



File Code: 1950

Date: July 18, 2011

Dear Interested Public:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project* has been completed and is attached. A hard copy of the EA is available upon request.

Alternative 2 (the proposed action alternative) has been identified as the preferred alternative; it is described in detail on pages 7-9 of the EA. Although a preferred alternative has been identified, the final decision on which alternative to select has not yet been made. Pursuant to 36 CFR 215.5, I am requesting comments on this proposed action.

Only those persons, non-Federal organizations or entities that comment or otherwise express interest during the formal comment period will be eligible to appeal the subsequent decision on this project. The formal comment period will end 30 days following the date of publication of a legal notice in the newspaper of record, *The Daily World*, Helena-West Helena, AR. The tentative publication date for the legal notice is between July 18 and July 22, 2011. All comments received prior to making the final decision on this project will be considered. Please note that comments received in response to this solicitation, including the names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Individuals or representative(s) submitting comments must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Submit written comments to me: District Ranger James R. McCoy, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Attn: *Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project*, 1001 East Main, Mountain View, AR 72560. Our telephone and FAX numbers are: Phone (870) 269-3228, FAX (870) 269-3000. Hand-delivered comments may be submitted at either the St. Francis or the Sylamore District office within the normal weekday business hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To mail your comments electronically, use a common digital format (without attachments) and submit it to the following e-mail address: comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis-stfrancis@fs.fed.us .

Please provide the following information:

1. Name and mailing address.
2. Title of the proposed action: *Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project*
3. Your comments on the proposed action.
4. Signature or other means of identification verification.

Once the Decision Notice has been signed, it will be posted on this website. Those who respond to this solicitation for comments will be notified when the Decision Notice is available.

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please contact me or Jan Franks at 870-269-3228.



Sincerely,

/s/ James R. McCoy
JAMES R. McCOY
District Ranger

jlf
attachment (Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project EA)



Environmental Assessment

Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project Project #33219

**Section 35, T. 1N, R. 4E in Lee County and
Sections 2 and 3, T. 1S, R. 4E in Phillips County, Arkansas**

**Region 8, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture
Ozark-St. Francis National Forests
St. Francis Ranger District
2675 Highway 44
Marianna, AR 72360**

July 2011

Responsible Official:

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SUMMARY

The St. Francis Ranger District (the District) of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (the Forest) has developed a proposed action for the *Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project*. The proposed action involves designation of 1.7 miles of National Forest System trail which crosses portions of the baseline survey for the Louisiana Purchase. Approximately 1.3 miles would occur on existing Forest System Road with approximately 0.4 mile of new construction. A parking area, trailhead and scenic overlook would be developed and interpretive information would be provided.

Effects of implementing either the proposed action or a no action alternative are examined in this document.

Under the no action alternative the trail will not be constructed.

No significant direct or indirect effects or cumulative impacts to natural or human environments are expected if the proposed action is implemented. Compliance with the Revised Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and all federal, state and local laws and regulations will be required. Work would be monitored to ensure it was implemented as described.

The proposed activities involve the use of chainsaws, hand tools, and heavy equipment and therefore, pose an increased potential for injury during active operations over the no action alternative. All work will be supervised and conducted in a manner that will reduce the potential for negative effects to human health and safety as well as the human and natural environments

Based upon the information in this Environmental Assessment (EA) and the supporting project planning record (including consideration of all public comments), the responsible Forest Service official will decide which, if either, of the developed alternatives best meets the needs of the project area or may require additional alternatives be developed for consideration before rendering a decision.

INTRODUCTION

The Forest Service's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forest and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations (USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan, FY 2007- 2012).

Document Structure

The Forest Service has prepared this EA in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and other relevant federal and state laws and regulations. This EA discloses the reasonably foreseeable direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the developed alternative to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement or a Finding of No Significant Impact should be prepared.

Direct effects are caused by an action and occur at the same time and place. Indirect effects are caused by an action but occur in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Cumulative impacts result from the incremental impact of the proposed action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Unless otherwise stated, the cumulative effects area, or the geographic scope, is the proposed project area.

The document is organized into five parts:

- **Introduction:** This section includes information on the history of the project proposal, the purpose and need for the project, and the agency's proposal for achieving that purpose and need. This section also details how the Forest Service informed the public of the proposal and how the public responded.
- **Alternatives:** This section provides a more detailed description of the agency's proposed action's project design and the design of any other alternatives that were developed based on significant issues raised by the public and other agencies.
- **Environmental Consequences:** This section describes the environmental effects of implementing the proposed action and other developed alternatives. This analysis is organized by environmental component. The current condition of each environmental component is described first, followed by the effects of the no action alternative to provide a baseline for evaluation and the comparison of effects of the other alternatives.
- **Consultation and Coordination:** This section provides a list of those involved in planning this project and preparing this document as well as the tribal government contacts, the federal and state agencies, and additional resource specialists consulted during the development of the environmental assessment.
- **Appendices:** The appendices provide information to support the analyses presented in the environmental assessment.

The project planning record is located at the Sylamore Ranger District Office of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Proposed Project Area

The St. Francis National Forest is located in east central Arkansas within Lee and Phillips Counties; it is situated approximately 46 air miles southwest of Memphis, TN, 20 miles south of Forrest City, AR between the towns of Marianna and Helena-West Helena, AR. Management of this 22,683 acre National Forest is administered by the St. Francis Ranger District headquartered in Marianna, AR.

The trail would be located within Section 35, T. 1N, R. 4E in Lee County and Sections 2 and 3, T. 1S, R. 4E in Phillips County as shown on the map in Appendix 2 of this EA.

Arkansas State Highway 44 (FDR 1900) bisects the proposed trail; FDR 1900 is designated as three scenic byways: twice as portions of National Scenic Byways (the Crowley's Ridge Parkway National Scenic Byway and the Great River Road National Scenic Byway) and once as a Forest Service designated Scenic Byway (the St. Francis Scenic Byway).

The proposed project area does not contain any acreage congressionally designated as a wilderness, a wild or scenic river, a wilderness study area, a national recreation area, an inventoried roadless area, or a research natural area. There is no private land within or adjacent to the proposed project area.

Project Development Background

The Forest Service is legislatively mandated to manage the renewable surface resources of the National Forests for the multiple use and sustained yield of products and services. The District is charged with the administration of land management actions on the public lands within its boundaries.

The Revised Land and Resource Management Plan of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests (Forest Plan) guides all natural resource management activities for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. It establishes long-range goals (desired conditions) and short-range objectives (generally for the next 10 to 15 years). It specifies management areas and associated priorities and objectives, and it establishes monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Forest Plan and supporting documents are hereby incorporated by reference. The Forest Plan and supporting documents may be viewed on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests website at <http://www.aokforests.com/>. To navigate to these documents select 'Ozark-St. Francis National Forests', 'Land and Resource Management', and 'Planning' followed by quick links for the 2005 Revised Land and Resources Management Plan and the 2005 Revised Forest Plan Documents.

