the current national recreation area's operation is recognized by all levels of the national recreation area's management. Consideration would be given to adding administrative offices to these facilities at the time of design.
<i>How can the national recreation area manage new responsibilities with existing staff levels?</i>	Providing increased services can be accomplished by first identifying core national recreation area operations and visitor needs, then redirecting NPS staff to those needs. In addition, the plan recommends an increase of three FTE. However, these positions are not guaranteed and are dependent upon funding. The park will continue to seek funding for additional staffing as opportunities permit.

Appendix A: Finding of No Significant Impact

Comments or Concerns	Responses
<p><i>What are the national recreation area's plans for tornado safety?</i></p>	<p>Severe weather safety is a major public safety concern for the employees and visitors of Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The National Park Service supports the National Weather Service's recommendation to monitor changing weather conditions, move out of the path of severe weather and move to an inside room if no storm shelter is available. Storm shelters are very limited throughout Murray County, so it has been identified that new structures would be constructed to withstand severe weather and serve a dual purpose as a public shelter. Future facilities identified in this plan include restroom upgrades, a visitor center, and maintenance facility.</p>
<p><i>Why isn't the national recreation area patrolled on horseback any longer?</i></p>	<p>The Visitor and Resource Protection Division has historically managed the horse patrol program for law enforcement patrol operations. In 2004, an internal program review identified that this program was not operating within National Park Service standards pertaining to employee safety training and stock handling. The costs associated with bringing this program into compliance were prohibitive. Based on this cost, the program was disbanded for a saving of over \$17,000 annually. The need for the mobility of ranger patrols in the Platt District to conduct enforcement activities and public contacts in this congested area remains a priority for the staff. To meet this demand, a bike patrol program has been established. The program was initiated for \$2,000.00 and operates annually for approximately \$500.00. This is a tremendous savings when compared to the cost of the horse patrol program.</p>



Appendix B: Statement of Findings

**Statements of Findings for
Executive Order 11988 Floodplain Management
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
General Management Plan**

Recommended: Bruce Noble 9/12/07
Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area Date

Concurred: William Jackson 9/26/07
Chief, Water Resources Division Date

Approved: Mark D. Snyder 11/21/07
Director, Intermountain Region Date

Introduction

In accordance with Executive Order 11988 — Floodplain Management and National Park Service (NPS) guidelines for implementing the order, the National Park Service has reviewed the flood hazards in Chickasaw National Recreation Area, and has prepared this statement of findings (SOF).

In examining the recreation area, the only structure identified to be within a regulatory floodplain was the Travertine Nature Center. No other structures within a regulatory floodplain require a flood hazard assessment. The Buckhorn and Point campgrounds are subject to flooding due to high water levels in Lake of the Arbuckles. However, flooding of these campgrounds is due to a regulated reservoir, and does not pose a threat to human life or contribute to the degradation of natural floodplain values. Any flooding that does occur is gradual – there would be sufficient time to evacuate and close sites that are flooded. The campgrounds are thus not considered to be subject to the NPS floodplain guidelines.

This statement of findings focuses on evaluating the flood hazards for the Travertine Nature Center in the Travertine Creek floodplain. As a part of the effort to develop a general management plan (GMP) for Chickasaw National Recreation Area, the statement of findings describes the flood hazard, alternatives, and mitigation measures for the continued use of this area. Additional detail regarding Chickasaw National Recreation Area, future actions to be taken in the area, and environmental impacts may be found in the GMP/EIS.

Most of the following text is based on a 2004 trip report on the area prepared by the NPS Water Resources Division (NPS 2004).

Description of the Site

Travertine Creek, a tributary of Rock Creek, originates in the Buffalo and Antelope springs area and runs for approximately 1.5 miles. It drains much of the Platt Historic District in Chickasaw National Recreation Area. The watershed area is approximately 3.5 square miles, but the area above the nature center is only about 0.6 square miles. The streambed profile is very steep along Travertine Creek, and there are several pool areas along the creek. The springs result in a steady flow through most of the year.

Travertine Creek has a long history of human occupation. A number of public use facilities are along the creek: the Travertine Nature Center, two picnic areas (Travertine Island and Little Niagara), and two campgrounds (Central and Cold Springs) near the Travertine Creek floodplain. In addition, the Chickasaw National Recreation Area road closely parallels the creek and there are two low-water crossings of the creek. During storms, this road may be closed due to high water.

The Travertine Nature Center, built in 1969, is an L-shaped building with one wing located directly over Travertine Creek. The entire structure is within the regulatory 100-year floodplain as mapped by Harp et al. (1984).

General Characterization of Floodplain Values, Nature of Flooding, and Associated Floodplain Processes in the Area

Travertine Creek's natural floodplain values have been altered by past human habitation and uses. However, the floodplain includes the recreation area's Environmental Study Area, and it still has many natural values. The floodplain is largely covered by a riparian forest and provides habitat for a variety of wildlife species. The nature center has altered some of these floodplain values, such as the depth and extent of some flows, although the overall effect on the creek's floodplain values is probably not measurable.

Travertine Creek is subject to periodic floods, some of which can be large events, although there are no long-term data on the frequency of flooding. Rock Creek, which Travertine Creek flows into, had 22 major floods between 1924 and 1943, with other major floods in 1953 and 1970 (NPS 1998b). Harp et al. (1984) noted that floods on several occasions had resulted in the loss of life on Travertine Creek. Reportedly, flows in the creek have reached the nature center's foundation at least twice since 1969 with one of those events reaching the window level on the upstream side (NPS 2004).

Based on historical precipitation records, the spring and fall are the wettest times of the year in this area (NPS 1998b). This region of the United States may be subject to heavy summer thunderstorms, which can produce large flows. However, floods can occur at anytime of year due to precipitation from severe thunderstorms. Major floods have occurred in the recreation area in January, May, and October. The most damaging flood recorded at Chickasaw National Recreation Area occurred on October 8, 1970, when the area received 11.61 inches — the highest daily precipitation total ever recorded (NPS 1998b).

