



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, AR 72601

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H4217 (BUFF-ICR)

May 25, 2010

Absentee Shawnee Tribe
James Lee Edwards, Governor
2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801-9381

COPY

*Similar letters
sent to attached
list. SA*

Dear Mr. Edwards:

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated work on an Environmental Assessment (EA) and is seeking public and agency input for the proposed Facilities Improvements project to determine if the project could potentially result in any significant impacts to the natural or human environment. The EA will evaluate potential impacts to the natural, cultural, and human environment from construction and operations activities related to the proposed action and will be available for public review in the summer 2010. The NPS is seeking comments from the public, government agencies, and tribes to help identify issues and concerns for the planning process and the EA analysis.

The purpose of the project is to improve vehicle and pedestrian access to the river at Rush and Hasty Landings, provide parking space at the Spring Creek Trailhead, and improvements to the Lost Valley Trail for hiker safety and to ensure compliance with standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Specifically, at Rush Landing, trees and brush would be cleared along the side of the ramp exit road and a pedestrian trail would be constructed up the hill so that foot and vehicular traffic would not have to use the same roadway. A drainage culvert would be installed at the top and bottom of the ramp exit road. The road along the river that leads to Clabber Creek and the Bowman Tract past Rush Landing would be widened where needed to allow for proper traffic flow and a turnaround would be constructed approximately 75 to 100 yards down the road using the old power line right of way. This would allow vehicles waiting to use the landing to line up in a location that does not block traffic coming into and leaving the landing area. The power line to the Bowman Tract would be removed and additional parking spaces for concessionaire buses would be created in the right-of-way. Consultations regarding the archeological investigations were communicated to you on June 3, 2009.

Ozark Highland Trail extension crosses Spring Creek Road just inside the Buffalo National River boundary. Hikers use this location as an access point for the trail. NPS proposes to construct a parking area that would accommodate up to four vehicles adjacent to the road just inside the boundary, to alleviate hikers parking along Spring Creek Road. This location contains no archeological resources.

At Hasty Landing a canoe walkway will be constructed to alleviate social trailing, which will in turn reduce bank destabilization at the launch site. Area of social trailing would be restored and devices would be installed to direct foot traffic down canoe walkway. Two large trees in the parking area would be removed to improve vehicle maneuvering and increase parking space. The parking area would be slightly expanded and re-graded to improve control of storm water runoff. A modern bathroom facility would be installed slightly uphill from the existing facility, out of the floodplain, and a pedestrian trail would be constructed in the woods beside the entrance road to facilitate easy access without impeding vehicular traffic coming into and out of the landing area. Pursuant to the Archeological Resources Protection Act, you will receive the work plan for proposed archeological investigations prior to any investigations taking place.

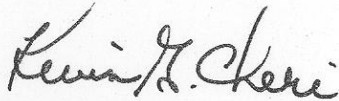
The Lost Valley Trail to Eden Falls and Eden Falls Cave is currently only accessible by foot. The existing trail has inadequate drainage crossings and safety hazards. Safety hazards include rock slides, sloping and uneven footing, loose, broken and missing native stone steps, deteriorated rock retaining walls. NPS proposes to upgrade a section of the lower trail to make it compliant with standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The remaining trail, which leads beyond the falls to the cave and the return trail from the cave would be improved and stabilized. Stone steps would be secured and trip hazards such as rocks and roots would be removed. Drainage crossings would be improved by the use of buried pipes or stone culverts. There are no known Native American resources associated with the area of potential effect.

At this time, we are initiating a public scoping period that will be open for 30 days. During this scoping period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they may have with the proposed project so that they may be appropriately considered in the EA. Additional information may be found online at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/buff>. Comments may be mailed to the following address:

Facilities Improvements EA
Buffalo National River
402 N. Walnut, Suite 136
Harrison, Arkansas 72601

All scoping comments must be received by June 23, 2010.