Management Areas

The 1982 planning regulations guiding implementation of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) call for lands and waters to be assigned to "management areas" (36 CFR 219.11). These are areas within a National Forest having desired conditions, suitable uses, management objectives, and design criteria in common. Twenty-five (25) management areas (MA) are identified for the

Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and are delineated by the Forest Plan. The proposed project area occurs within two of these, MA 1.H: *Scenic Byway Corridors* (Forest Plan, pp 2-45 and 2-46) and MA 3.G: *Crowley's Ridge Upland Hardwood* (Forest Plan, pp 2-67 through 2-69). The actions proposed for this project are appropriate for use within these Management Areas.

Purpose of and Need for Action

Sustaining and enhancing outdoor recreation opportunities to help meet the nation's recreation demands is a national goal established in the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2007-2012. The Forest Plan identifies a need to shift toward providing more day use activities to meet outdoor recreational needs in the future. Forest Plan priorities for dispersed recreation, trails and scenic byways include:

Dispersed Recreation (Forest Plan p 2-18)

- Provide a range and amount of dispersed recreation opportunities that area consistent with public demand for a variety of activities and settings.
- Provide abundant and diverse opportunities for enjoying scenery, streams, lakes, rivers, heritage sites, geological features and wildlife.

Trails (Forest Plan p 2-19)

- Consider opportunities to construct or join trails that link Maintenance Level 1 Roads (closed roads) and other roads that meet the need for trail-based recreation to lengthen trail systems.

Scenic Byway Corridors (Forest Plan p 2-46)

- Develop public view points and interpretive opportunities.

Forest Plan Objective OBJ 35 also directs land managers to "Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources wherever they occur".

Compared to other Districts on the Forest, trail-based recreation opportunities on the St. Francis Ranger District are currently limited. The purposes of the proposed *Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project* are to

- provide a trail-based educational and interpretive experience for those visiting the District;
- introduce forest users to the historical significance of the 1815 Louisiana Purchase survey baseline;
- develop a scenic overlook within the scenic byway corridor, and
- provide an additional tourist attraction for the Mississippi River State Park.

Decision Framework

This EA does not document a decision. The purpose of this document is to disclose the effects and consequences of proposed management actions.

The District Ranger of the Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts is the responsible Forest Service official who will make a decision on this proposal. The decision to be made is whether or not to approve and implement the activities of the proposed action alternative. The District Ranger may decide to 1) select either the proposed action or the no action alternative, 2) modify the proposed action or 3) defer making a decision at this time.

Public Involvement

To comply with the requirements of NEPA and to help the interdisciplinary team identify pertinent issues and management concerns, public involvement was sought.

On March 29, 2011 letters (scoping notices) describing the proposed action, inviting participation in the development of the project and seeking comment on the proposed action were mailed to

- Organizations, other agencies, and individuals who have expressed interest in proposed projects involving these types of actions on the St. Francis Ranger District.
- Private landowners within or immediately adjacent to the project area compartment boundaries.

Native American Tribal leaders with interest in the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests and the State Historic Preservation Officer were also mailed scoping notices under National Heritage Preservation Act Section 106 review.

A copy of the public scoping notice was also posted at www.fs.fed.us/oonf/ozark/projects/planning/stfrancisproject.htm.

Eight (8) expressions of interest in this proposal were received from the public prior to completion of this EA. All comments were considered. No objections to this proposal were raised.

A legal notice initiating the formal 30 day comment period for this project is tentatively scheduled for publication in the newspaper of record, *The Daily World*, Helena-West Helena, AR between July 18 and 22, 2011. A copy of this EA will be posted on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' website either prior to or coincident with publication of the 30 day comment period legal notice. Those who have commented on the proposed action to date will be notified of its availability, and it will be available upon request. Information regarding submittal of a comment under 36 CFR 215 appeal regulations will be provided on the Forest website, in the legal notice initiating the 30 day comment period and to all that are mailed or all who request a copy of this document.

This project's planning record contains

- copies of the scoping and a tribal consultation notice;
- a list of persons to whom scoping notices or tribal consultation letters were mailed;
- comments on the proposed action received;
- documentation of the Forest Service's consideration of comments received during scoping, and

- a list of persons to whom this EA and requirements for submitting a comment to ensure eligibility to appeal the subsequent decision will be mailed.

Once received from the newspaper of record, proof of publication for the legal notice initiating the formal 30 day comment period will be placed in the project planning record.

Issues

Issues are separated into two groups: significant and non-significant. Significant issues are those which are relevant to the actions proposed and the decision to be made. Mitigation measures or additional alternatives are developed to remedy significant issues. Non-significant issues are those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations require this delineation in Section 1501.7, “identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)...”

The potential for effect from management actions was taken into consideration during development of the proposed action. The proposed project was designed to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations that are in place to protect natural and cultural resources as well as the human environment and to comply with the standards and other requirements of the Forest Plan.

The project planning record documents consideration of all comments received prior to completion of this EA. No significant issues related to this proposal were identified.

ALTERNATIVES

Because no significant issues related to the proposed action were identified, no alternatives other than the no action and the proposed action alternatives were developed.

Alternative 1

The No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, none of the activities of the proposed action alternative will be implemented. The future condition of the proposed project area will primarily be influenced by natural processes and events; however, management actions necessary to protect public safety such as suppression of unplanned ignitions (wildfires) and county road maintenance would occur.

Alternative 2

The Proposed Action Alternative

The following proposed action has been designed to comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations which are in place to protect natural and cultural resources as well as the human environment and with the Forest Plan.

If selected, implementation of the proposed action may occur providing no new information or changed circumstances relating to the environmental impacts of project come to light. Information regarding any changed circumstances will be considered by the responsible Forest Service official who will determine its importance.

The St. Francis Ranger District is proposing to construct an interpretive hiking trail approximately 1.7 miles in length. Design standards prescribed by the Forest Service's 'Trail Construction and Maintenance Notebook' would be utilized for this project. That document is available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/t-d/pubs/pdfpubs/pdf07232806/pdf07232806dpi72.pdf>.

A trailhead would be constructed at the intersection of Forest Development Road (FDR) 1900 and FDR 1907. The majority of the proposed route generally follows a portion of the surveyed base line of 1815 and the existing road corridor for Forest Service Road (FDR) 1907. A short spur extending north from FDR 1907 into the Forest and an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible spur extending east from FDR 1900 through the Forest to a scenic overlook would also be constructed.