Justification for use of the Floodplain

Description of the Preferred Alternative and Why Facilities Would be Retained in the Floodplain

The preferred alternative in the GMP is to retain the Travertine Nature Center in its present location. As noted above, all of the structure is in the 100-year floodplain.

The Travertine Nature Center could be moved out of the floodplain. However, this is a very popular educational/recreational site and is one of Chickasaw National Recreation Area's major visitor use areas. Moving the facility would be extremely costly and is not currently economically feasible. Moving the facility also would result in adverse impacts and the loss of other natural resources in the area. In addition, the area is part of a cultural landscape that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Moving the facility would adversely affect this landscape. Thus, no alternative locations were considered in the *General Management Plan* that would move the nature center from the floodplain.

Description of Site-Specific Flood Risk

In addition to being within the 100-year floodplain, part of the building is located on an arch span across the channel, the abutments of which are below the top of the banks. This encroachment on the floodplain will increase the depth of flooding and result in a greater frequency of flooding — any flows that approach bank full level will be restricted by the structure and a backwater effect will result in raising the level of the flood (NPS 2004).

Harp et al. (1984) estimated the flows of the 100- and 500-year floods on Travertine Creek to be 1,300 and 1,700 cubic feet per second (cfs), respectively. The modeled depth of the 100-year flood is about six feet without accounting for the backwater effect of channel encroachment. This flow would be sufficient to surround and flood the building. The flow also would likely undermine the building's foundation, which would result in its wholesale loss. Furthermore, the steepness of the channel may produce substantial velocities, and the small size of the watershed will result in a time to peak flow of less than one hour (45 minutes). Consequently, a flood of this magnitude would result in dangerous conditions with little warning and could pose a threat to people in the nature center (NPS 2004). Thus, mitigation measures need to be taken to minimize the risk to human life from flooding.

Flood Mitigation Measures

The best mitigation measure would be to move the structure out of the floodplain, but as noted above, this option is not currently feasible. However, if the existing structure reaches its usable lifespan, or if a future flood event results in severe damage, then the facility should be relocated.

Structural mitigation to reduce flood hazard is not feasible. Construction of a “flood overflow” channel was reportedly proposed by the authors of the flood study (NPS 1998b). However, such a channel does not appear to be a viable option. The modeled 100-year flood completely fills the valley bottom, affording no location for a diversion channel short of a cross-basin conveyance. Furthermore, the amount of land disturbance and complexity of design and maintenance would render the proposal prohibitive (NPS 2004).

The only currently viable mitigation measure for the nature center is the implementation of an evacuation plan. A planned evacuation would require vigilance on the part of NPS staff but should be feasible. In the case of a severe flood, the modeled 100-year flood indicates that all of the valley bottom would be inundated to a depth of six feet. This would make the access road impassable. However, the NPS staff should have the opportunity to evacuate any visitors by foot to high ground about two hundred feet south of the building. The NPS staff should be fully aware of the hazard posed by flooding and know the criteria and procedures for evacuating visitors. In particular, the NPS staff should know where the highest and most accessible area is near the nature center. Signs also would be placed in the building informing visitors and staff of the flood risk and suggested actions in the event of flooding (i.e., an evacuation route). In addition, a communication system will be developed with the National Weather Service, which would give advance warning to the NPS staff of approaching major storms. On-site NPS staff will assume an “alert status” during periods of heavy rain and monitor water levels in the creek. If a substantial rise is observed, evacuation information will be provided to visitors and relocation out of the most hazardous areas will begin.

Due to the short response time of the watershed, extensive removal of display items and office records will probably not be possible. Consequently, no irreplaceable records, archaeological artifacts, or museum collections will be kept in the nature center – anything kept in the building should be considered expendable.

One other action that can slightly reduce the risk to life or property is to regularly remove debris that collects on the upstream side of the arch span of the nature center. (If sediments accumulate on the upstream side of the span and were determined to be a problem, then they may also be removed, although a Section 404 permit would be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers before this could occur.) This action will help prevent floods from some flows if the span is blocked or partially obstructed, although it will not prevent damage and risk to life from flood flows that approach bank full level.

Summary

The National Park Service has determined that there is no practicable alternative to maintaining the Travertine Nature Center within the floodplain of Travertine Creek. This determination was based on the decision to continue to use the nature center as a primary visitor use area within the recreation area and the substantial cost of moving the facility out of the floodplain. The primary flood mitigation measure is to develop an evacuation plan for the nature center and keep all NPS staff informed of the plan. Although the nature center is within an area subject to flooding, there would be time to warn staff and visitors using the facility to evacuate the area. If a flood occurs, visitors and NPS staff can evacuate to high ground south of the building. The building's foundation also should be inspected as soon as possible for structural integrity problems.

Sources

Harp, J., J. Laguros, S. McClintock, and L. West. 1984. "A Comprehensive Flood Study of the Travertine and Rock Creek Areas within the Chickasaw National Recreational Area. Sulphur, Oklahoma." Contract #702930013. Prepared for the National Park Service. The Bureau of Water Resources Research, Oklahoma Research Administration and the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

National Park Service 1998. *Water Resources Management Plan*. Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma.

National Park Service 2004. "Report for Travel to Chickasaw National Recreation Area. November 4, 2003." by M. Martin. Unpublished report, on file at NPS Water Resources Division, Fort Collins, CO.