Sincerely,



Kevin G. Cheri
Superintendent

Enclosures

5/25/2010 10:11:03 AM

Updated 05/08/09

ABSEENTEE SHAWNEE

Absentee Shawnee Tribe

James Lee Edwards, Governor

2025 South Gordon Cooper Drive

Shawnee, OK 74801-9381

Phone: 405-275-4030

Fax: 405-275-5637

NAGPRA COORDINATOR: Copy of Attachments

Karen Kaniotabe, NAGPRA Coordinator

Phone: 405-275-4030

Fax: 405-275-5637

Correspondence should be cc to Kaniotabe

CADDO INDIAN TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma

Larue Parker, Chairman

P.O. Box 487

Binger, OK 73009

Phone: 405-656-2344

Fax: 405-656-2892

NAGPRA COORDINATOR: Copy of Attachments

Robert Cast, THPO

Bobby Gonzales, NAGPRA Coordinator

Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma

P.O. Box 487

Binger, OK 73009

Phone: 405-656-2901

Fax: 405-656-2892

Correspondence should be cc to Cast

CHEROKEE NATION OF OKLAHOMA

Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma

Chad Smith, Principal Chief

P.O. Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 918-456-0671

Fax: 918-456-2631

NAGPRA COORDINATOR: Copy of Attachments

Dr. Richard Allen, NAGPRA Coordinator

Phone: 918-456-0671

5/25/2010 10:11:03 AM
Fax: 918-456-2631
Rallen@cherokee.org

Correspondence should be cc to Allen

PRESERVATION SPECIALIST:

David Rabon
Phone: 918-456-0671x2631
Fax: 918-456-2631
Drabon@cherokee.org

EASTERN SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Glenna J. Wallace, Chief
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Phone: 918-666-2435
Fax: 918-666-3325

NAGPRA Copy of Attachments

Contact: Robin Dushane, Cultural Preservation Director
Phone: 918-666-2435x247
Fax: 918-666-3325

Correspondence should be cc to Dushane

OSAGE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Osage Tribe of Oklahoma
Jim Gray, Chief
627 Grandview
Pawhuska, OK 74056

Phone: 918-287-1128 or 918-287-1129
Fax: 918-287-1259

NAGPRA COORDINATOR: Copy of Attachments

Dr. Andrea Hunter, NAGPRA Coordinator
Phone: 918-287-5446
NOTE: They refer to themselves as the Osage Nation.

Correspondence should be cc to Hunter

QUAPAW TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA

Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma
John Berrey, Chairperson
P.O. Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74056

Phone: 918-542-1853

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Fax: 918-542-4694

NAGPRA COORDINATOR: Copy of Attachments

Carrie Wilson, NAGPRA Coordinator
Arkansas Archeological Survey
2475 N. Hatch Avenue
Fayetteville, AR 72704

Phone: 479-575-3556 AAS
Fax: 479-575-5453
918-542-5492

Correspondence cc to AAS address

THE SHAWNEE TRIBE

The Shawnee Tribe
Ron Sparkman, Tribal Chairman
29 S. Hwy 69A
Miami, OK 74354

Phone: 918-542-7774-W
918-540-1817-F
918-542-0560-C

NAGPRA COORDINATOR:

VACANT, NAGPRA Coordinator
Phone: 918-542-2441

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Belinda Pryor, Historic Preservation Department
Phone: 918-542-2441

Correspondence should be cc to Belinda

TUNICA-BILOXI TRIBE

Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
Earl J. Barbry, Sr., Tribal Chairman
P. O. Box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Phone: 318-253-9767

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Earl Barbry, Jr. THPO
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana
P.O. box 1589
Marksville, LA 71351

Correspondence should be cc to Earl Jr.

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UNITED KEETOOWAH BAND OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN NATION

Copy of Attachments

United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indian Nation

Lisa Stopp Acting THPO

Asst. Sequiah Gest

P.O. Box 746

Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465- 0746

Phone: 918-431-1818

NAGPRA

George G. Wickliffe, Chief

Phone: 918-431-9998

Correspondence should be cc to George Wickliffe

WICHITA AND AFFILIATED TRIBES Copy of Attachments

Wichita and Affiliated Tribes

Gary McAdams, President

P.O. Box 729

Anadarko, OK 73005

Fax: 405-247-2430

NAGPRA Representative:

Stratford Williams, Transportation, and Historic Preservation

Phone: 405-247-2425x133

No cc required

Appendix B

RUSH LAUNCH PROJECT