The proposed trail will intersect the surveyed baseline for the Louisiana Purchase four times. A concrete or stone monument will be placed in each of these locations to alert visitors when they are on the actual surveyed baseline. Each monument will be set in the ground and will require a 16"x16"x 1' area to be excavated. Small interpretive signs and trail blazes would also be placed along the trail.

The trailhead and parking lot will comply with ADA standards and would provide parking for up to three vehicles. It would measure approximately 27 feet wide by 25 feet deep. The area would be

cleared and grubbed; geotextile materials may be utilized and compacted gravel, asphalt or other surface material may be used to harden the parking surface and limit the potential for erosion. A multiple panel kiosk will be installed to provide information to visitors.

The majority of the trail (1.3 miles) would extend west from the trailhead along FDR 1907, a gated road used only for administrative purposes. This portion of the trail is identified as Phase I on the attached map. Only minimal construction is expected to be used on FDR 1907, but the portion of this road to be used as trail (approximately 4' wide) may be hardened. The road would remain gated and continue to be used for administrative access.

Two short trail segments totaling 0.3 mile will spur off FDR 1907 extending north to intersect the surveyed baseline. The first trail segment will be constructed through the forest. The second trail segment will follow the roadbed of FDR 97012E and may be hardened as described for FDR 1907. New trail construction would involve removing some non-merchantable trees (less than 3 inches in diameter) and brushy vegetation (including root stock) within a corridor approximately 6 feet wide and 8 feet high. Encroaching branches 8 feet or lower from the ground would also be removed. Drainage features and switchbacks would be installed as needed. The tread would be constructed with hand tools or a small excavator; geotextile materials, compacted gravel or other materials may be utilized to limit the potential for erosion. Structural features such as steps or revetment may also be constructed. The finished tread would be between 18 to 24 inches in width.

The portion of the planned Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail extending to the east of the parking area will be constructed to ADA standards to make it fully accessible. This trail will extend approximately 300 feet along the west shoulder of FDR 1900, cross FDR 1900 to the east side and continue along a gentle grade to an overlook location; it is identified as Phase II on the attached map. A concrete monument will be placed at the overlook identifying the actual baseline location. It will be necessary to construct a low retaining wall from treated timbers or modular concrete blocks to allow a level and stable overlook platform. The trail tread to the eastern overlook will be constructed as mentioned above but will be surfaced with compacted gravel, asphalt or another, suitable, hard surface. A small interpretive sign will be placed at or near the overlook. A rustic post and rail fence will be constructed between this trail segment and FDR 1900 to provide a physical barrier between the trail and FDR1900. Crosswalk warning signs will be installed on FDR 1900 in advance of the crossing location in each travel direction.

A wheelchair accessible crossing of FDR 1900 would be installed. A short portion of the trail will cross FDR 1900 and will be clearly signed on northern and southern sides of trail in a manner which enhances visitor safety during road crossing. Highly visible signs will be placed in locations which will alert vehicle traffic to the pedestrian crossing. Signs to alert the using public crossing the byway to take extreme care when crossing the roadway will also be posted. Alternative methods of compliance may be utilized if speed compliance is lacking.

The 0.1 mile section of trail located east of FDR 1900 would be constructed to meet ADA standards and will provide wheel chair access to the interpretive kiosk in the overlook area. Interpretive signs and/or concrete monuments would be placed where the trail intercepts the surveyed baseline and route designation signage would be placed along the trail corridor.

After construction of the trail and trailheads is completed, brush would be cleared from the corridor with hand tools as needed and drainage features would be maintained to ensure they function properly.

Other Design Criteria

- Any changes to current threatened, endangered and sensitive (TES) species lists for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests or new information about any species on those lists that may change the determination of effect made in the Biological Assessment and Evaluation (BA/E) for this project may prompt completion of a new or Supplemental BA/E and subsequent review by the responsible Forest Service Officer.
- Prior to implementation of any project activities, a member of the heritage resource staff is to be consulted. After action monitoring is to be conducted as well.
- During any phase of this operation, if any previously undiscovered heritage resource sites are found, work will cease in the area of discovery and the appropriate authorities will be notified.

Alternatives Considered but not Developed

Alternative Involving Construction of the Trail in an Alternate Location

Construction of a 2.24 mile trail along a portion of the baseline extending east to west between FDR 1901 and 1900 was proposed in July of 2010. The majority of responses received regarding that proposal were supportive; however, other information came to light regarding a sensitive resource site that would be impacted if the trail were constructed in that location. Because the impacts to the site could not be mitigated, the proposal was not considered further.

Alternative to Include a Trail Loop and ADA Accessible Parking on the East Side of FDR 1900

One comment received requested consideration be given to an alternative that included ADA parking on the east side of FDR 1900 and construction of a trail loop connecting the western monument on FDR 1907 to the monument on FDR 97012E.

This request was considered but not developed further. The only area large enough to support parking on the east side of FDR 1900 occurs within a curve and presents an increased potential for collision as vehicles pull onto the road. Conditions between the proposed monument locations on FDRs 1907 and 97012E do not support construction of a sustainable trail.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

This section summarizes the potentially affected environments of the proposed project area and the potential changes to those environments due to implementation of the alternatives.

As required by 36 CFR 219.35, the best available science was considered in preparing this EA. The project planning record demonstrates a thorough review of relevant scientific information, consideration of responsible opposing views, and, where appropriate, the acknowledgment of incomplete or unavailable information, scientific uncertainty, and risk.

There are no private inholdings or previously approved management activities within the proposed project area. Management actions necessary to protect public safety such as suppression of unplanned ignitions (wildfires) and road maintenance may occur under either alternative. When considered with the proposed activities, cumulative impacts of management actions for these purposes are not anticipated.

A summary of the effects of implementing either of the developed alternatives is presented in Table 1 beginning on the following page.

Summary of Effects

**Table 1:
Comparison of Environmental Effects for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives of the Hazardous Fuels Reduction Within Compartments 13 and 16 Project**

Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Soils and Water	Current trends and conditions will continue.	Because new construction is limited, the project is not expected to have any detrimental impacts to these resources. No impacts to wetlands, floodplains or municipal water sources are expected.
Air Quality	Current trends and conditions will continue.	No changes to air quality are expected.
Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species	There will be no effect to any federally listed species and no impact to any Regional Forester’s sensitive listed species.	There will be no effect to any federally listed species and no impact to any Regional Forester’s sensitive listed species.
Management Indicator Species	There would be no change in habitat availability for any MIS selected for the St. Francis Ranger District. Current trends and conditions will continue.	There would be no change in habitat availability for any MIS selected for the St. Francis Ranger District.
Human Health and Safety	Inherent risks will not change. Current trends and conditions will continue.	Inherent risks will not change. Construction of the trail would create an increased potential for injury to workers during active operations; monitoring, inspections and compliance with safety standards will reduce the potential risk.
Vegetation	Current trends and conditions will continue.	Vegetation will be removed from less than one acre total to implement this project. There will be no change in stand composition.
Cultural and Heritage Resources	There will be no changes from the current condition.	No impacts are expected.