Appendix C: Legislation

7. Platt National Park

	Page
Excerpt from act of July 1, 1902, ratifying and confirming an agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian tribes to cede certain lands to the United States.....	118
Excerpt from Indian Department Appropriation Act of April 21, 1904, making appropriation for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various tribes of Indians, etc.....	119
Excerpt from act of June 18, 1906, to enable people of Oklahoma and Indian Territory to form a constitution and State government, etc., retaining exclusive jurisdiction over Sulphur Springs Reservation, etc..	121
Joint resolution of June 29, 1906, directing that Sulphur Springs Reservation be named "Platt National Park".....	121

Excerpt from "An Act To ratify and confirm an agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, and for other purposes," approved July 1, 1902 (32 Stat. 855)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following agreement, made by the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes with the commissions representing the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians on the twenty-first day of March, nineteen hundred and two, be, and the same is hereby, ratified and confirmed, to wit:

* * * * *

Sulphur Springs. 64. The two tribes hereby absolutely and unqualifiedly
Cession of adjacent lands. relinquish, cede, and convey unto the United States a tract or tracts of land at and in the vicinity of the village
Limit of acreage. of Sulphur, in the Chickasaw Nation, of not exceeding six hundred and forty acres, to be selected, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, within four months after the final ratification of this agreement, and to embrace all the natural springs in and about said village and so much of Sulphur Creek, Rock Creek, Buckhorn Creek, and the lands adjacent to said natural springs and creeks as may be deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Interior for the proper utilization and control of said springs and the waters of said creeks, which lands shall be so selected as to cause the least interference with the contemplated town site at that place consistent with the purposes for which said cession is made, and when selected the ceded lands shall be held, owned, and controlled by the United States absolutely and without any restriction, save that no part thereof shall be platted or disposed of for town-site purposes during the existence of the two tribal governments. Such other lands as may be embraced in a town site at that point shall be disposed

Vol. 30, p. 508.
 Vol. 31, p. 237.

of in the manner provided in the Atoka agreement for the disposition of town sites. Within ninety days after the selection of the lands so ceded there shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States, to the credit of the two tribes, from the unappropriated public moneys of the United States, twenty dollars per acre for each acre so selected, which shall be in full compensation for the lands so ceded, and such moneys shall, upon the dissolution of the tribal governments, be divided per capita among the members of the tribes, freedmen excepted, as are other funds of the tribes. All improvements upon the lands so selected which were lawfully there at the time of the ratification of this agreement by Congress shall be appraised, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, at the true value thereof at the time of the selection of said lands, and shall be paid for by warrants drawn by the Secretary of the Interior upon the Treasurer of the United States. Until otherwise provided by law the Secretary of the Interior may, under rules prescribed for that purpose, regulate and control the use of the water of said springs and creeks and the temporary use and occupation of the lands so ceded. No person shall occupy any portion of the lands so ceded, or carry on any business thereon, except as provided in said rules, and until otherwise provided by Congress the laws of the United States relating to the introduction, possession, sale, and giving away of liquors or intoxicants of any kind within the Indian country or Indian reservations shall be applicable to the lands so ceded, and said lands shall remain within the jurisdiction of the United States court for the southern district of Indian Territory: *Provided, however,* That nothing contained in this section shall be construed or held to commit the Government of the United States to any expenditure of money upon said lands or the improvements thereof, except as provided herein, it being the intention of this provision that in the future the lands and improvements herein mentioned shall be conveyed by the United States to such territorial or state organization as may exist at the time when such conveyance is made. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 151.)

Price to credit of tribes.

Improvements.

Use of water, etc.

Sale, etc., of intoxicants forbidden.

Proviso. Expenditures.

Excerpt from "An Act Making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, and for other purposes," approved April 21, 1904 (33 Stat. 220)

SEC. 18. That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to withhold from sale or other disposition the irregular tract of land containing seventy-eight and sixty-eight one-hundredths acres, more or less, lying in the northwest quarter of section two and the northeast quarter of section three, township one south, range three east, and being within the exterior bound-

Sulphur, Indian Territory.

Additional land for reservation.

Description.

aries of the proposed town site of Sulphur, in the Chickasaw Nation, Indian Territory, and excluded from said town site by order of the Secretary of the Interior, of October twentieth, nineteen hundred and three, and also to withdraw and withhold from disposition the tract of land within the exterior boundaries of said proposed town site, lying south of and adjacent to the tract above mentioned, containing in the aggregate one hundred and thirty-eight acres, more or less, and mentioned in the report of Gerard H. Matthes, of December twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and three, to F. H. Newell, Chief Engineer United States Geological Survey, and shown upon the map accompanying said report by a yellow line.

Price per acre. The land hereby reserved shall be paid for by the United States at the rate of sixty dollars per acre and in the same manner as the land acquired in accordance with paragraph sixty-four of the act of Congress approved July first, nineteen hundred and two, entitled "An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, and for other purposes," and such money as may be necessary to carry out this provision is hereby appropriated, from any money in the United States Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and made immediately available.

Improvements. Vol. 32, p. 655. (See p. 118.) All improvements upon said land, at the passage of this act, shall be appraised and paid for as provided in said paragraph sixty-four of the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two.

Management, control, etc. The land hereby reserved shall, immediately upon payment therefor by the United States, be and become a part of the reservation heretofore established at the said village of Sulphur, and shall be subject to all the provisions of said section sixty-four of the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two, respecting the care, control, direction, use, and occupancy thereof, as if they had been included in the original segregation: *Provided*, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in the absence of other provisions for the care and management thereof, to designate an officer or employee of his department to take charge of the land, whether acquired under said section sixty-four of the act of July first, nineteen hundred and two, or under this act, and to enforce rules and regulations for the control and use thereof, and of the waters of the springs and creeks within the reservation: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized, in his discretion, to sell or dispose of any buildings upon the land hereby reserved and upon the land originally reserved, and all money received from such sales, as well as all money heretofore received or that may hereafter be realized for the use of said waters or for the use and occupancy of the land or the buildings thereon, through leases, permits, or otherwise. may be expended under the

Proviso.
Enforcement of regulations.

Sale of improvements.

(Amended by 40 Stat. 153, as amended. See p. 12.)

direction of the Secretary of the Interior for the care and management of said lands, and the preservation of the improvements thereon: *And provided further*, That if any person, firm, or corporation shall willfully violate any of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior relative to the use of the waters of said springs and creeks and the use and occupation of the lands in said reservation, such person, firm, corporation, or members or agents thereof, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not less than five dollars and not more than one hundred dollars, and may be imprisoned for a term of not more than six months for each offense. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 152.)

Violation of regulations.

Penalty.

