



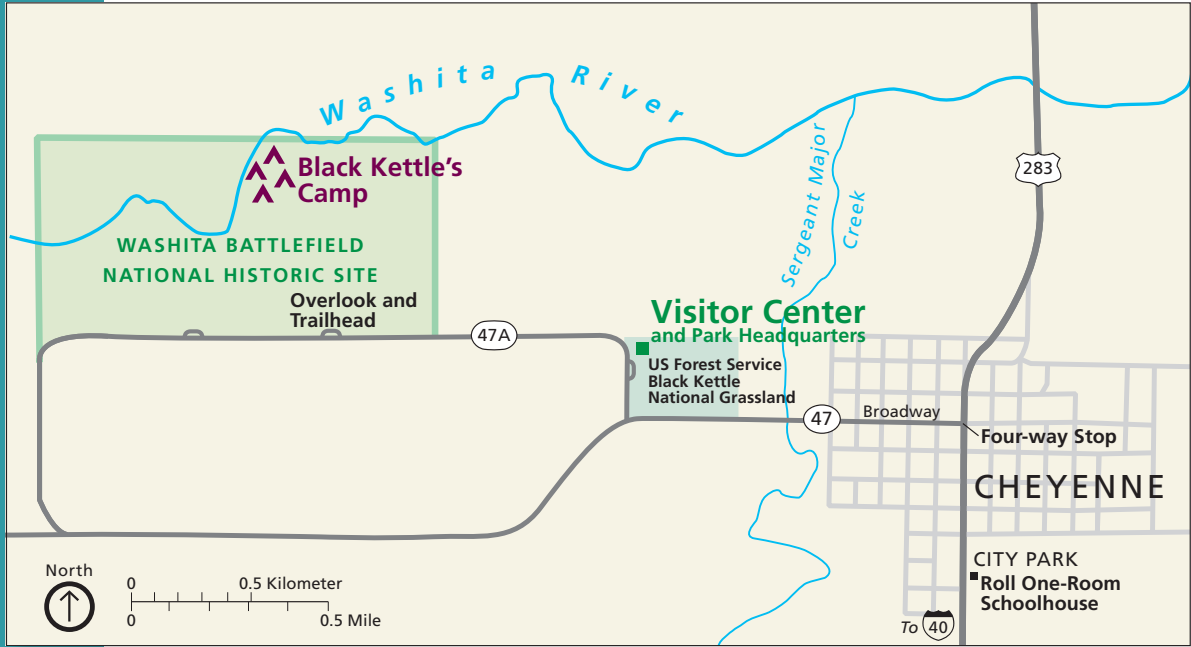
Foundation Document

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Oklahoma

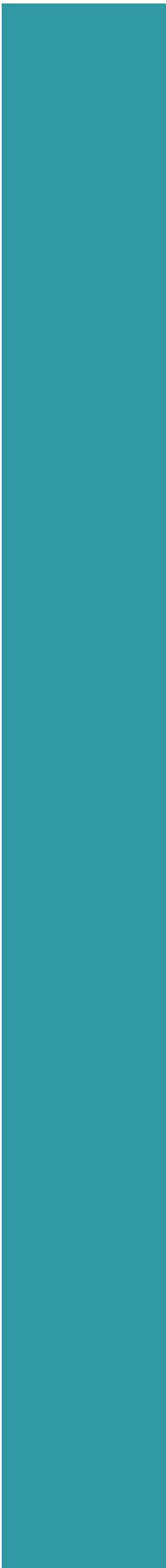
October 2016





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Mission of the National Park Service

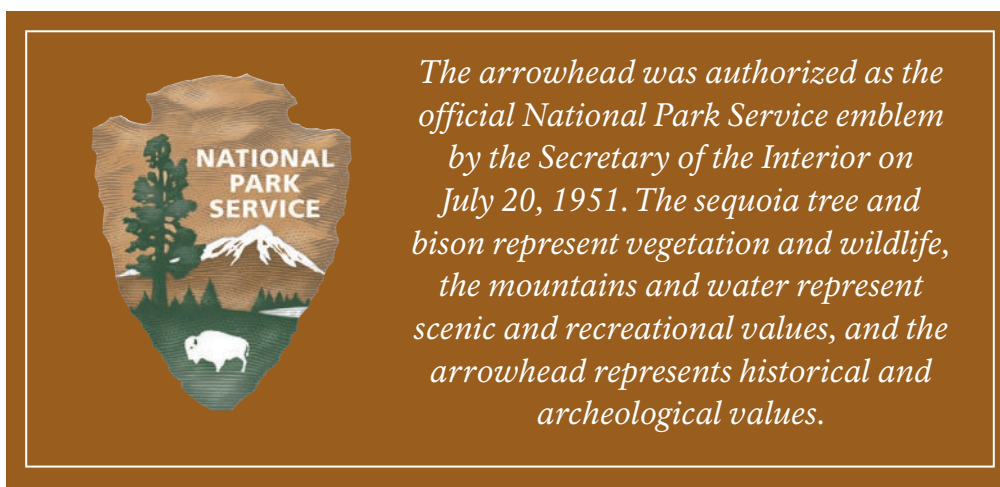
The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Located in Roger Mills County in western Oklahoma, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site protects and interprets the site of the Southern Cheyenne village of Peace Chief Black Kettle. The village was attacked by the 7th U.S. Cavalry under Lt. Col. George A. Custer just before dawn on November 27, 1868. At the end of the incident, approximately 60 individuals, including American Indian men, women, and children as well as U.S. Cavalry soldiers, lay dead. Seen as an important military victory by U.S. forces, the terminology of the event has been debated. Some view the event as a battle, while others see it as a massacre.

Since 1868, several commemorative markers have been placed on the battlefield, although the exact location of Black Kettle's village has yet to be confirmed. In 1965 a 12-square-mile portion of the battlefield was designated as a national historic landmark. In 1966, the site was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. On November 12, 1996, Congress passed legislation that established the landmark as Washita Battlefield National Historic Site (Public Law 104-333). In 1997, land was formally transferred to the National Park Service from the Oklahoma Historical Society. Today, the National Park Service owns 315.2 acres in what scholars believed to be the core area of Custer's attack.

The region's dominant physical features include the Washita River, its river valley, and its floodplain—where many contend the village was located. Over time the Washita River carved a 1.5- to 2-mile-wide valley. Elms, cottonwoods, and willows line the river shoreline, transitioning to grass, sage, and shinnery (oak) on the valley walls. The valley walls rise 250 to 400 feet above the valley floor to craggy red shale cliffs of Permian age.

This physiography played a major role in the success of the military campaign. Custer and his subordinate commanders used the various ridgelines and elevated heights as a shelter to encircle the camp and effectively reduce any chance of escape. Black Kettle's people were thereby trapped within the narrow river valley.

Today, the park is surrounded by farmland. Several roads and highways cut across the greater battlefield. The abandoned Panhandle and Santa Fe Railroad Line cuts across a portion of the site believed to be Black Kettle's camp. Despite these intrusions and the introduction of agriculture, the battlefield retains a rural and relatively undeveloped character. Views from the park out to the larger national historic landmark-designated battlefield are for the most part unobstructed. Overall, the integrity of the battlefield remains high.

On August 25, 2007, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site staff opened the doors to the new visitor center. Located one-half mile from the designated historic site, the park headquarters and visitor center are in facilities shared with the U.S. Forest Service's Black Kettle National Grasslands District Office (part of Cibola National Forest and Grasslands). Through exhibits, media, and a self-guided trail and overlook, the visitor center and battlefield offer a contemplative and sacred surrounding where visitors can come to recognize the importance of the Battle of Washita as part of U.S. frontier military history and the struggles of the Southern Great Plains tribes to maintain control of their traditional lifeways and culture.

Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on November 12, 1996 (see appendix A for enabling legislation). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

The purpose of WASHITA BATTLEFIELD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE is to preserve and protect the site of the “Battle of the Washita” including the natural, cultural, topographic, and scenic resources; and to promote public understanding of the attack and importance of the diverse perspectives related to the struggles that transpired between the Southern Great Plains tribes and the U.S. government.



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. The attack of the Cheyenne encampment along the Washita River was the first implementation of a strategy adopted by the U.S. Army, resulting from the failures of the treaty system, to strike encampments of Plains Indians during the winter months when they were most vulnerable.
2. The attack at Washita was a pivotal point for the Cheyenne and other Southern Great Plains tribes in that it symbolized their struggles to maintain the freedom of their traditional way of life and their realization that their lives were changing.
3. The events at Washita greatly impacted two prominent leaders: Chief Black Kettle, widely known for his pursuit of peaceful coexistence with whites, was killed; Lt. Col. George Custer, already known for his exploits during the Civil War, acquired a reputation as an aggressive Indian fighter.
4. Washita is a deeply meaningful place and has spiritual significance to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. It is a place to show respect for all lives that were lost and offers opportunities for education, healing, and reconciliation.
5. The natural and physical resources of the Washita site, including the topography, scenic views, and vegetation, retain the character of the landscape at the time of the attack, enabling visitors to visualize the event.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park's legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site:

- **Battlefield Landscape.** The battlefield landscape consists of all of the cultural and natural landscape elements located within the park boundary associated with the 1868 attack. This includes historic sites associated with the Washita conflict—the site of Black Kettle's encampment, the pony kill site, Custer's Knoll, and the escape routes used by fleeing Cheyenne—as well as the general topography, grassland and riparian vegetation, and the Washita River.
- **Landscape Setting.** Broader aspects of the cultural landscape that may extend outside the park boundaries are encompassed in the landscape setting of the park. Important components that contribute to the landscape setting include views, the surrounding topography, dark night skies, and the rangeland setting, as well as the sites of actions related to the attack, nearby encampments, 7th Calvary troop movements, and the site related to Major Joel Elliot's engagement.
- **Sense of Place.** Washita Battlefield National Historic Site possesses traditional and contemporary cultural, spiritual, and historic value for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, other American Indian groups, and park visitors. The atmosphere of the park retains much of its historic rangeland characteristics, which provide visitors the opportunity to experience the sacredness many American Indian tribes associate with the site. The park actively manages the site as a reverential place where all may remember those who lost their lives during the attack and reflect on the realities of war and its lasting impacts.
- **Tribal Relationships.** The enabling legislation for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site stresses the importance of partnering with traditionally associated tribes when considering planning, management, interpretation, and education at the site.



Other Important Resources and Values

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site:

- **Museum Collections.** The park’s museum collection and archives include artifacts related to the November 1868 attack as well as the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes’ connection to the site. Most of the collection consists of archeological artifacts related to the encampment and the U.S. military.
- **Memorials and Markers.** Memorialization of “The Battle of the Washita” began not long after the attack and has formally continued to the present day by private groups and state and federal agencies. The earliest memorial, a brown sandstone marker inscribed with “7 Cav. Nov. 27, 1868,” was placed at the site in the 1890s. Today, three memorials are located at the visitor overlook: a pink granite memorial inscribed with “Custer’s Battle” given by the Platonic Club in 1932; a national historic landmark plaque fixed to a slab of granite; and a gray granite marker inscribed with “The Battle of the Washita.” The overlook pavilion also includes an engraved granite panel, installed in 1968, that depicts George Armstrong Custer’s plan of attack.



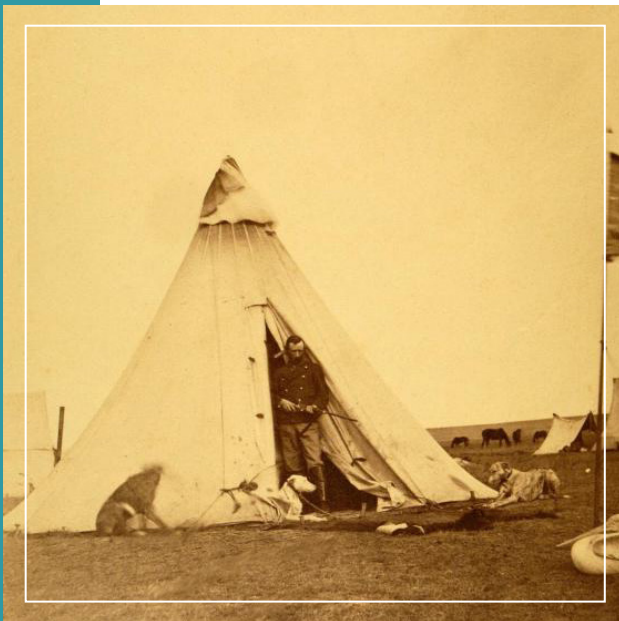
Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in the 2001 long-range interpretive plan:

- The attack at Washita was the first implementation of a strategic decision by the U.S. Army, which had been unsuccessful in engaging Indian combatants, to launch a “total war” campaign against Southern Plains Indians by striking winter encampments and destroying their property when Indian communities were most vulnerable.
- Many people labeled the attack at Washita a massacre, unprovoked and unjust, while the U.S. Army and others hailed it as a great victory in the struggle to reduce Indian raids on the frontier.
- Chief Black Kettle’s life was filled with irony: he was a major proponent for peace, signing three treaties between 1861 and 1867, yet he was attacked twice, at Sand Creek and Washita.
- Gen. Philip Sheridan felt that Lt. Col. George Custer’s aggressiveness was the key to the successful implementation of the U.S. Army’s new strategy against the tribes of the Southern Plains. The reports of Custer’s victory catapulted him into the public imagination as a great Indian fighter and, ironically, encouraged the headstrong behavior that led to his demise at Little Bighorn.



- The attack at Washita and the resulting death of Black Kettle were pivotal events in the evolving relationships between the Cheyenne people, white settlers, and the U.S. government.
- The sacred ground of Washita provides opportunities to understand the resiliency of the human spirit and the struggle of societies to maintain cultural identity.
- Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is one of more than 400 National Park Service sites that protect this nation’s natural and cultural heritage.

Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

Special Designation

- **National historic landmark designation.** The National Historic Landmarks Program was created to recognize nationally significant historic places that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Fewer than 3,000 historic places have been honored with this national designation, which is also managed by the National Park Service. Washita Battlefield was designated a national historic landmark on January 12, 1965.

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, please see appendix B.

There are no special mandates for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.



Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park’s fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park’s planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.



Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Landscape
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The battlefield landscape is not completely accessible under Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. The current trail includes steep grades, and sometimes drainage/erosion contributes to difficult conditions for those with mobility issues. • Nonnative plant species including Siberian elm (<i>Ulmus pumila</i>), Russian thistle (<i>Salsola tragus</i>), Johnson grass (<i>Sorghum halepense</i>), cheatgrass (<i>Bromus tectorum</i>), Japanese brome (<i>Bromus japonicas</i>), salt cedar (<i>Tamarix aphylla</i>), King Ranch blue stem (<i>Bothrichloa ischaemum</i>), and kochia (<i>Kochia scoparia</i>) are prevalent in the landscape depending on weather conditions. Many species of invasive plants have come into the park through outside sources including flooding and visitor use. • The railroad grade, which was constructed in the early 20th century, disrupts vegetation, landscape features, and scenic views related to the time of the attack. The park has plans to remove part of the grade and convert a segment into a new visitor use trail. • A berm constructed by previous owners for water control runs along the interpretive trail and, like the railroad grade, disrupts the historic battlefield and affects current drainage. • Wildfires would have been a natural part of the historic landscape at the time of the attack. The vegetation management plan includes prescribed fires, but there is no formal fire management plan and the strategy is not included in the park's general management plan. • Livestock grazing is listed as a vegetation management strategy in the general management plan, but the park does not allow grazing on its land and there is no formal management guidance outside the brief mention of it in the general management plan. • Visitor offerings, including prayer flags and other items of religious and cultural significance, are often left near the river at the possible encampment site and on the scenic overlook fence. Guidance on the treatment of appropriate offerings and the removal of inappropriate offerings is being created by the park in collaboration with Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. • Military staff rides following the movements of 7th Calvary often visit the park and adjacent property. These programs are approved by the park under memorandums of agreement. • Native vegetation helps reduce landform erosion caused by weathering, staff rides, and other visitor use. • There are ongoing regional and nearby air quality monitoring for ozone, deposition, and visibility which is informative to the park air pollution impacts to the battlefield landscape. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wet spring and summer of 2015 helped native vegetation that had been dormant during previous years return to the landscape. However, major drought conditions have been a trend in years past and can sometimes manifest in a dry riverbed and a shift toward nonnative plant species on the landscape. • The number of nonnative plants is increasing. • The variety and amount of offerings and prayer cloths left at the park seem to be increasing. • While pollution-caused haze could become a concern related to encroachment or continued oil and gas development, visibility at the park is improving with decreasing emissions from regional power plants and vehicles.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Landscape
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding could affect landforms, vegetation, and make visitor experience areas and parts of the trail inaccessible. • Unmanaged grazing on park lands could impact soil, destroy vegetation, and spread nonnative vegetation. • A wildfire could threaten trees in riparian areas and would disrupt the visitor experience. • If the river stays dry and the water table drops more than in the past, riparian vegetation could be impacted, leading to a noticeable change in the vegetation and appearance of the park. • Inclement weather is a threat to the vegetation and landscape associated with the battlefield. Drought resulting in “Dust Bowl” conditions as well as severe storms or tornados could greatly change the characteristics of the landscape and affect important landforms. • Ground-level ozone sometimes reaches levels that can cause injury to ozone-sensitive plants. There are several ozone-sensitive plants in the park including cottonwood, willow, sagebrush, and milkweed. • Erosion of landforms associated with the battle from off-trail visitors, weathering, and military staff rides can affect the historic views and interpretation of the site. • Excess deposition of nitrogen pollution (from power plants, vehicle exhaust, and oil and gas development) is above critical loads for herbaceous plants, suggesting they are at risk for harmful effects. Prairie and wetland areas are sensitive to nutrient enrichment effects of excess nitrogen from deposition and runoff which can help invasive plant species to grow faster and out-compete native vegetation adapted to lower nitrogen conditions. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or expanded trails would connect visitors to more of the landscape and provide an accessible route to the battlefield. Trail development can be guided by the park’s cultural landscape report and recommendations. • A new overlook would provide opportunity for additional waysides, increased parking, and a physically accessible trailhead. • Active fuels treatment through prescribed burning, mechanical treatments, or other strategies would decrease the likelihood of a wildfire. • Prescribed grazing could help control nonnative plant species and have beneficial effects on vegetation. • The 150th anniversary of the attack in 2018 provides an opportunity for additional programming and public education related to the conflict. • Additional interpretive exhibits and waysides on trails and inside the visitor center can provide more information about the park’s resources and the stories of those affected by the battle.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape inventory (update). • List of Classified Structures inventory (update). • Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation. • Cultural resources condition assessment. • Additional archeological research and surveys related to encampment site. • Place-based ethnographic study related to Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. • Soundscape survey and assessment. • Visual resource inventory.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Battlefield Landscape
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report (update). • Resource stewardship strategy. • Collection management plan. • Visual resource management plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; 16 USC§1531 et seq. • National Invasive Species Act; 16 USC§4701 • National Environmental Policy Act of 1970; 42 USC§4321 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended; 7 USC§2801 et seq. • Clean Water Act; 33 USC§1251-1387, 33 USC§1151 • Clean Air Act (42 USC§7401 et seq.) • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; 54 USC§300101 et seq. • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; 54 USC§312502 et seq. • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; 25 USC§3001 • Paleontological Resource Preservation Act of 2009 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • Executive Order 13112, "Invasive Species" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4.6) "Park Resources and Values" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§5.3.1.7) "Cultural Soundscape Management" • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>, section 4A(3), "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act " • Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS <i>Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual 18</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Landscape Setting
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 4, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic trends have affected the landscape since the time of the attack. Agriculture was widespread during the early-20th-century wheat boom, resulting in heavy plowing and tilling at the site. The Dust Bowl era led local farmers to create earth berms on their land to decrease erosion. • A railroad grade was created in the early 1900s for the Panhandle and Santa Fe line that runs across the battlefield landscape. The track has been removed but the grade and related culverts remain in and around the park. • Oil and gas development has become prevalent throughout Roger Mills County and the rest of western Oklahoma, including the area surrounding the park. Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is in the Anadarko Basin, one of the largest natural gas formation areas discovered in the United States. • Pivot irrigation is becoming a popular farming technique in the area. The wheeled towers and trademark circular pattern associated with the irrigation system is not compatible with the historic rangeland setting. • A feed mill in Cheyenne, Oklahoma, is the tallest building near the park. The mill, which is on part of the historic battlefield at a site associated with Major Joel Elliott and his troops, can be seen from the park overlook and is a modern intrusion in the viewshed. • Privately owned land visible from the overlook and bordering the park has been transitioning from rangeland to agricultural use. • The overall landscape associated with the attack is experiencing riparian woodland encroachment in previous prairie areas. • The Mignon Laird Municipal Airport is located approximately 1.5 miles south of Washita Battlefield National Historic Site. Overflights affect the soundscape and night sky quality of the park overlook. • Telecommunications towers and antennae have been constructed on nearby hills. • Upstream impacts on the Washita River include fracking water dumping and damming. • The Foss Reservoir and dam, constructed in 1961, were created to impound the Washita River for use as drinking water for the city of Clinton, Oklahoma. The river's path and rate of flow have changed significantly since the time of the attack. • While pollution-caused haze could become a concern related to encroachment or continued oil and gas development, visibility at the park is improving with decreasing emissions from regional power plants and vehicles. • There are ongoing regional and nearby air quality monitoring for ozone, deposition, and visibility which is informative to the park air pollution impacts to the battlefield landscape. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development related to oil and gas has been increasing in the region and immediately adjacent to the park. A pumping station was constructed within the north viewshed of the visitor overlook and can be seen from the park visitor center. • A decrease in the nightscape and dark night sky is attributed to the continued development of Roger Mills County and land surrounding the park. • Nonnative plant species encroachment seems to have worsened during the recent years of drought. The park has been working with the NPS Southern Plains Network Inventory and Monitoring program for nonnative plant species identification, monitoring, and treatment. • Wind farms located south of the park have been expanding and there is concern that they will develop land within the park's immediate viewshed to the north of the Horseshoe Hills.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Landscape Setting
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nonnative plants are replacing native species and affecting the landscape’s appearance. • Feral hogs and burrowing animals can destroy vegetation and disturb soil. • Oil and gas development can detract from the cultural landscape and affect natural landscape features and the soundscape. • Wind farms increase noise and light pollution and may disrupt viewsheds associated with the attack. • Activity at the airport and overflights may increase in relation to area oil and gas development. • Land sale could lead to the conversion of rangeland or agricultural land into residential, industrial, or energy development. • Changing irrigation practices, modern harvesting techniques, and nontraditional crops could affect the overall appearance of the larger battlefield landscape. • Changes to surrounding lands including new agriculture techniques, oil/gas development, and telecommunication development, may also increase noise and artificial light at the park. • Upstream damming with recent drought conditions, has led to concerns about water quality and flow rates. • Fracking water dumping can affect water quality in the Washita River and the condition of area vegetation. • The cultivation of crops not historically associated with the site and new agricultural practices may create modern intrusions and disrupt important historic views. • Wildfires could drastically change the appearance of park lands and surrounding views. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation easements with private landowners brokered through the Oklahoma Historical Society or another park partner can protect areas associated with the battle that are outside park boundaries. • The park can draw from U.S. Forest Service fire and habitat management practices. • Building relationships with landowners and oil companies would allow park staff to share the importance of the surrounding landscape and help neighbors understand the impact of insensitive development within the park’s viewsheds and the battlefield as well as how outside development impacts the visitor experience at the park. • Relationships with local planning boards may influence zoning and construction permits that would impact the cultural landscape. • Continuous outreach with state agencies and other organizations would provide public education relating to the larger battlefield site. • Friends group can harness enthusiasm and build advocacy.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual resource inventory. • Soundscape survey and assessment. • Night sky survey and assessment. • Update national register documentation.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual resource management plan. • Collections management plan.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Landscape Setting
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended; 54 USC§300101 et seq. • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Clean Air Act; 42 USC7401 et seq. • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Endangered Species Act • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • Secretarial Order 3206, "American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4) "Park Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4.6) "Park Resources and Values" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§3.1) "General" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.4.1) "General Principles for Managing Biological Resources" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.9) "Soundscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.10) "Lightscape Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7) "Air Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.7.2) "Weather and Climate" • Director's Order 18: <i>Wildland Fire Management</i> • NPS Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77 • NPS Wildland Fire Management Reference Manual 18