**Table 1:
Comparison of Environmental Effects for the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives of the Hazardous Fuels
Reduction Within Compartments 13 and 16 Project**

Resource	No Action Alternative	Proposed Action Alternative
Recreation, Public Access and Scenic Integrity	There will be no changes from the current condition.	Additional opportunities for trail based recreation on the St. Francis National Forest will be provided as will ADA accessible features, interpretive information and a scenic overlook. Effects associated with construction will be short term.
Economics	Payments to Phillips County made under the SRS and PILT programs would not be affected.	Payments to Phillips County made under the SRS and PILT programs would not be affected. There would be costs for the government that would not be incurred with the no action alternative.
Civil Rights & Environmental Justice	No impacts to civil rights and no disproportionate effects to low income groups or minorities are expected.	No impacts to civil rights and no disproportionate effects to low income groups or minorities are expected.

Soil and Water

Current Condition

The proposed project area is located in the Delta ecoregion as identified by the U.S. EPA (2003) as a revision of work by Omernick (1987). The Delta landscape is comprised of alluvial sand, gravel, and clay deposited by rivers and wind-deposited silty soils called loess. Loess soils are fairly stable when dry, but can collapse rapidly when the soils become saturated and can be very erosive if not protected.

The proposed project area occurs on a narrow ridge top. Trail would be constructed or designated in areas comprised primarily of Loring silt loam soils with slopes ranging from 3 to 8 percent. These soils are subject to piping, a condition that develops when water ponds on the soil surface and causes a void to develop in the subsurface soil.

The proposed project area lies in the southern portion of the 6th level Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 080202031609, known as the Bear Creek-St. Francis River sub-watershed. The sub-watershed consists of 14,619 acres with numerous streams that flow generally north and intersect an irrigation ditch which then drains east to the St. Francis River. The landscape near the project site is drained by unnamed tributaries that are intermittent to ephemeral at this location. There are no perennial streams, wetlands, floodplains or water supply intakes within the proposed project area.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

There will be no change in conditions of soil and water resources if the no action alternative is selected. Under the proposed action alternative, there is a potential for piping to occur if low spots develop in the trail where water can pond; hardening of the installation of drainage features and maintenance will help reduce the potential for this occurrence. Because much of the trail will be located on a pre-existing forest road the amount of new construction and associated sediment disturbance will be reduced. The trail will also be located along ridges away from streams providing considerable sediment filtration prior to runoff reaching a stream course. The proposed parking area will be located near an ephemeral drain that comprises a portion of the headwaters of Storm Creek which flows southeast to Storm Creek Lake. The parking area will be constructed approximately 2.9 miles above the lake. The conditions resulting from the proposed activities will not be of a large enough magnitude to find noticeable increases in water yield or flow regime and this project does not involve activities that will significantly alter land use. Therefore, no detrimental hydrological effects are expected due to construction of the trail or parking area.

Air Quality

Current Condition

The entire project area lies within lands designated as a Class II area with respect to the air resource. The Clean Air Act defines a Class II area as “a geographic area designated for a moderate degree of protection from future degradation of the air quality.” Class I areas are granted special air quality

protection to ensure that visibility is not impaired. The nearest mandatory Class I area is the Upper Buffalo Wilderness Area near Deer, AR.

Existing emission sources occurring within the analysis area airshed consist mainly of mobile sources. These include, but are not limited to, combustion engines, dust from unpaved surfaces, and smoke from prescribed (federal, local, county) burning and burning of agricultural land.

The Clean Air Act requires the U.S. EPA to establish National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for six pollutants considered harmful to public health and the environment: carbon monoxide, lead, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, particulate matter (PM-10 and PM-2.5), and sulfur dioxide. The standards were set at the level required to provide an ample margin of safety to protect the public health. An attainment area is a geographic area in which levels of a criteria air pollutant meet NAAQS for the pollutant. Under the Clean Air Act, any area that violates national ambient air quality standards for any of the six criteria pollutants as few times as once per year and as often as four times over a three year period is classified as a “nonattainment” area. Currently, the levels of all six criteria pollutants are at or below the NAAQS (meeting attainment standards) in Lee and Phillips Counties.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

The no action alternative will have no effect on current air quality. Under the proposed action, dust will be generated during trail construction, and vehicles and machinery used during proposed management activities will contribute negligible quantities of emissions to the atmosphere, but no measurable effect to current air quality is expected.

Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Listed Species and Species Proposed for Federal Listing

Current Condition

A Biological Assessment and Evaluation (BA/E) documenting the possible effects of management actions to known and potential populations and habitat of proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive (PETS) plant and animal species within the area of influence of this project was prepared and is hereby incorporated by reference (USDA Forest Service, March 2011).

All federally listed (threatened or endangered) species identified by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (eighteen species) and all regional Forester’s (Region 8) sensitive species (thirty-two species) known to occur or with the potential to occur on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests were considered in the BA/E for this project. Two additional species known to occur near the Forests were recently proposed for federal listing and were also included in this analysis. Thirteen federally listed species, both species proposed for federal listing and twenty-eight Regional Forester’s listed species were eliminated from detailed consideration because they are either not known to occur on the St. Francis National Forest or because their known distribution is well outside the counties that make up the St. Francis Ranger District.

No critical habitat as defined by the Endangered Species Act, no essential breeding habitat and no proposed critical habitat for any federally listed species have been identified on the St. Francis National Forest.

Species given further consideration in the BA/E due to their known occurrence on the St. Francis Ranger District or their potential for occurrence due to the presence of suitable habitat on the District and records nearby are as follows:

- Federally listed species: interior least tern (endangered), ivory-billed woodpecker (endangered), American alligator (threatened), pallid sturgeon (endangered), fat pocketbook (threatened), scaleshell mussel (endangered) and pondberry (endangered)
- Regional Forester's sensitive listed species: Rafinesque's big-eared bat, bald eagle, longnose darter, butternut and climbing magnolia

Information regarding the environmental baseline and the current conditions on the St. Francis National Forest for each of the above listed species is provided in the BA/E. Determinations of effect for species considered in the BA/E are summarized below.