Excerpt from "An Act To enable the people of Oklahoma and of the Indian Territory to form a constitution and State government, etc.," approved June 16, 1906 (34 Stat. 267)

SEC. 7.¹ * * * *Provided*, That nothing in this act contained shall repeal or affect any act of Congress relating to the Sulphur Springs Reservation as now defined or as may be hereafter defined or extended, or the power of the United States over it or any other lands embraced in the State hereafter set aside by Congress as a national park, game preserve, or for the preservation of objects of archaeological or ethnological interest; and nothing contained in this act shall interfere with the rights and ownership of the United States in any land hereafter set aside by Congress as national park, game preserve, or other reservation, or in the said Sulphur Springs Reservation, as it now is or may be hereafter defined or extended by law; but exclusive legislation, in all cases whatsoever, shall be exercised by the United States, which shall have exclusive control and jurisdiction over the same; but nothing in this proviso contained shall be construed to prevent the service within said Sulphur Springs Reservation or national parks, game preserves, and other reservations hereafter established by law, of civil and criminal processes lawfully issued by the authority of said State, and said State shall not be entitled to select indemnity school lands for the thirteenth, sixteenth, thirty-third, and thirty-sixth sections that may be embraced within the metes and bounds of the national park, game preserve, and other reservation or the said Sulphur Springs Reservation, as now defined or may be hereafter defined. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 153.)

Proviso. Sulphur Springs and other reservations reserved.

Exclusive jurisdiction retained. Service of process, etc.

Indemnity selections excluded from parks, etc.

Joint Resolution Directing that the Sulphur Springs Reservation be named and hereafter called the "Platt National Park," approved June 29, 1906 (34 Stat. 837)

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby:

Sulphur Springs Reservation.

¹The above provision was substantially covered by the State constitution of Oklahoma, adopted July 16, 1907, as art. 1, sec. 3.

Name changed
to Platt Na-
tional park, in
honor of the late
Senator Platt, of
Connecticut.

authorized and directed to change the name of the Sulphur Springs Reservation, an Indian reservation now in the State of Oklahoma, formerly in the Indian Territory, so that said reservation shall be named and hereafter called the "Platt National Park," in honor of Orville Hitchcock Platt, late and for twenty-six years a Senator from the State of Connecticut, and for many years a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs, in recognition of his distinguished services to the Indians and to the country. (U.S.C., title 16, sec. 151.)

PUBLIC LAW 94-235—MAR. 17, 1976

90 STAT. 235

Public Law 94-235
94th Congress

An Act

To establish the Chickasaw National Recreation Area in the State of Oklahoma, and for other purposes.

Mar. 17, 1976
[H.R. 4979]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in order to provide for public outdoor recreation use and enjoyment of Arbuckle Reservoir and land adjacent thereto, and to provide for more efficient administration of other adjacent area containing scenic, scientific, natural, and historic values contributing to public enjoyment of the area and to designate the area in such manner as will constitute a fitting memorialization of the Chickasaw Indian Nation, there is hereby established the Chickasaw National Recreation Area (hereinafter referred to as the "recreation area") consisting of lands and interests in lands within the area as generally depicted on the drawing entitled "Boundary Map, Chickasaw National Recreation Area," numbered 107-20004-A and dated February 1974, which shall be on file and available for inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") may from time to time revise the boundaries of the recreation area by publication of a map or other boundary description in the Federal Register, but the total acreage of the recreation area may not exceed ten thousand acres.

Chickasaw
National
Recreation Area,
Okla.
Establishment.
16 USC 460hh.

Publication in
Federal Register.

SEC. 2. (a) The Secretary may acquire land or interests in lands within the boundaries of the recreation area by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. When any tract of land is only partly within such boundaries, the Secretary may acquire all or any portion of the land outside of such boundaries in order to minimize the payment of severance costs. Land so acquired outside of the boundaries may be exchanged by the Secretary for non-Federal lands within the boundaries, and any land so acquired and not utilized for exchange shall be reported to the General Services Administration for disposal under the Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 (63 Stat. 377), as amended. Any Federal property located within the boundaries of the recreation area may be transferred without consideration to the administrative jurisdiction of the Secretary for the purposes of the recreation area. Lands within the boundaries of the recreation area owned by the State of Oklahoma, or any political subdivision thereof, may be acquired only by donation: *Provided*, That the Secretary may also acquire lands by exchange with the city of Sulphur, utilizing therefor only such lands as may be excluded from the recreation area which were formerly within the Platt National Park.

Land acquisition.
16 USC 460hh-1.

40 USC 471 note.

(b) With respect to improved residential property acquired for the purposes of this Act, which is beneficially owned by a natural person and which the Secretary determines can be continued in that use for a limited period of time without undue interference with the administration, development, or public use of the recreation area, the owner thereof may on the date of its acquisition by the Secretary retain a right of use and occupancy of the property for noncommercial residential purposes for a term, as the owner may elect, ending either (1) at the death of the owner or his spouse, whichever

Residential
property.

occurs later, or (2) not more than twenty-five years from the date of acquisition. Any right so retained may, during its existence, be transferred or assigned. The Secretary shall pay to the owner the fair market value of the property on the date of such acquisition, less the fair market value on such date of the right retained by the owner.

“Improved residential property.”

(c) As used in this Act, “improved residential property” means a single-family year-round dwelling, the construction of which began before March 1, 1975, and which serves as the owner’s permanent place of abode at the time of its acquisition by the United States, together with not more than three acres of land on which the dwelling and appurtenant buildings are located that the Secretary finds is reasonably necessary for the owner’s continued use and occupancy of the dwelling: *Provided*, That the Secretary may exclude from improved residential property any waters and adjoining land that the Secretary deems is necessary for public access to such waters.

(d) The Secretary may terminate a right to use and occupancy retained pursuant to this section upon his determination that such use and occupancy is being exercised in a manner not consistent with the purposes of the Act, and upon tender to the holder of the right an amount equal to the fair market value of that portion of the right which remains unexpired on the date of termination.

Hunting and fishing.
16 USC 460hh-2.