Fundamental Resource or Value	Sense of Place
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<p>Significance statements 2, 3, 4, and 5.</p>
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washita Battlefield was designated a national historic landmark on January 12, 1965. National register documentation was completed for the park in 1976. • The park manages the battlefield to allow visitors access to the river and important sites linked to the attack as well as the opportunity to experience the overall sense of sacredness and reverence for those who lost their lives. The contemplative aspect of the visitor experience is made possible through the park’s soundscape, clear views, and locations that allow reflection on the realities of war and the lasting impacts of the attack. • The park’s sense of place allows visitors to reconnect with the natural landscape. • The site has traditionally been surrounded by rangeland, which contributes to the sense of solitude and has provided visitors with a quiet, reflective experience at the park. Since the land was originally set aside as a State of Oklahoma Historic Site in the 1960s, more of the adjacent land has transitioned to agricultural fields. • The 20th-century railroad grade degrades the space, story, and landscape that are important to the park. While the railroad tracks have been removed, the grade still detracts from the battlefield and represents a modern intrusion. • Visitor offerings, including prayer flags and other items of religious and cultural significance, are often left near the river at the possible encampment site and on the scenic overlook fence. Guidance on the treatment of appropriate offerings and the removal of inappropriate offerings is being created by the park in collaboration with Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site. • While pollution-caused haze could become a concern related to encroachment or continued oil and gas development, visibility at the park is improving with decreasing emissions from regional power plants and vehicles. • There are ongoing regional and nearby air quality monitoring for ozone, deposition, and visibility which is informative to the park air pollution impacts to the battlefield landscape. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park’s sense of place, including open views and soundscape, has been negatively affected by continued development around the park. While the park maintains elements important to its commemorative atmosphere, it is on the brink of losing more of its scenic characteristics. • Viewshed to the south has diminished with the introduction of wind farms. • Light pollution related to oil/gas development, industry, traffic, and wind farms is increasing.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy development near the park contributes to anthropogenic sound, light pollution, air pollution, insensitive construction, and dumping of water and other waste that affects the reverent atmosphere as well as the conditions of natural resources. • Residential and industrial development can decrease the historic setting and appearance. • Insensitive, miscellaneous offerings left on park grounds can confuse visitors and detract from true offerings with spiritual and cultural significance. • Ground-level ozone often reaches levels that can make breathing difficult for sensitive groups.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Sense of Place
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with the State of Oklahoma, energy companies and park neighbors can help preserve the surrounding landscape and consider scenic conservation easements outside park boundaries that are associated with the attack and contribute to the historic viewshed. New and existing partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and others can increase awareness of the site's importance as a place of respect and reconciliation. A new trail and overlook with physically accessible trails and waysides would help more visitors access the encampment and attack site and have personal connections with the land. Expanded interpretive and educational tools can communicate the connections between the battlefield landscape, landscape setting, sense of place, air quality/pollution, exotic plants, historic views, night sky, human health, climate change, and other associated resources. Working closely with traditionally associated tribes to develop interpretive materials would produce more opportunities for visitors to hear about traditional connections to the site and the lasting legacy of the attack on today's Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal members. The gathering place located near the visitor center parking area can be better used as a location for tribal ceremonies, rituals, smudging, special events, and remembrance. A friends group could be developed to advocate for the park and provide additional volunteer park guides and interpreters. An education plan and updated interpretive material could focus on the sacred nature of the site and its continued importance to the tribes. The park can improve its sustainability and environmental leadership through the Climate Friendly Park certification (Director's Order 13A).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation. Visual resource inventory. Soundscape survey and assessment. Place-based ethnographic study related to Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. Night sky survey and assessment.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual resource management plan.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" "Resource Protection, Public Use, and Recreation" (36 CFR 2) Clean Air Act; 42 USC 7401 et seq. <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.9) "Soundscape Management" NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> Director's Order 47: <i>Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management</i> NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.4.6) "Park Resources and Values" NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries"