Effects of Alternative 1: No Action Alternative

The no action alternative proposes no new actions for the area. Natural changes over time would continue to affect the conditions and trends in the area. Of the federally listed or Regional Forester's sensitive listed species likely to occur on the St. Francis National Forest there are none that currently require any of the management actions proposed to protect them from harm. Therefore, for these species, there will be “**no effect**” to any threatened or endangered species and “**no impact**” to any sensitive species under the no action alternative.

Effects of Alternative 2: Proposed Action Alternative

The US Fish and Wildlife Service's Conway Field office is on the District mailing list for all projects requiring NEPA documentation. A letter describing this proposed action and seeking comment was mailed to the agency on March 29, 2011. The agency's response (April 13, 2011) did not identify any issues or extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal. With respect to federally-listed species, the actions proposed in this project fall within current forest plan direction and biological opinion guidelines.

A finding of “no effect” was made for all federally-listed species known from or with the potential to occur on the St. Francis Ranger District (interior least tern, pallid sturgeon, fat pocketbook, scaleshell muscle, ivory-billed woodpecker, American alligator or pondberry). Interior least tern, pallid sturgeon, fat pocketbook, and scaleshell mussel sites will not be affected by the proposed activities because they are located a sufficient distance from the proposed project area. The proposed action will not cause a loss of suitable habitat for or impact any habitat potentially used by the ivory-billed woodpecker or American alligator. Pondberry is not present in the proposed project area and is not expected to occur on the District; no activities would occur in potentially suitable habitat for this species.

The proposed action is expected to have no impact on the bald eagle, Rafinesque's big-eared bat, longnose darter, butternut or climbing magnolia or their respective habitats. Suitable food and nesting sources for the bald eagle are not present in the proposed project area so potential use would be limited to temporary roosting and flying over it. The proposed action would not permanently or significantly impact bald eagles. Rafinesque's big-eared bat has potential to occur within the proposed project area, but if present will only be disturbed by the proposed activities, and individuals would readily move from the area. Habitat potentially used by the longnose darter will not be affected by the proposed project activities. Butternut is not currently known from the proposed project area, and the trail and proposed parking area would be constructed outside suitable habitat for climbing magnolia.

Determination of Effect for Species Eliminated from Detailed Consideration in the Biological Assessment and Evaluation

The threatened or endangered species and the sensitive species eliminated from detailed consideration for projects on the St. Francis National Forest do not occur, nor are they expected to occur on the District due to the geographic location of the District in relation to the known and historic ranges of these species. Since these species do not occur on the St. Francis National Forest they will not be affected by the project. Further, no habitats that might be used as recovery areas for any of these species will be affected by this project. The threatened or endangered species eliminated from detailed consideration in the BA/E have a "no effect" finding and the sensitive species have a "no impact" finding.

Management Indicator Species

Current Condition

The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations require the selection of management indicator species (MIS) during the development of forest plans (36 CFR 219.19 [a]). MIS are selected "because their population changes are believed to indicate the effects of management activities" (36 CFR 219[a][2]). Eight MIS have been selected for the St. Francis National Forest: whitetail deer, wild turkey, yellow-breasted chat, northern parula, cerulean warbler, pileated woodpecker, Acadian flycatcher, and largemouth bass. The reasons each of these species was chosen is outlined in Table 3-63 of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (page 3-147). Additional discussion for each species is also provided on pages 3-148 through 3-162 of the FEIS.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

Neither alternative is expected to cause a change in habitat availability for any MIS selected for the St. Francis Ranger District. Current trends and conditions will continue under the no action alternative. Due to the location and limited nature of the proposed action alternative, management actions will not significantly alter habitat required by or cause population changes for any of these species. None of the species will be affected by the proposed trail or parking lot construction. The parking area already exists; actions to establish it as a system feature will be limited in scope to improve

conditions and clearing limits and will not remove forested habitat from MIS that depend on it. Use of the existing road and new construction of the short sections of trail will also not remove forested habitat. None of the eight MIS depend on solitude. Increased visitation into these areas will not reduce their suitability for any MIS. The proposed trail and associated features will not take place within or near riparian or lake habitat and will not affect MIS that depend on these types of habitat.

Vegetation

Current Condition

For the majority of forested stands in the vicinity of the proposed project the overstory is dominated by the white oak-northern red oak-hickory forest type. The mid-story and ground vegetation components and densities are typical of those found in the cover types of the area consisting of yellow poplar, oak, hickory, sassafras, sweetgum, locust, blackgum, and red maple. Common shrubs and vines found include French mulberry, hawthorns, greenbriers, blackberry, honeysuckle, and grape. Grasses and other herbaceous vegetation in the understory include bluestem, foxtail, nutsedge, poison ivy, greenbrier, Desmodium, and panicums.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

Under the no action alternative, no changes to existing vegetation would occur; current conditions and trends would continue. Under the proposed action, effects to vegetation in the vicinity of the proposed project would be limited to removal of a few non-merchantable trees and brush to construct the parking lot, trailhead, overlook and sections of new trail. Less than one (1) acre total would be affected. After construction of the new sections of trail is completed, brush would be cleared from the 6' wide corridor with hand tools as needed. These actions will not significantly alter existing species composition within the area of potential effect.

Cultural and Heritage Resources

Current Condition

Information concerning possible cultural and heritage resources within the analysis area was obtained from the Master Site and Project Tracking Atlas, field investigations, examination of old maps, aerial photographs, land acquisition files and project and site records and the *St. Francis Unit Assessment*. The *St. Francis Unit Assessment* is a comprehensive inventory of the entire St. Francis National Forest. It includes a full background research of all publicly owned land in the District, and the intensive survey of an additional 16,400 acres, including those of the proposed project area. It is tiered to the watershed scale inventories currently underway, the 2005 Programmatic Agreement (PA) and the Forest Plan.

Project Notification 08-10-07-01 *St. Francis Unit Assessment* presents the known site distribution information for the area of potential effect and summarizes the archaeological inventory of the project area. This document is hereby incorporated by reference. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) submitted a letter of concurrence with the findings of the *St. Francis Unit*

Assessment dated February 8, 2008 for project notification number 08-10-07-01pn. A copy of this letter is on file.

Per the 2005 revision of the Programmatic Agreement among U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma; Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, Arkansas, the State Historic Preservation Officers of Arkansas and Oklahoma, Oklahoma State Archaeologist, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, Concerning the Management of Historic Properties on National Forest lands in Arkansas and Oklahoma (2005 Programmatic Agreement) the proposed activities may be documented in a cultural categorical exclusion under *Section C.* of the 2005 Programmatic Agreement. A documented cultural categorical exclusion (#11-10-07-05ce) was prepared for these actions and is on file.

There are no sites recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and none for which the eligibility for listing is undetermined within the area of potential effect.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

There would be no additional ground disturbance from management activities; therefore, no impacts to cultural or heritage resources in the proposed project area would be expected if the no action alternative is selected.