SEC. 3. The Secretary shall permit hunting and fishing on lands and waters within the recreation area in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws: *Provided*, That he may designate zones where, and establish periods when, no hunting or fishing will be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, fish or wildlife management, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations issued by the Secretary pursuant to this section shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency responsible for hunting and fishing activities.

Administration.
16 USC 460hh-3.

SEC. 4. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Secretary shall administer the recreation area in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2-4), as amended and supplemented.

(b) Nothing contained in this Act shall affect or interfere with the authority of the Secretary by the Act of August 24, 1962 (76 Stat. 395), to operate the Arbuckle Dam and Reservoir in accordance with and for the purposes set forth in that Act.

Repeal.
16 USC 460hh-4.

SEC. 5. The Act of June 29, 1906 (34 Stat. 837), which directed that certain lands now included by this Act in the recreation area be designated as the Platt National Park, is hereby repealed, and such lands shall hereafter be considered and known as an integral part of the Chickasaw National Recreation Area: *Provided*, That within such area the Secretary may cause to be erected suitable markers or plaques to honor the memory of Orville Hitchcock Platt and to commemorate the original establishment of Platt National Park.

Publication in Federal Register.
16 USC 460hh-5.

SEC. 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of the Act of June 16, 1906 (34 Stat. 272), which retain exclusive jurisdiction in the United States, upon notification in writing to the Secretary by the appropriate State officials of the acceptance by the State of Oklahoma of concurrent legislative jurisdiction over the lands formerly within the Platt National Park, the Secretary shall publish a notice to that effect in the Federal Register and, upon such publication, concurrent legislative jurisdiction over such lands is hereby ceded to the State of Oklahoma: *Provided*, That such cession of jurisdiction shall not occur until a written agreement has been reached between the State of Oklahoma and the Secretary providing for the exercise of concurrent

PUBLIC LAW 94-235—MAR. 17, 1976

90 STAT. 237

jurisdiction over all other lands and waters within the Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

Sec. 7. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, but not to exceed \$1,600,000 for the acquisition of lands and interests in lands, and \$4,567,000 for development.

Appropriation
authorization.
16 USC 460hh-6.

Approved March 17, 1976.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 94-803 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 94-678 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 122 (1976):
Feb. 2, considered and passed House.
Mar. 5, considered and passed Senate.

Appendix D: USFW Service Section 7 Consultation



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/OKES/
2007-1-0263

United States Department of the Interior

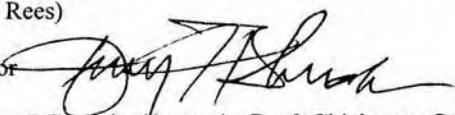
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Division of Ecological Services
9014 East 21st Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129
918/581-7458 / (FAX) 918/581-7467



August 27, 2007

Memorandum

To: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, Division of Planning
(Attn: Michael Rees)

From: Field Supervisor 

Subject: Informal Section 7 Consultation on the Draft Chickasaw General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Thank you for your July 13, 2007, e-mail wherein you requested informal section 7 consultation for the draft General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment for the Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma (GMP/EA). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed those sections of the GMP/EA that pertain to federally-listed species. We also reviewed the phone record attached to your e-mail that documents the July 13, 2007, conversation between Mr. Michael Rees of the National Park Service (NPS) and Mr. Richard Stark of the Service. The following comments are provided in accordance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended. These comments were previously provided to Mr. Rees from Mr. Stark in a July 17, 2007, e-mail.

The bald eagle is known to feed and roost at the Lake of the Arbuckles within the Chickasaw National Recreation during the winter. No eagle nests are known from the recreation area at this time. The NPS determined that none of the actions being proposed would affect the bald eagle. The NPS further concluded that increased visitor use of the area may cause minimal disturbance to bald eagles, but would not likely adversely affect the bald eagle.

The Service understands that none of the developments being proposed would be built where the bald eagle roosts in the winter and that no trees that are being used by bald eagles would be removed. We also understand that if breeding or nesting areas for any listed species are found within the recreation area, those areas would be protected from human disturbance.

Based on the information provided during the aforementioned phone conversation and information in the draft GMP/EA, the Service concurs that none of the actions being proposed would be likely to adversely affect the bald eagle. We also believe that unintentional disturbance to wintering bald eagles that potentially could be caused by increased visitor use of the area

National Park Service

2

would likely be so minimal that it should not reach the level where take of the bald eagle would occur.

The bald eagle was officially removed from the list of federally-listed threatened and endangered species on August 8, 2007. However, the bald eagle will continue to be afforded protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Should any bald eagle nests be discovered within the recreation area in the future, the Service requests further coordination with our office.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments. Please refer to your project's consultation number (2007-I-0263) in all future correspondence. If you have any questions or need further assistance with this project, please contact Richard Stark of this office at 918-382-4520.

Appendix E: Cultural Landscape Report Recommendations Platt Historic District Treatment Projects

Bromide Springs Area

Rehabilitation Treatment

- Project B1: Construct new picnic shelter
- Project B2: Remove concrete block pump house and pipe
- Project B3: Stabilize bank at causeway steps
- Project B4: Replace “Ancient Rivers” sign
- Project B5: Remove culvert at Resource Management Office (formerly the Travertine Ranger Station)
- Project B6: Maintain Pavilion terrace
- Project B7: Provide ADA access at terrace
- Project B8: Restore semi-circular bench at Pavilion
- Project B9: Restore mineral water to Pavilion
- Project B10: Rehabilitate Pavilion Lily Pond and surrounds
- Project B11: Replace cottonwood at Lily Pond
- Project B12: Rehabilitate 12th Street Fountain
- Project B13: Restore drinking fountains at the 12th Street Fountain
- Project B14: Replace non-historic coping at 12th Street Fountain
- Project B15: Maintain flagstone at 12th Street Entry
- Project B16: Replace lettering on entry piers
- Project B17: Remove non-historic features at Ranger Station
- Project B18: Replace Bromide Ranger Station doors & windows
- Project B19: Install grates on Bromide Hill Trail inlets
- Project B20: Rehabilitate/Provide ADA access at Bromide Hill
- Project B21: Replant trees in Bromide Springs
- Project B22: Maintain small prairie area on top of Bromide Hill