Fundamental Resource or Value	Tribal Relationships
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park’s enabling legislation calls for the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes to be included in planning and educational programming for the site. • The Cheyenne and Arapaho are recognized as separate tribes but work administratively as one government. • Currently the park has good informal relationships with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, but it is complicated by tribal politics and turnover at the park and within tribal government. • The tribal government represents numerous levels of individuals and leadership with which the park may collaborate. The Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal government is organized with a government leader, the tribal governor, as well as governmental offices and 44 chiefs. • The relationship between the park and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes is in need of revitalization. While consultation with the tribes was crucial when designing the on-site visitor center and exhibits, there has not been a formal government-to-government consultation recently. • Past partnership efforts have focused on the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, but other local Southern Great Plains tribes may be interested in offering their perspectives, stories, and connections to the site. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The leadership and park connection with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Department of Education has been stable, leading to a good relationship between the agency and park staff. • Turnover in the tribal government and tribal governor’s office has contributed to the recent disconnect between the park and the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tribal politics can be confusing to outsiders and it can be difficult to pinpoint the best method for sharing information and setting up consultations. • Cultural knowledge held by older generations and connections cultivated between the park and tribal elders could be lost as older generations pass on. • Cultural differences can lead to misunderstandings and inadvertent offense. • A perception that the tribes are not partners in telling the story of the park could limit tribes’ interest in cooperating with the park. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivating stronger government-to-government relationships with the tribal governor’s office and other leaders will allow the park to better serve its enabling legislation and formally meet with traditionally associated tribes. • Formal tribal consultations will help facilitate future joint projects and help the tribes feel more involved with park planning and the management of the site. • Reaching out to local Cheyenne and Arapaho groups in Hammon, El Reno, Canute, and other Oklahoma communities could strengthen the park-tribal relationships and lead to new interpretive and partnership opportunities. • Increased interactions with tribal members as part of volunteer or internship programs would offer individuals opportunities to share their culture with the broader park audience. • The park can look to Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and its relationships as a model for strong tribal relations as well as a potential partner with the National Park Service.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Tribal Relationships
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities (continued)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive tribal consultations and communication will allow the park to reach out to the Kiowa, Osage, and other tribes historically associated with the site to tell more inclusive stories and provide multiple perspectives on the events that took place in the 1860s. • Elders can consult with the park over traditional use and collection guidance of ethnobotanicals and other plants found in the park. • A dedicated NPS tribal liaison similar to the position created at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site could focus on strengthening tribal relationships and representation at the park. • Additional memorandums of agreement/understanding can be formulated to increase collaboration between the park and associated tribes.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place-based ethnographic study related to Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes. • Additional archeological research and surveys related to the encampment site. • Cultural landscape inventory (update). • Traditional ethnographic knowledge study.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscape report (update).
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; 54 USC §302902 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; 25 USC §3001 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978; 42 USC 1996 and 1996a, PL 95-341. 92 Stat. 469 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13007, "Indian Sacred Sites" • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • Secretarial Order 3206, "American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibilities" • Native American Traditional Cultural Landscape Action Plan <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.1.4) "Partnerships" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§4.2) "Studies and Collections" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Museum Collections
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1 and 5.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park museum collections and archive is relatively small and has not been completely cataloged. Currently only 7% of accessioned collection items have been cataloged; the park is working on addressing cataloging deficiencies. • Much of the park’s archeological collection was donated in 1997 by the property’s last private owner. The artifacts, collected during a 1995 survey, represent the 7th Cavalry’s movements and actions on the day of the attack as well as the Southern Plains Indians’ way of life. • The natural history collection consists of a reference collection of flora collected on-site in 1998-1999. • Leaks in the roof and other water infiltration issues have prevented the park from receiving an important museum loan from the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The cases in the main visitor center museum have remained empty since the building was opened to the public in 2007. • Museum operations and caring for the collection is a collateral duty of the chief of interpretation. Since the position also covers other duties related to the park, the position is often filled by an individual who has limited or no experience with professional museum standards. • The park is currently not up to NPS museum reporting and planning standards. The most recent scope of collection statement was completed in 2010 and the park does not have a collection management plan, or any of the required housekeeping, storage, and emergency planning documents. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirements and staff relocation have created a loss of institutional knowledge about the museum collections. • The museum collections are static, with no major acquisitions or donations in recent years. • A representative from the NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center is working with the park to help identify planning deficiencies and initiate needed planning processes.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of institutional knowledge may be detrimental to the care of the collections and record keeping. • Inadequate equipment, storage, and archive facilities may contribute to the deterioration of individual items. • Lack of cataloging and consistent record keeping affects park accountability and makes it difficult for staff and researchers to locate and access artifacts. • Sharing museum storage with interpretation staff is a direct threat to the collection. • The water lines running along the ceiling of the museum collection storage room could be responsible for irreversible water damage or flooding if a pipe were to leak or burst. • Items in the museum collections that are not related to the park or park purpose take up valuable storage space. • The lack of a full-time museum curator makes it difficult for current staff to dedicate the time required to keep up with cyclical housekeeping, conditions assessments, and required museum tasks, such as annual inventory and year-end reporting.

Other Important Resource or Value	Museum Collections
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thorough documentation and operations guides, along with a dedicated museum staff position, would slow the loss of institutional knowledge. • Members of traditionally associated tribes could contribute family items and important cultural artifacts as donations to the museum collection or long-term loans to the park. • Technical museum assistance could be secured through a detail position or by working closely with the NPS Western Archeological and Conservation Center or Intermountain Region. • The park may look to acquire other artifacts directly related to the park's story through private donations, purchases, or loans from other NPS sites. • Deaccessioning items that do not support the park's scope of collection statement will help clear storage space and lead to more focused collection management.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural resources condition assessment. • Archival survey. • Document climate change effects through appropriate collecting. • Conduct research to identify, accession, and catalog existing but unaccessioned natural history specimens and associated field records in nonfederal repositories.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection management plan. • Resource stewardship strategy.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974; 54 USC§312502 et seq. • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979; 54 USC§302902 • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended; 54 USC§102501-102504 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990; 25 USC§3001 • Paleontological Resources Preservation Act of 2009 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments" • Secretarial Order 3335, "Reaffirmation of the Federal-Tribal Trust Responsibility to Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries" • "Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections" (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Interior Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§2.3.1.4) "Science and Scholarship" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.1) "General Management Concepts" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§4.2) "Studies and Collections" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§8.10) "Natural and Cultural Studies, Research, and Collection Activities" • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i>, section 4A(3), "Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act " • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, parts I, II, and III

Other Important Resource or Value	Memorials and Markers
Related Significance Statements	Significance statements 1 and 3.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first historic marker identifying the battlefield was a carved stone recognizing the involvement of the 7th Cavalry. The stone was removed from the site due to vandalism and is now part of the park museum collection. It is on exhibit at the visitor center. The Custer’s Battle memorial stone was placed by the Platonic Club of Cheyenne in the early 1930s. The Custer’s Battle memorial marks the reburial site of a Cheyenne teenage boy identified by survivor Magpie as Hawk. The reburial took place in the 1930s around the time of the memorial’s dedication. The gray granite stone features etchings of Chief Black Kettle and George Custer as well as text retelling the events of the attack. There are questions about the accuracy of the marker’s text and who sponsored its installation. (The marker predates the park’s 1996 establishment.) The Custer’s Battle memorial and the gray granite marker suffer from occasional vandalism in the form of visitors scratching out mentions of Custer, the word “battle,” and other problematic language included on the “Battle of the Washita” stone. Offerings are often placed on the tops of the marker and monuments. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandals remove rocks left on the monuments as offerings and throw them onto the roof of the outlook pavilion and around the overlook grounds.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vandalism to the overlook grounds can disrupt visitor experiences. Misleading text on the “The Battle of the Washita” marker may upset visitors or lead to misinformation. Defacing of the stones by spray paint or scraping can damage the commemorative resources. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional QR codes (Quick Response, a type of bar code) or other interpretive materials dedicated to the stories of the monuments and commemoration at the site would improve interpretation at the overlook area. Interpretation of early recognition and perspectives of the battle can be connected to the Custer’s Battle memorial and provide visitors historic context of the site. An electronic app with stories and pictures related to the monuments and markers can enrich the story of commemoration of the site and its recognition first as an Oklahoma historic site and now as an NPS park unit.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation. Update National Register of Historic Places documentation.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None identified.

Other Important Resource or Value	Memorials and Markers
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended; 54 USC§102501-102504 • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 7) "Interpretation and Education" • Director's Order 24: <i>NPS Museum Collections Management</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 6: <i>Interpretation and Education</i> • Director's Order 64: <i>Commemorative Works and Plaques</i> • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III