Because there are no archaeological sites within the area of potential effect, none will be affected by this undertaking. A response to the March 29, 2011 scoping notice from the Deputy SHPO concurs with this finding.

The proposed trail offers an opportunity to educate the public by highlighting the prehistoric, European, and incipient United States contributions to the region through interpretive material and helps move the forest toward meeting Forest Plan Objective OBJ 35 to “*Evaluate historic sites for appropriate management. Develop site management plans for noteworthy heritage resources wherever they occur*”.

Human Health and Safety

Current Condition

There are inherent (though not always overt) potential risks to human safety on National Forest System lands ranging from insect bites to the potential for wildfire. Current conditions do not pose any immediate risk to human health and safety beyond inherent risks.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

There will be no change from the current condition under the no action alternative. With the proposed action, inherent potential risks to human safety will continue to exist. There will be an

increased potential for injury or death to forest workers during construction of the trail exists over the no action alternative. Serious injury or death can occur as a direct result of accidents involving heavy equipment and the mishandling of chainsaws. The increased potential for injury or death during project implementation is not anticipated to be significant because precautions to ensure activities are conducted in a safe manner will be taken.

When construction is completed, forest visitors will be required to cross FDR 1900 to access the portion of trail and scenic overlook. This poses an increase in potential for a pedestrian to be struck by a motor vehicle. Signing will be provided for visitors and motorists alike to alert them to the potential hazard and a barrier between the shoulder of the road and the trail will be installed to reduce the likelihood an accident will occur.

Recreation, Public Access and Scenic Integrity

Current Condition

Public Access and scenic integrity greatly influence the overall outdoor recreation experience; therefore, these resources will be discussed together. The analysis area for recreation and scenic integrity is the proposed project area and the area visible from it.

Visitors to the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests' St. Francis Ranger District typically include nearby residents, people from urban population centers in Arkansas and adjoining states, destination recreationists seeking unique natural areas and others seeking recreation opportunities in an outdoor setting.

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) provides a framework for stratifying and defining classes of outdoor recreation opportunity environments. The settings, activities, and opportunities have been arranged into six classes: Primitive, Semi-primitive non-motorized, Semi-primitive motorized, Roaded Natural, Rural and Urban. The majority of the proposed project area is classified as Roaded Natural (RN). The western end of FDR 1907 occurs within an area classified as Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM). Descriptions of all ROS classes may be found in Appendix G of the Forest Plan.

Roaded Natural: areas characterized by predominately natural appearing environments with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of people. Such evidence usually harmonizes with the natural environment. Resource modification and utilization practices are evident, but harmonize with the natural environment. Conventional motorized use is allowed and incorporated into construction standards and design of facilities.

Semi-primitive Motorized: areas characterized by predominately natural or natural appearing environment of moderate to large size. Minimum on-site controls and restrictions may be present but subtle. These areas contain local primitive or collector roads having predominately natural surfaces and trails suitable for motorized vehicles.

The current conditions within the proposed project area do not significantly reduce or limit existing opportunities to participate in dispersed recreation activities on the District. Dispersed recreation

uses in and near the project area include but are not necessarily limited to hunting, fishing, driving for pleasure, dispersed camping, photography, and watching wildlife.

Forest Service Road 1900 is designated as three scenic byways: twice as portions of National Scenic Byways (the Crowley's Ridge Parkway National Scenic Byway and the Great River Road National Scenic Byway) and once as a Forest Service designated Scenic Byway (the St. Francis Scenic Byway).

A special use authorization (permit) to the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism has been issued for the establishment and operation of the Mississippi River State Park (State Park) which is intended to be a destination recreation site. Issue of this permit was approved under the Decision Notice for the *Mississippi River State Park Project* signed August 16, 2001, by former Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Supervisor Charles S. Richmond. Construction of facilities associated with the Mississippi River State Park began in 2010. It is anticipated that visitation to the St. Francis National Forest will increase when construction of the planned State Park facilities is completed.

The desired future conditions for scenery management on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests include a landscape possessing a vegetation pattern and species mix that is natural in appearance (Forest Plan page 1- 44). Appendix G of the Forest Plan identifies scenic integrity objectives (SIOs) within Management Areas. A SIO is a desired level of excellence based on physical and sociological characteristics of an area. SIOs refer to the degree of acceptable alteration of the characteristic landscape ranging from low to very high; guidance for management within each area is also provided through a series of scenic classes. The proposed project area has a High SIO which refers to landscapes where the valued landscape character "appears" intact. Deviations may be present but must repeat the form, line, color, texture, and pattern common to the landscape character so completely and at such scale that they are not evident.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

There will be no change from the current condition under the no action alternative. Under the proposed action, there will be

- an increased opportunity for trail-based recreation on the Forest;
- an increase in the availability of scenic overlooks and ADA accessible features on the Forest in keeping with the desired conditions for scenic byway corridors (Forest Plan p 2-45);
- an additional opportunity to provide educational and interpretive information to the public;
- an additional attraction for those visiting the future Mississippi River State Park, and
- movement toward satisfying Forest Plan priorities for dispersed recreation, trails and scenic byway corridors.

During and after trail construction, there will be contrast between disturbed areas and the surrounding landscape. This effect will be short term. Facilities constructed or placed at the trail, when designed and placed as planned will not detract from the established landscape character and will meet the SIO for the area. The proposed action will not affect a change in the public's

motorized access to the Forest or negatively impact opportunities to enjoy dispersed recreation in the area.

People seeking undisturbed areas will likely find the project stands undesirable after the trail is established. Undisturbed areas would be available to these individuals in other areas on the District such as the Turkey Ridge Natural Research Area.

Economics

Current Condition

The economic base of Lee and Phillips Counties is farming and businesses that support the farming industry. Median household income in these counties is significantly lower than national and state averages.

National Forest programs can influence local economies through employment opportunities, through the production of goods and services (timber, recreation, etc), and through expenditures the Forest Service makes for management and administration.

Federal lands are not subject to local property taxes; to help offset this loss, counties containing National Forest System lands receive funds through two sources.

- Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) are made through the US Department of the Interior. (<http://www.nbc.gov/pilt/pilt/search.cfm>)
- Payments made under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (SRS) (PL 106-393). (<http://www.fs.fed.us/srs/Title-I.shtml>).

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

Payments to Lee and Phillips Counties under the SRS or PILT programs would not be affected by either alternative. The proposed action involves costs to the government associated with trail and parking lot construction, purchase and installation of interpretive materials and subsequent maintenance of these features that would not be incurred under the no action alternative.

Maintenance costs may be offset if volunteer or inmate labor is available. The proposed action is not likely to provide significant opportunity for employment for local residents.