Walnut Grove

Preservation Treatment

- Project WG1: Preserve fire pits
- Project WG2: Preserve Monkey Tree
- Project WG3: Construct picnic shelter (alternate location from Bromide Springs)
- Project WG4: Revise turf management
- Project WG5: Replace trees within picnic area

Black Sulphur Springs

Preservation Treatment

- Project BSS1a: Preserve Black Sulphur Springs Pavilion
- Project BSS1b: Rehabilitate Plantings
- Project BSS2: Rehabilitate Black Sulphur Springs Fountain
- Project BSS3a: Stabilize causeway
- Project BSS3b: Reinstate beach area by cleaning Rock Creek channel
- Project BSS4: Provide ADA access to Pavilion
- Project BSS5: Restore Trail to West Sulphur

Flower Park

Preservation Treatment

- Project FP0: Rehabilitate Flower Park Trail System
- Project FP1: Restore Vendome stream edges, pools, and dams

- Project FP2: Replace gate at parking lot
- Project FP3: Improve appearance of Flower Park along Broadway Avenue
- Project FP4: Replace trees throughout Flower Park and Vendome parking lot
- Project FP5: Rehabilitate vegetation around paths and stairs on hillside north of the comfort station
- Project FP6: Replace large concrete manhole and siphon covers
- Project FP7: Remove reunion posts
- Project FP8: Provide new light standards if park events continue to require nighttime lighting
- Project FP9: Develop guidelines for use of Flower Park for civic events
- Project FP10: Restore or rehabilitate main entrance piers

Buffalo Pasture

Rehabilitation Treatment

- Project BP1: Provide interpretive signage or “exhibit” about bison
- Project BP2: Preserve bison overlook
- Project BP3: Remove stone stockpiles from visible portions of the Buffalo Pasture
- Project BP4: Preserve Buffalo Pasture dam and pond
- Project BP5: Preserve Buffalo Pasture fence
- Project BP6: Reinstate lettering on South Entry piers
- Project BP7: Rehabilitate Buffalo Pasture Vegetation

Superintendent’s Residence

Preservation Treatment

- Project SR1: Preserve Superintendent’s Residence and Garage
- Project SR2: Replace windows and doors on residence and garage
- Project SR3: Preserve Superintendent’s Residence landscape

Prairie Uplands

Rehabilitation Treatment

- Project PU1: Rehabilitate Vegetation in Prairie Uplands
- Project PU2: Preserve former golf course dams
- Project PU3: Connect Veteran’s Trail with existing one-way trail to perimeter road to create loop trail

Pavilion Springs

Preservation Treatment

- Project PS1: Provide ADA access to edge of building
- Project PS2: Replace or repair drain line on north side of pavilion
- Project PS3: Rehabilitate area vegetation
- Project PS4: Preserve grade stabilization structure to the north of pavilion
- Project PS5: Remove information kiosk in former elk pasture and current picnic area south of Lincoln Bridge
- Project PS6: Redirect water seepage at Highway 177 underpass, west and east walls

Hillside Springs

Preservation Treatment

- Project HS1: Clean spring enclosure, including round basin and runnel, of algae and other debris; investigate seepage problems
- Project HS2: Repair bubblers and springs
- Project HS3: Repair or replace rusting metal lid of spring container
- Project HS4: Replace signs
- Project HS5: Repair split stone on entry wall

Appendix E: Cultural Landscape Report Recommendations

- Project HS6: Rehabilitate area vegetation
- Project HS7: Replace trees in parking island
- Project HS8: Reconstruct stone swale on trail northeast of Hillside Springs

Employee Residence

Preservation Treatment

- Project ER1: Preserve stone seats and pond
- Project ER2: Replace missing stepping stones
- Project ER3: Replace residence windows and doors

Administration & Headquarters

Preservation Treatment

- Project AH1: Rehabilitate parking, pedestrian access and ADA access at the Leeper House
- Project AH2: Repair steps from Hillside Springs
- Project AH3: Rehabilitate vegetation around Leeper House
- Project AH4: Camouflage satellite dish
- Project AH5: Replace foundation plantings

Maintenance Area

Preservation Treatment

- Project M1: Preserve buildings and area with active uses
- Project M2: Reconfigure area around removal of Building 108
- Project M3: Regrade area around Residence 6 and associated garages
- Project M4: Relocate horses

Central Campground

Preservation Treatment

- Project CC1: Remove “no parking” sign and hanging sign at comfort station
- Project CC2: Reinststate historic link between Central Campground and Flower Park
- Project CC3: Replace entry gate
- Project CC4: Replant trees in camping areas
- Project CC5: Thin cedars along north edge of campground at urban interface
- Project CC6: Replant trees in Panther Falls area
- Project CC7: Repair edge of pool at Panther Falls

Cold Springs Campground

Preservation Treatment

- Project CS1: Provide New Use for Checking Station
- Project CS2: Improve ADA access at comfort station
- Project CS3: Identify, redesign and construct ADA-accessible campsites
- Project CS4: Improve drainage in campground
- Project CS5: Maintain swale to north of campground
- Project CS6: Reduce number of volunteer paths and improve privacy between sites
- Project CS7: Anchor boulders used to delineate sites
- Project CS8: Provide site markers with occupancy indicators
- Project CS9: Preserve wood and garbage can enclosures
- Project CS10: Repair large concrete tables at group sites
- Project CS11: Thin cedars along north edge of campground at urban interface
- Project CS12: Repair Cold Springs Crossing
- Project CS13: Improve water hydrants