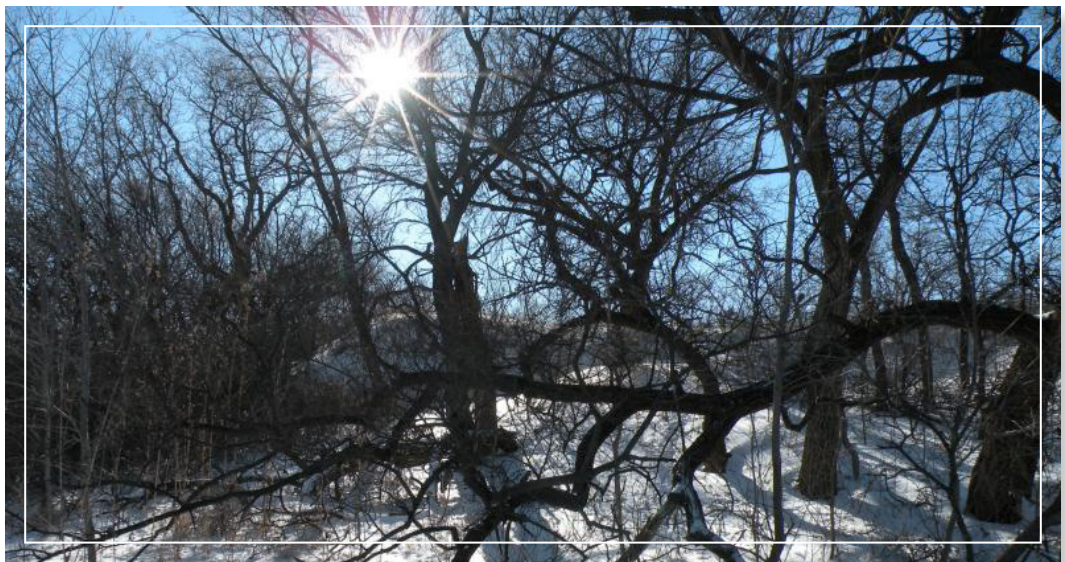
Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Landscape Restoration.** Since the 1868 clash between George Custer’s 7th Cavalry and Black Kettle’s winter encampment, the battlefield landscape has transitioned from mixed grass prairie to remote rangeland to agricultural fields. Earthen berms were created by farmers during the Dust Bowl to slow erosion and the 20th-century construction of the railroad bisected the battlefield landscape. The park’s legislation specifically calls for the preservation of the natural resources of the site and visual scene “as closely as possible as it was at the time of battle,” which would require the removal of the railroad grade and associated culverts, agricultural terraces, and the continued treatment of nonnative species. Landscape restoration efforts would greatly improve the hydrology of the site and important viewsheds within the park as well as lead to possible archeology projects, increased archeology museum collections, and improved native species and ecosystem health.
 - *Data and planning needs to address this issue:* resource stewardship strategy; National Register of Historic Places documentation (update); cultural landscape inventory (update); cultural landscape report (update).

- **Accessibility.** Like many NPS park units, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site struggles with meeting universal ADA accessibility. The park completed a comprehensive accessibility assessment and evaluation in 2013 that identified potential issues with the overlook, trail, visitor center, and interpretive materials, and provided steps that could address the current deficiencies. Funding is needed to implement the assessment’s recommendations.
 - *Data and planning needs to address this issue:* None identified.



- **Encroachment.** Washita Battlefield National Historic Site is located in rural Roger Mills County, Oklahoma, and draws much of its historic context, spiritual importance, and emotional power from the overarching cultural landscape contained in the much larger National Historic Landmark area. The park contains only 315 acres of the 7,680-acre Washita Battlefield National Historic Landmark district and many historic landforms and sites associated with the attack are outside park boundaries. While the majority of the area is still used for agricultural purposes, there has been significant industrial development related to the oil industry around Cheyenne, Oklahoma. Oil-related construction and other modern development such as wind farms have the potential to significantly affect the park's landscape setting and sense of place, two of its fundamental resources and values. The State of Oklahoma, acting through the Oklahoma Historical Society, was tasked "to acquire and hold in perpetuity conservation easements in the vicinity of the national historic site . . . for the visual and interpretive integrity of the site," according to Washita Battlefield National Historic Site's enabling legislation. There has yet to be a formal effort to purchase or otherwise secure easements from park neighbors. Baseline data in the form of soundscape, night sky, and visual resource inventory, as well as Historic American Landscapes Survey documentation, is needed to capture current conditions in preparation for future development and additional intrusions.
 - *Data and planning needs to address this issue:* soundscape survey and assessment; night sky survey and assessment; visual resource inventory; visual resource management plan; Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation.
- **Tribal Relationships.** Early in its history, the park worked closely with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes during general planning efforts, the design of the visitor center, and creation of the museum and interpretive material. Unfortunately, consultation has been limited since these major projects have been implemented. Tribal members involved with the establishment of the park are aging and passing away. Intertribal relationships have caused the park staff to carefully move forward with consultations. Current park staff members are eager to renew the formal relationship with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes as well as reach out to other traditionally associated local tribes for additional interpretation and educational programming opportunities. NPS-funded ethnographic studies could help capture cultural traditions held by older generations of tribal members as well as create new connections between the park and tribal historians and academics. A tribal liaison modeled after the position created at Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and collaboration with Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument could strengthen the park's general tribal engagement.
 - *Data and planning needs to address this issue:* place-based ethnographic study related to Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes.

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Key Issue	Visual resource management plan	H	This plan would identify critical views within and beyond the park's boundaries and recommend steps to preserve them for scenic and (as relevant) historic values. This plan would be informed by the visual resource inventory.
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Memorials and Markers; Key Issue	Cultural landscape report (update)	H	A cultural landscape report was completed in 2007. While there have been no drastic changes to the park landscape since then, it is recommended that cultural landscape documents be updated every 5 to 10 years.
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Museum Collections; Memorials and Markers; Key Issue	Resource stewardship strategy	M	A resource stewardship strategy allows the park to identify current resource conditions and propose comprehensive management activities to move toward target conditions. This plan would build off the natural and cultural resources condition assessments.
Museum Collections	Collection management plan	M	A collection management plan would build off the recent scope of collection statement and address many of the park's required museum standards, including guidance on emergency operations, integrated pest management, collection storage, housekeeping, and records management.



Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Key Issue	Historic American Landscapes Survey (HALS) documentation	H	With the increasing pressure to develop land adjacent to the park for oil/gas and industrial use, the larger setting of the “Battle of the Washita” may be impacted and possibly disturbed. HALS documentation, including a narrative about the landscape and its characteristics and photographs, would document the current state of the entire national historic landmark district. This information becomes part of the Library of Congress, allowing future researchers to view the battlefield layout even if it is disrupted by encroachment.
Battlefield Setting; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place	Update National Register of Historic Places documentation	H	Washita Battlefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Updated documentation that includes the entire national historic landmark district (approximately 7,700 acres) would include related property outside the park’s boundaries and reflect more recent research related to the attack and cultural landscape values.
Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Key Issue	Soundscape survey and assessment	H	The recent increase in oil and gas traffic on State Highway 47 and the construction of a compressor station near the park’s north boundary have already begun affecting the park’s soundscape. A formal survey and assessment would record the park’s acoustic environment and intrusions for baseline data.
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Key Issue	Visual resource inventory	H	A visual resource inventory provides data regarding significant views, scenic quality, and NPS/visitor values of important views that may be impacted by encroachment or air and light pollution. This would provide baseline information for the park when discussing possible encroachment and would also complement the cultural landscape inventory update.
Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Tribal Relationships; Key Issue	Place-based ethnographic study related to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes	H	Scholarship exists on the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes and culture, but most is not specific to the groups associated with the park. This study would allow the park to strengthen its relationship with local tribes, help inform understanding of the site, and capture stories and traditional information from tribal elders. The time-sensitive nature of the story makes this a high priority data need.
Battlefield Landscape; Museum Collections; Memorials and Markers	Cultural resources condition assessment	M	A cultural resources condition assessment, which would identify the current condition of historic structures, cultural landscapes, and museum collections, would inform management decisions and provide information for the park’s resource stewardship strategy.
Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Key Issue	Night sky survey and assessment	M	Potential encroachment by oil companies and the construction of additional wind farms near the park could contribute a significant amount of air and light pollution. A night sky survey and assessment would provide baseline data related to the park’s dark night skies that can be used to evaluate future conditions and trends.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Key Issue	Cultural landscape inventory (update)	M	The current cultural landscape inventory was completed in 2005. While there have been no drastic changes to the park landscape since then, it is recommended that cultural landscape documents be updated every 5 to 10 years.
Museum Collections	Archival survey	M	Archival studies are vital components to identifying the nonrelated items currently held in the park's collection. The survey also provides support for deaccessioning materials to create room for items that are related to the story of the park.
Battlefield Landscape; Landscape Setting; Sense of Place; Tribal Relationships; Parkwide Key	Traditional ethnographic knowledge study	M	A traditional ethnographic knowledge study would reach out to traditionally associated tribe members to capture vital information about their connections to the site, its resources, and the battle itself.
Battlefield Setting; Landscape Setting	Additional archeological research and surveys related to the encampment site	L	A few archeological surveys were undertaken when the state owned the site, but only a few archeological surveys have been completed since the NPS park unit was established. Most of the land was disturbed during the early 20th century by agricultural practices, but additional research and surveys are needed to potentially locate the site of Black Kettle's encampment.
Battlefield Setting	List of Classified Structures inventory (update)	L	No park historic structures are currently listed on the List of Classified Structures. Once the national register documentation is updated, associated historic structures, including trails, berms, ditches, and retaining walls, should be added to the park's List of Classified Structures.
Landscape Setting; Museum Collections	Document climate change effects through appropriate natural history specimen collecting	L	Natural history museum collections allow parks to view changes to native species over time in response to various phenomena occurring in the natural world. Active and appropriate collecting would help researchers and scientists better understand climate change's effects on plants and animals found within the park.
Museum Collections	Conduct research to identify, accession, and catalog existing but unaccessioned natural history specimens and associated field records in nonfederal repositories	L	Most parks have incomplete records of natural history specimens collected through the course of scientific research. While policy dictates that researchers collect specimens and provide associated field records to the park or regional museum program, many specimens end up in nonfederal repositories with little to no documentation. The NPS Museum Management Program has made an agencywide goal of identifying and appropriately processing these missing natural history collections.