Civil Rights and Environmental Justice

Current Condition

Civil Rights imply the fair and equal treatment under the law, both within the Forest Service and in relations with the public. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

In 1994, President Clinton issued Executive Order 12898, “Federal Action to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-income Populations,” to ensure such populations are not subjected to a disproportionately high level of environmental risk. Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Meaningful involvement means that: (1) potentially affected community residents have an appropriate opportunity to participate in decisions about a proposed activity that will affect their environment and/or health; (2) the public’s contribution can influence the regulatory agency’s decision; (3) the concerns of all participants involved will be considered in the decision-making process; and (4) the decision-makers seek out and facilitate the involvement of those potentially affected.

Effects of Alternatives 1 and 2: The No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives Respectively

No current issues regarding civil rights of visitors, contractors or employees related to either alternative for this project were found. Therefore, a civil rights impact analysis and statement of findings will not be conducted.

Neither alternative involves the introduction of new or increased fees nor will either prevent the use of the Forest by any group. Neither alternative is expected to have any disproportionate effects to minority or low-income groups.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Interdisciplinary team members contributing to this analysis are identified below. Tribal government leaders, federal and state agency officials, local officials and organizations to whom the March 29, 2011 scoping notice were mailed are identified on pages 25 through 28. A complete list of those to whom the scoping notice was mailed is found in the project planning record.

Interdisciplinary Team Members:

Benjamin L. Battle	Deputy District Ranger, St. Francis Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Marianna, Arkansas
Steve Duzan	Forest Planning Biologist/NEPA Coordinator, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas
Jeremy Evans	Cartographic Technician, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests stationed at the Sylamore Ranger District, Mountain View, Arkansas
Glen Fortenberry	Fire Team Leader, Ouachita and Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Hot Springs, Arkansas; previous Acting District Ranger for the Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts (September 2010 – February 2011)
Robert K. Flowers:	Former Forest Landscape Architect, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas
Jan L. Franks:	NEPA Coordinator, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Chris W. Furr:	Former Zone Technical Services Assistant, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Kathryn M. Furr:	Former Zone Wildlife Biologist, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
Dr. David Jurney	Forest Archaeologist, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Forest Supervisor's Office, Russellville, Arkansas
Davie L. Jones	Forestry Technician, Contracting Officer's Representative, St. Francis Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Marianna, Arkansas
Cynthia Snow Kopack:	Former District Ranger, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas

Interdisciplinary Team Members:

- Michael D. Lick: Former Zone Timber Management Assistant, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
- Sue McCluskey: Archaeology Technician, Sylamore Ranger District, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
- James R. McCoy: District Ranger, Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Mountain View, Arkansas
- Richard Monk Forest Hydrologist, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas
- Glenn Tanner: Former Zone Archaeologist (retired), Sylamore and St. Francis Ranger Districts, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Marianna, Arkansas
- Len Weeks: Forest Soil Scientist, Forest Supervisor's Office, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Russellville, Arkansas
- Teresa Williamson Assistant Fire Team Leader, Ozark-St. Francis National Forests Supervisor's Office, Russellville, AR; Acting Deputy District Ranger, St. Francis Ranger District, Marianna, Arkansas

Tribal Government Leaders:

A letter describing the preliminary proposed action was mailed to the following on March 29, 2011:

The Honorable Mr. George Blanchard, Governor:	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee, OK
Ms. Henrietta Ellis, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee, OK
The Honorable Mr. Tarpie Yargee, Chief:	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Ms. Augustine Asbury, Second Chief	Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Shamayme Edwards, Chairperson	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
Mr. Bobby Gonzalez, NAGPRA Corrdinator	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
Mr. Robert Cast, Historic Preservation Officer	Caddo Nation, Binger, OK
The Honorable Mr. Chadwick Smith, Principal Chief:	Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
Dr. Richard Allen, Policy Analyst	Cherokee Nation, Tahlequah, OK
The Honorable Mr. Bill Anoatubby, Governor:	Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK
Mr. Kirk Perry, Administrator Division of Policies and Standards	Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK
Ms. Giny Nail, Historic Preservation Officer	Chickasaw Nation, Ada, OK
The Honorable Mr. Gregory E. Pyle, Chief:	Choctaw Nation, Durant, OK
Mr. Terry Cole, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Choctaw Nation, Durant, OK
The Honorable Kerry Holton, President	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
Ms. Tamara Francis, NAGPRA/Cultural Preservation Director:	Delaware Nation, Anadarko, OK
The Honorable Mr. Jerry Douglas, Chief	Delaware Tribe of Indians, Bartlesville, OK
Dr. Brice Douglas, NAGPRA Representative	Delaware Tribe of Indians
Mr. John Sumpter, Chairman, NAGPRA Committee	Delaware Tribe of Indians
The Honorable Ms. Glenna J. Wallace, Chief:	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca, MO

Tribal Government Leaders:

A letter describing the preliminary proposed action was mailed to the following on March 29, 2011:

Ms. Robin Dushane, Cultural Preservation Director	Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca, MO
The Honorable Mr. Tiger Hobia, Mekko:	Kialegee Tribal Town, Wetumka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Thomas E. Gamble, Chief:	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
Mr. George Strack, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
The Honorable Mr. A.D. Ellis, Principal Chief:	Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, OK
Mr. Ted Isham, Cultural Preservation Manager	Muscogee Creek Nation, Okmulgee, OK
The Honorable Mr. John D. Red Eagle, Chief	Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK
Ms. June Carpenter, NAGPRA Assistant	Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK
Dr. Andrea Hunter, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK
Mr. James Munkres, Archaeologist	Osage Nation, Pawhuska, OK
The Honorable Mr. John P. Froman, Chief:	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
Mr. Frank Hecksher, Section 106/NAGPRA Representative	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Miami, OK
The Honorable Mr. John Berrey, Chairman:	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw, OK
Ms. Jean Ann Lambert, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw, OK
The Honorable Mr. Leonard Harjo, Principal Chief:	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Wewoka, OK
Ms. Natalie Deere, Historic Preservation Officer	Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, Wewoka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Ron Sparkman, Chairman:	Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK
Ms. Kim Jumper, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Shawnee Tribe, Miami, OK
The Honorable Mr. George Scott, Mekko:	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Okemah, OK

Tribal Government Leaders:

A letter describing the preliminary proposed action was mailed to the following on March 29, 2011:

Mr. Charles Coleman, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Weleetka, OK
The Honorable Mr. Earl Barbry, Sr., Chairman:	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Marksville, LA
Mr. Earl J. Barbry Jr., Director, Tribal Museum and Cultural Resource Center	Tunica-Biloxi Tribe, Marksville, LA
The Honorable Mr. George Wickliffe, Chief:	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Talequah, OK
Ms. Lisa LaRue, Historic Preservation Officer	United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Talequah, OK
The Honorable Cheryl Smith, Principal Chief	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Jena, LA
Mr. Mike Tarpley, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Jena, LA
The Honorable Mr. Beasley Denson, Tribal Miko	Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indians, Choctaw, MS
Mr. Kenneth Carlton, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	Mississippi Band of the Choctaw Indians, Choctaw, MS
The Honorable Mr. Stratford Williams, President:	Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Anadarko, OK

Federal and State Agencies, Local Officials and Organizations:

Margaret Harney:	US Department of the Interior, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Conway, Arkansas
District Conservationist:	US Department of Agriculture, NRCS, Helena Service Center, Helena, AR
District Forester:	Arkansas Forestry Commission, Forrest City, Arkansas
Stan Graves:	Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Little Rock, Arkansas
John Morrow:	Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, Superintendent, Mississippi River State Park, Marianna, Arkansas
Blake Sasse:	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas
Mike Coker	Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Brinkley, Arkansas
Cindy Osborne:	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas
Don Gentry:	Phillips County Judge, Helena, Arkansas
Dennis Daniel	National Wild Turkey Federation, Clarksville, Arkansas
Dr. Ruth Hawkins	Crowley's Ridge/Great River Road Commission, Jonesboro, Arkansas
Dr. Gary Graves	National Museum of Natural History, Division of Birds, The Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC
Douglas Zollner	Nature Conservancy, Little Rock, Arkansas
Glen Hooks	Sierra Club, Little Rock, Arkansas
Jim Bensman	Heartwood, Alton, Illinois

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Literature Cited/References

Forest Service Handbooks (FSH) and Forest Service Manuals (FSM) can be viewed at Forest Service Offices. The following materials are hereby incorporated by reference. These materials are considered part of the project planning record.

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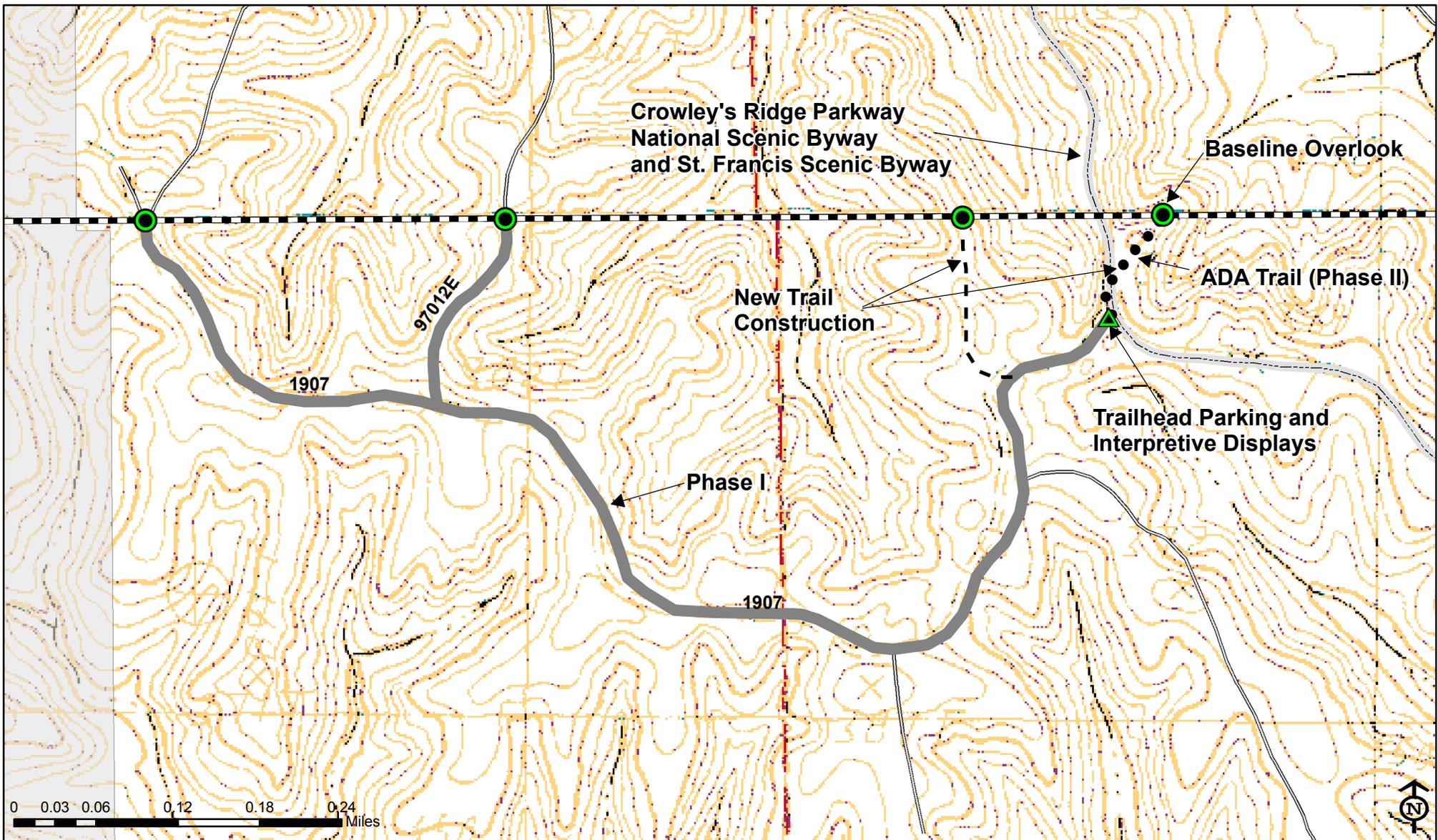
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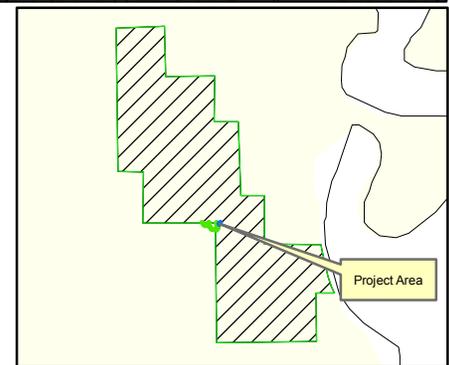
Appendix 2: Vicinity Map



St. Francis National Forest

Louisiana Purchase Baseline Trail Project

-  Base Line Monuments
-  Interp Stop with Parking
-  Louisiana Purchase Baseline
-  Phase I
-  Phase I New Trail
-  Phase II New Trail
-  Private
-  Scenic Byway
-  FS Roads



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