Little Niagara Falls & Travertine Island

Preservation Treatment

- Project LN1: Preserve features at large stone picnic area
- Project LN2: Preserve Travertine Island sign
- Project LN3: Repair table and restore it missing benches at the “End of the World”
- Project LN4: Restore or preserve round stone table
- Project LN5: Clear debris and silt near stone pedestrian bridges at the north side of Travertine Island
- Project LN6: Shore up flagstone swale east of Mission 66 comfort station
- Project LN7: Replace pipe rail bridges
- Project LN8: Add sand to beach at Little Niagara
- Project LN9: Reduce mowing along paths to reduce path width
- Project LN10: Stain new concrete walk at Mission 66 comfort station
- Project LN11: Replant trees at Travertine Island, Little Niagara Falls, and Lost Cave Falls

Antelope and Buffalo Springs

Preservation Treatment

- Project ABS1: Rehabilitate forest vegetation
- Project ABS2: Address multiple sign types
- Project ABS3a: Clear historic road remnant to the north as a fire break
- Project ABS3b: Thin vegetation along boundaries
- Project ABS4: Even trail grades, maintain smooth surface, and install limited seating to create ADA-accessible experience
- Project ABS5: Preserve stepping stone crossing throughout the trees
- Project ABS6: Replace pipe rail and plank bridges
- Project ABS7: Preserve USGS gauge box and reduce visual impact of new measurement tools
- Project ABS8: Repair the uppermost dam/falls of Antelope Spring
- Project ABS9: Replace stone bridge at lowest dam/falls of Antelope Spring
- Project ABS10: Investigate flow at lowest dam/falls at Antelope Spring
- Project ABS11: Rehabilitate Buffalo Springs Comfort Station
- Project ABS12: Rehabilitate vegetation around Buffalo Springs
- Project ABS13: Preserve extant road bridge and large box culverts
- Project ABS14: Preserve three dams below stone arch bridge

Rock Creek

Preservation Treatment

- Project RC1: Investigate and repair drainage
- Project RC2: Add water & electric hookups at selected RV sites
- Project RC3: Stain new concrete walk at comfort stations
- Project RC4: Identify, redesign and construct ADA-accessible campsites
- Project RC5: Repair concrete picnic tables
- Project RC6: Replace entrance sign in-kind
- Project RC7: Consider shower facilities
- Project RC8: Locate and remove exotic species
- Project RC9: Thin vegetation at urban interface and/or create firebreak in western part of campground

Selected Bibliography

- Hoagland, B. W. and F. L. Johnson
2000 *Vegetation Management Plan for Arbuckle District, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Murray County.* Report prepared for the National Park Service. Oklahoma Biological Survey and Dept. of Geography, University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. Copy available at recreation area headquarters.
- 2003c “Fire Management Plan” (as amended). On file at recreation area headquarters.
- 2005 “NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77.” Portions available at: <<http://www.nps.gov/rm77/>>.
- Hohmann, Heidi and Katarzyna Grala
2004 “Cultural Landscape Report: Platt Historic District. Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma.” Iowa State University and National Park Service. Ames, Iowa.
- Oklahoma State Parks Visitation Data
2003 1999 to 2002, provided by Ron Stahl at the Oklahoma State Parks Department, November 24.
- National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
n.d. Historic Structures of the Platt Historic District (Chickasaw National Recreation Area). NPS pamphlet.
- 1979 *Chickasaw National Recreation Area General Management Plan.* Denver, CO.
- 1993 *Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design.* Denver Service Center D-902.
- 1994 *Final Amendment to General Management Plan / Development Concept Plan.* Chickasaw National Recreation Area.
- 1995 *Report on Effects of Aircraft Overflights on the National Park System.* Denver Service Center, Denver, CO.
- 1998 “Water Resources Management Plan. Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Oklahoma.” Prepared by T. Wikle, M. Nicholl, T. Brown, J. Nord, R. Parker, and D. Weeks. Fort Collins, CO.
- 1999 “Resource Management Plan for Chickasaw National Recreation Area.” On file at recreation area headquarters, Sulphur, OK.
- 2000 *NPS Management Policies 2001.* Washington, D.C.
- 2003a “Chickasaw National Recreation Area [Oklahoma], Personal Watercraft Use, Environmental Assessment.”
- INTERNET SITES
- National Park Service Public Use Statistics. Available at: <<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/stats>>.
- National Park Service. Available at: <<http://www.nps.gov/chic>>.
- Oklahoma Dept. of Environmental Quality. Available at: <<http://www.deq.state.us>>.
- Oklahoma State Department of Education. Available at: <<http://www.sde.state.ok.us/home/defaultie.html>>.
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).
2003a. “The Arbuckle-Simpson Hydrology Study. Management and Protection of an Oklahoma Water Resource.” Available at: <http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/studies/groundwater/arbuckle_simpson/pdf/a_s_factsheet.pdf>.
- Oklahoma Water Resources Board (OWRB).
2003b. “Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer Municipal and Rural Water Rights and Applications Map,” dated March 20, 2003. Available at: <http://www.owrb.state.ok.us/util/rules/pdf_rul/Arbuckle.pdf>.

Sulphur Chamber of Commerce, Sulphur, Oklahoma. Available at: <http://www.sulphurokla.com/>.

United States Department of Commerce, Economic Analysis Bureau, regional economic statistics available at: <http://www.bea.doc.gov/>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service websites. Available at: <http://southwest.fws.gov>.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service websites. Available at: <http://ifw2es.fws.gov>.

U.S. Genweb Project, Murray County, Oklahoma web page. Available at: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~okmurray/history.htm>.



Preparers and Consultants

Planning Team Members

National Park Service, Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Steve Burrough, Chief of Resource Management. B.S. (Conservation Biology). Six years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan, natural resource concerns, needs, and impacts.

Ed Cummins, Chief Ranger. B.S. (Recreation and Park Management). Twenty-four years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan.

Mark Foust, Chief Ranger (now with Glacier National Park). B.S. (Resource Management). Seventeen years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan, visitor protection needs and impacts, and facility concerns, needs, and impacts.

Tim Jarrell, Chief of Facility Management. Twenty-seven years with the National Park Service.

Gail E. McCurry, Chief of Administration. Thirty-two years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan.