Part 3: Contributors

Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Tucker Blythe, Superintendent
Richard Zahm, Park Ranger (Interpretation, Natural Resources)
Kevin Bowles Mohr, Chief of Interpretation
Carol Mapel, Park Support Assistant
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NPS Intermountain Region

Darcee Killpack, (former) Regional GIS Coordinator
Sami Powers, Regional Planner

Other NPS Staff

Bill Wright, Superintendent, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Oklahoma State Coordinator
Rob Bennetts, Southern Plains Network
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Todd Wood, Acting Fire Management Officer, Lake Meredith National Recreation Area

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Melody Bentfield, Contract Librarian



Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation for Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

110 STAT. 4180

PUBLIC LAW 104-333—NOV. 12, 1996

(3) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—From the amounts made available to carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, there are authorized to be appropriated for land acquisition pursuant to subsection (g)(4) not more than \$2,000,000 annually to remain available until expended.

(4) **MANAGEMENT ENTITY.**—From the amounts made available to carry out the National Historic Preservation Act, there are authorized to be appropriated to the management entity not more than \$500,000 annually to remain available until expended.

16 USC 461 note. **SEC. 607. WASHITA BATTLEFIELD.****(a) FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.—****(1) FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(A) the Battle of the Washita, November 27, 1868, was one of the largest engagements between Plains tribes and the United States Army on the Southern Great Plains. The site is a registered National Historic Landmark;

(B) Lt. Colonel George A. Custer, leading the 7th United States Cavalry, attacked the sleeping Cheyenne village of peace chief Black Kettle. Custer's attack resulted in more than 150 Indian casualties, many of them women and children;

(C) the Battle of the Washita symbolizes the struggle of the Southern Great Plains tribes to maintain their traditional lifeways and not to submit to reservation confinement; and

(D) the Washita battle site possesses a high degree of integrity and the cultural landscape is essentially intact. The Cheyenne village site has not been altered substantially except by periodic flooding of the Washita River.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are to—

(A) recognize the importance of the Battle of the Washita as a nationally significant element of frontier military history and as a symbol of the struggles of the Southern Great Plains tribes to maintain control of their traditional use areas; and

(B) establish the site of the Battle of the Washita as a national historic site and provide opportunities for American Indian groups including the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe to be involved in the formulation of plans and educational programs for the national historic site.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In order to provide for the preservation and interpretation of the Battle of the Washita, there is hereby established the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site in the State of Oklahoma (hereafter in this section referred to as the “national historic site”).

(2) BOUNDARY.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The national historic site shall consist of—

(i) approximately 326 acres, as generally depicted on the map entitled “Washita Battlefield National Historic Site”, numbered 22,000A and dated 12/95; and

(ii) the private lands subject to conservation easements referred to in subsection (d)(2).

(B) MAP.—The map referred to in subparagraph (A)(i) shall be on file in the offices of the Director of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, and other appropriate offices of the National Park Service. The Secretary of the Interior (hereafter in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) may, from time to time, make minor revisions in the boundary of the national historic site in accordance with section 7(c) of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 4601–4 et seq.).

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall manage the national historic site in accordance with this section and the provisions of law generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including “An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes”, approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4), and the Act of August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; U.S.C. 461–467).

(2) MANAGEMENT PURPOSES.—The Secretary shall manage the national historic site for the following purposes, among others:

(A) To protect and preserve the national historic site, including the topographic features important to the battle site, artifacts and other physical remains of the battle, and the visual scene as closely as possible as it was at the time of the battle.

(B) To interpret the cultural and natural resources of the historic site, providing for public understanding and appreciation of the area in such manner as to perpetuate these qualities and values for future generations.

(3) CONSULTATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall consult regularly with the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe on the formulation of the management plan provisions referred to in subsection (e)(5) and on preparation of educational programs provided to the public. The Secretary is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements with the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe, its subordinate boards, committees, enterprises, and traditional leaders to further the purposes of this Act.

Contracts.

(d) ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.—

(1) PARK BOUNDARIES.—Within the boundaries of the national historic site, the Secretary is authorized to acquire lands and interests in lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange, except that—

(A) no lands or interests in lands within the historic site may be acquired without the consent of the owner thereof, and

(B) lands and interests in lands owned by the State of Oklahoma or any political subdivision thereof may be acquired only by donation.

(2) CONSERVATION EASEMENTS.—The Congress finds that the State of Oklahoma, acting through the Oklahoma Historical Society, will work with local land owners to acquire and hold in perpetuity conservation easements in the vicinity of the national historic site as deemed necessary for the visual and interpretive integrity of the site. The intent of the easements

will be to keep occupancy of the land in private ownership and use of the land in general agriculture.

(e) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Within 5 years after the date funds are made available for purposes of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Park Service, shall prepare a general management plan for the national historic site. The plan shall address, but not be limited to, each of the following:

(1) A resource protection program.

(2) A visitor use plan including programs and facilities that will be provided for public use, including the location and cost of public facilities.

(3) A research and curation plan.

(4) A highway signing program.

(5) Involvement by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe in the formulation of educational programs for the national historic site.

(6) Involvement by the State of Oklahoma and other local and national entities willing to share in the responsibilities of developing and supporting the national historic site.

(f) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for land acquisition and development not more than \$5,000,000.

TITLE VII—FEES

16 USC 497c.

SEC. 701. SKI AREA PERMIT RENTAL CHARGE.

(a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall charge a rental charge for all ski area permits issued pursuant to section 3 of the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b), the Act of March 4, 1915 (38 Stat. 1101, chapter 144; 16 U.S.C. 497), or the 9th through 20th paragraphs under the heading “SURVEYING THE PUBLIC LANDS” under the heading “UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR” in the Act of June 4, 1897 (30 Stat. 34, chapter 2), on National Forest System lands. Permit rental charges for permits issued pursuant to the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 shall be calculated as set forth in subsection (b). Permit rental charges for existing ski area permits issued pursuant to the Act of March 4, 1915, and the Act of June 4, 1897, shall be calculated in accordance with those existing permits: *Provided*, That a permittee may, at the permittee’s option, use the calculation method set forth in subsection (b).

(b)(1) The ski area permit rental charge (SAPRC) shall be calculated by adding the permittee’s gross revenues from lift ticket/year-round ski area use pass sales plus revenue from ski school operations (LT+SS) and multiplying such total by the slope transport feet percentage (STFP) on National Forest System land. That amount shall be increased by the gross year-round revenue from ancillary facilities (GRAF) physically located on national forest land, including all permittee or subpermittee lodging, food service, rental shops, parking and other ancillary operations, to determine the adjusted gross revenue (AGR) subject to the permit rental charge. The final rental charge shall be calculated by multiplying the AGR by the following percentages for each revenue bracket and adding the total for each revenue bracket:

(A) 1.5 percent of all adjusted gross revenue below \$3,000,000;

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Title / Agency / Organization	Purpose / Description	Dates	Responsible Party/Parties
Memorandums of Understanding (MOU)			
Minnie R. Slief Library	Washita Battlefield Book Club	2015-2020	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Western Plains Library System
Elk City Carnegie Library	Washita Battlefield Book Club	2015-2020	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Elk City Carnegie Library
U.S. Military	To lay out rules and responsibilities for military staff rides in the park and on neighboring private lands	In process, not finalized	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, U.S. Army, private landowners
Cheyenne Fire Department	Structural fire service agreement	2014-2019	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Cheyenne Fire Department
Roger Mills County	Interlocal agreement for road assistance	Annual agreement running July 1-June 30	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Roger Mills County
The Nature Conservancy	MOU for native plant seed collection by park staff in Four Canyons site located northeast of the park	In draft	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and The Nature Conservancy
General Agreements			
Oklahoma Historical Society Museum Loan	Outgoing museum loan to Washita Battlefield National Historic Site for eight artifacts (toy bow and arrow; utility knife; scraper; spoon; hair ornament; doll; moccasins; and toy cradleboard) to be displayed at the Washita Battlefield museum	Annual agreement running January 10-January 9	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Oklahoma Historical Society
Old Crow Museum Loan	Museum loan to Washita Battlefield National Historic Site from private owners Cynthia and Kendall Old Crow. Loaned items are white beaded moccasins and a horn hide scraper.	2013-2017	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, Cynthia Old Crow, and Kendall Old Crow
Special Use Permits (SUP)			
Issued on an as-needed basis, but a rare occurrence	During fiscal year 2015, the park issued two SUPs, one for a town hall meeting held at the park and one for participation in Rittann's Poker Run.		

Title / Agency / Organization	Purpose / Description	Dates	Responsible Party/Parties
Interagency Agreements			
U.S. Forest Service, Black Kettle National Grassland (Cibola National Forest)	Service First agreement covering shared use of building and services	2015-2020	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and USFS Black Kettle National Grassland
U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Black Kettle National Grassland (Cibola National Forest)	Service First agreement for fire suppression naming USFS as first responder for fires within park	2015-2020	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and USFS Black Kettle National Grassland (Cibola National Forest)
Cooperating Association Agreements			
Western National Parks Association (WNPA)	National cooperating association agreement with WNPA to provide support and assistance to the interpretive, educational, and research activities of the National Park Service and provide interpretive and educational materials to visitors	February 24, 2011 to February 24, 2016	NPS Washington office coordinator for cooperating associations; regional coordinators for cooperating associations; park coordinators; and WNPA executive director and/or on-site WNPA manager
Interpark Agreement			
No formal agreement, but Washita Battlefield National Historic Site shares services with Chickasaw National Recreation Area	Mainly for administrative services, but park shares zone safety personnel with Chickasaw National Recreation Area and has also received past assistance with law enforcement and maintenance		
License Agreement			
Motion Picture Association (MPA)	Agreement to show films at park facilities as special events	2015-2016	Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and MPA
Commercial Services			
Concession Contract	CC-IMFA001-13: Western National Parks Association	February 22, 2013 to December 31, 2022	<p>Category III concession contract for sale of visitor convenience items by Western National Parks Associations</p> <p>The contract is managed by IMR Concessions and IMR Concessions is the recipient of the franchise fee paid on an annual basis</p>

Appendix C: Traditionally Associated Tribes

Cheyenne-Arapaho Business Committee
Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, Oklahoma
PO Box 167
Concho, OK 73022

Comanche Tribal Business Committee
Comanche Nation, Oklahoma
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73507

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council
Northern Cheyenne Tribe of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation, Montana
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Quapaw Tribal Business Committee
The Quapaw Tribe of Indians
PO Box 765
Quapaw, OK 74363

Appendix D: Past and Ongoing Park Planning and Data Collection Efforts

Planning Document	Year
The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, Special Report on Washita Battlefield, Oklahoma. Santa Fe, New Mexico	1964
National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Washita Battlefield	1976
Vegetation Analysis	1998
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Water Resources Scoping Report	1999
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Inventory Level Two	1999
Resource Management Plan	2001
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Final General Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement	2001
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Comprehensive Interpretive Plan	2001
Interpretive Exhibits for the Visitor Center	2002
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report: Part Two	2003
Southern Plains Network. Paleontological Resource Inventory and Monitoring	2003
Ozone Risk Assessment for Southern Plains Network	2004
Southern Plains Network. Vital Signs Monitoring Plan: Phase I Report	2005
Cultural Landscape Inventory Washita National Historic Site Landscape	2005
Baseline Avian Inventory at Washita Battlefield National Historic Site	2007
Geomorphic Adjustment of the Washita River	2007
Vegetation Classification and Mapping Project Report, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site	2007
Vascular Flora and Historic Vegetation	2009
Southwest Learning Quick Reference – Vegetation Types	2009
Exotic Plant Monitoring in the Southern Plains Network	2010
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Comprehensive Interpretive Plan	2010
Scope of Collection Statement	2010
Evaluation of the Sensitivity of Inventory and Monitoring National Parks to Nutrient Enrichment Effects from Atmospheric Nitrogen Deposition	2011
Evaluation of the Sensitivity of Inventory and Monitoring National Parks to Acidification Effects from Atmospheric Sulfur and Nitrogen Deposition	2011
Assessment of Nitrogen Deposition Effects and Empirical Critical Loads of Nitrogen for Ecoregions of the United States	2011
Southwest Learning Resource Brief – Birds	2011
Southern Plains Network Resource Brief – 2011 Exotic Plant Monitoring	2012
Southern Plain Network Resource Brief – 2011 Landbird Monitoring	2012
Southern Plains Network Resource Brief – Air Quality, Visibility	2012

Planning Document	Year
Landbird Monitoring Protocol and Standard Operating Procedures for the Chihuahuan Desert, Northern Great Plains, Sonoran Desert, and Southern Plains Networks	2013
Southern Plains Network Resource Brief – 2012 Landbird Monitoring	2013
Southern Plains Network and Southern Plains Fire Group 2013 Vegetation Monitoring Data Summary	2013
Air Quality and Trends by NPS Unit: Washita National Historic Site	2013
Unpublished Digital Geological Map of Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Vicinity	2013
Recent Climate Change Exposure of Washita Battlefield National Historic Site	2014
Natural Resource Condition Assessment	2014
Species List	2014
Southern Plains Network and Southern Plains Fire Group 2014 Vegetation Monitoring Data Summary	2014
Impacts of Visitor Spending on the Local Economy	2014
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site Visitor Study	2014
Paleontological Resource Inventory and Monitoring	2015
Regional and Nearby Air Quality Monitoring for Visibility	Ongoing





Intermountain Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site
September 2016

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Intermountain Regional Director.

Matthew T. Blythe SEP. 6, 2016

RECOMMENDED

Matthew T. Blythe, Superintendent, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Date

Sue E. Masica

9/23/16

APPROVED

Sue E. Masica, Regional Director, Intermountain Region

Date



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 historic 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.

WABA 023/132288
October 2016

Foundation Document • Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