Bruce Noble, Superintendent. B.A. (American Studies), M.A. (History). Twenty-one years with the National Park Service. Involved in completion of the final General Management Plan and its implementation.

Ron Parker, Chief of Interpretation. A.S. (Conservation and Wildlife Management), B.A. (Geography), B.S. (Natural Science), M.S. (Recreation and Park Administration). Fifteen years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan and interpretive and visitor service concerns, needs, and impacts.

Connie Rudd (former superintendent). B.A. (English and Geology). Twenty-four years with the National Park Service. Involved in all aspects of the general management plan, starting with selection of the preferred alternative.

Ken Ruhnke, Landscape Architect. B.S. (Landscape Architecture). Eleven years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan, facilities, and cultural resource concerns, needs, and impacts.

John F. (Rick) Shireman (former superintendent). Thirty-one years with the National Park Service. Involved in all aspects of the general management plan from initial planning through development of the alternatives.

Susie Staples, Superintendent Secretary. Associate Degree (Secretarial). Twelve years with the National Park Service. Involved in development of alternatives for the general management plan.

Dennis Wieland, Chief Ranger. B.A. (Recreation and Park Administration). Twenty-three years with the National Park Service. Involved in the development of the alternatives with a special emphasis on Visitor and Resource Protection, visitor use activities, and public facilities.

National Park Service, Denver Service Center

Greg Jarvis, Job Captain/Project Manager. B.S. (Geology). Sixteen years with the National Park Service. Overall responsibility for preparation of the plan, project budget, and schedule.

Michael Rees, Natural Resource Specialist. B.A. (Environmental Studies), M.F.S. (Forest Science). Fifteen years with the National Park Service. Responsible for writing the description of natural resources, assessing

impacts on these resources, and writing the floodplain statement of findings.

Larry Van Horn, Cultural Resource Specialist. B.A. (History), M.A. (Anthropology), Ph.D. (Anthropology). Twenty-six years with the National Park Service. Responsible for descriptions of archeological resources, ethnographic resources, and museum collections and archives, and analysis of impacts to these resources.

Steve Whissen, Cultural Resource Specialist. B.A. (History), M.A. (Historic Preservation). Fourteen years with the National Park Service. Responsible for descriptions of cultural landscapes and historic structures, and analysis of impacts to those resources.

National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center

Kate Hammond, Interpretive Planner (now with the Denver Service Center). B.A. (History and Environmental Studies), M.A. (Environmental Management). Ten years with the National Park Service. Responsible for writing the descriptions of interpretation, and visitor uses and experiences, and assessing impacts on visitor uses and experiences.

Consultants

Dornbush Associates

Jason Bass, Principal. B.S. (Resource Economics), M.Sc. (Agricultural and Resource Economics). Eleven years with Dornbush Associates. Responsible for development of socioeconomic baseline conditions assessment, socioeconomic impact assessment, and providing economic and financial perspective to the “choosing by advantages” process and responses.

CommunityViz

Charles Donley, Senior Associate. B.A. (Political Economy), M.A. (Planning and Community Development). Twenty-five years of experience in public and private-sector planning, working on current and long-range planning processes. Seven years with CommunityViz. Applied GIS software that assisted the team in developing alternatives and performing impact analyses; and provided visualizations of the recreation area.

Other Contributors

Chickasaw National Recreation Area

Calvin R. Myers, Chief of Facility Management (retired)

Betty Wagner, Chief of Administration (retired) NPS Washington Office

Michael Martin, NPS, Water Resources Division, Fort Collins, CO

Publication Services

Philip Thys, Visual Information Specialist, Denver Service Center

Glenda Heronema, Visual Information Specialist, Denver Service Center

ERO Resources Corporation

Mark DeHaven, Project Manager

Andy Cole, Natural Resource Planner

Kay Wall, Technical Editor

David Hesker, Graphic Designer

Index

- air quality, 11, 14
- American Indians, 19
- Antelope Springs, 15, 40
- Buffalo Springs, 15, 40
- campgrounds, iv, 18, 19, 30, 36, 37, 40, 41
- camping, 4, 6, 26, 30, 36, 37
- carrying capacity, 21
- cultural landscape, iii, 6, 7, 19, 20, 28, 37, 39, 40
- cultural resources, iii, 7, 10, 11, 14, 19, 21, 26, 27, 31, 33, 34, 36, 37, 39
- Davis, 9
- endangered species (see *threatened and endangered species*), 7, 17
- erosion, iv, 4, 11, 13, 40, 41
- ethnographic resources, iii, 19, 39
- fire, 12, 30
- flooding, 16
- floodplains, 16
- floods, 16
- hiking, 4, 6, 36, 37
- interpretation, 13, 20, 21, 26, 31, 37, 40
- Lake of the Arbuckles, iv, 16, 18, 24, 25, 29, 30, 41
- Murray County, 25, 28
- National Environmental Policy Act, 40, 41
- National Historic Preservation Act, 7, 19
- National Register of Historic Places, 19, 20
- natural resources, 4, 11, 12, 16-18, 30, 36, 37
- orientation, 21, 36, 37, 40
- parking, iv, 21, 30, 33, 41
- red cedar, 12, 30, 40
- Rock Creek, iii, iv, 12, 21, 28, 29, 40
- Section 106, 40, 41
- soil, 11, 12, 14, 33
- Sulphur, 14, 15, 25, 30
- threatened and endangered species, iii, 5, 11, 12, 17, 39
- trails, iv, 13, 30, 33, 37, 40, 41
- Travertine Nature Center, iii, 39
- vegetation, iii, 11, 12, 14, 30, 33, 36, 40
- vehicles, 14, 18, 30, 36
- Veterans Lake, iii, iv, 4, 40
- visitor experience, iii, 2, 18, 21-23, 30, 33-35
- water quality, 14, 29, 33
- water quantity, 15, 29, 39
- wetlands, 5, 7, 16, 36
- wildlife, 4, 7, 11, 17, 18, 25, 26, 30



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

NPS D-126 February 2008 This plan was printed on recycled paper.