

Kansas Nebraska Heritage Area Partnership

Freedom of Information Act documents from request filed by Angel Cushing, April 2021 with the National Park Service, received July 2021, posted to Western Region Property Rights Coalition Facebook page: July 24-August 2, 2021.

2018 Documents

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason B](#)
Subject: Fw: NHA economic impact studies
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:27:37 AM

From: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 3:36 PM
To: Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>
Cc: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>; Vehmeyer, Elizabeth S <Elizabeth_Vehmeyer@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: NHA economic impact studies

Hi Mark --

Chris Stein is your contact for National Heritage Areas, although I had agreed to help with the Nebraska effort if possible. Yes, there are economic impact studies available. I'm copying this message to Chris and Liz Vehmeyer, who works with the WASO NHA program. They may have specific examples to share.

Thanks,
Rachel.

Rachel Franklin-Weekley, PhD
Historian, History & National Register Program
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102
402 -661-1928

On Wed, Apr 4, 2018 at 2:45 PM, Engler, Mark <mark_engler@nps.gov> wrote:
Hi Rachel:

Are you our contact for National Heritage Areas? I am looking for any study that might be out there that looks at the economic benefits of Heritage Areas. Can you help me?

Thank you,

Mark

Mark Engler
Superintendent
Homestead National Monument of America
8523 West State Highway 4

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: Discussed National Heritage Area in Nebraska/Kansas
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:40:29 PM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 20, 2018 1:28 PM
To: Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Cc: Nancy Finley <nancy_finley@nps.gov>; Trap, Patricia <Patricia_Trap@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Discussed National Heritage Area in Nebraska/Kansas

Mark:

Hello and...Cool.

In my opinion, "Plains, Cranes, and Trains" wasn't a good option, but, I did like "O'Pioneer" if that had a literary connection, BUT...in the end...that is up to them. I'm glad to hear that they are talking about advancing forward (at some level).

While I still want to be involved (at some level, especially because I love working with these new areas), please know that we assigned Rachel to the Nebraska area proposal because Rachel also loves working with these new areas and she is located in great proximity to the proposed area.

I'm sending good vibrations your way!

Chris

(402) 881-1387 -- cell
(717) 338-4401 -- office

On Fri, Apr 20, 2018 at 2:17 PM, Mark Engler <mark_engler@nps.gov> wrote:
Hi Chris:

Wanted to pass along; earlier today the small group that has been discussing the possible creation of the O'Pioneer National Heritage Area talked about their vision in Kearney, Nebraska at the Tourism Plains Safaris Conference. The concept was well received by the 25 folks listening in with a number of good questions and suggestions. One suggestion urged the group to think more about the current suggested name (it is a working name). Please know I plan to prepare a note in the near future for the weekly report to WASO, even though this is in a very early preliminary stage. A writer with the Kearney Hub was in attendance, thus I would not be surprised to see a story in

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this paper.

I will keep you posted as this group moves forward.

Please let me know if you have any questions and thank you for getting us copies of different economic impact studies with NHAs.

Mark

Sent from my iPhone

--
Chris

Christopher E. Stein
Acting Superintendent
Gettysburg National Military Park
and Eisenhower National Historic Site
1195 Baltimore Pike, Suite 100
Gettysburg, PA 17325

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: Old Pioneers NHA Call from Kansas NR Coalition
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:26:10 AM

From: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 1, 2018 11:22 AM
To: Griesemer, Holly <Holly_Griesemer@nps.gov>
Cc: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Nancy Finley <nancy_finley@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Old Pioneers NHA Call from Kansas NR Coalition

Holly --

I don't have anything to add. This project is a grassroots effort to develop a National Heritage Area in Nebraska/Kansas. The NPS is not directing the effort or the suitability study, only providing assistance as needed.

As Mark noted in a previous message, Kim Wilson, professor at the Univ. of Nebraska - Lincoln, is guiding the effort and serves as the primary point of contact. Her contact information can be provided to those who are interested in the project. She can be reached at kwilson4@unl.edu

Thank you for sharing the inquiry,

Rachel.

Rachel Franklin-Weekley, PhD
Historian, History & National Register Program
JACS program, Midwest Region
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102

402-661-1928

On Tue, May 1, 2018 at 10:54 AM, Griesemer, Holly <holly_griesemer@nps.gov> wrote:
Hello,

I received a response back from Mark that "the NPS has not produced any materials in relation to this. Kim and her students have gathered and shared information including a map."

Alex's statement of: the NPS is not advocating for new NHA's, but we do have much of the history and information about site significance that others use to make their case about the establishment of them. We need to keep that point straight as this subject continues to get media and public interest.

Rachel - Do you have anything to add? Backstory: Yesterday, I received a call from Norman MacLeod with the Kansas Natural Resources Coalition. He recently learned about the proposed 'Old Pioneer'

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NHA and would like to be involved in the process. He is interested to know if the NPS has created any maps or documents related to the project.

Thank you,

On Tue, May 1, 2018 at 6:45 AM, Stein, Christopher <chris_stein@nps.gov> wrote:
Mark:

Can you provide Holly anything OR point her in the right direction?
Please include Rachel.

Thank you.

Chris

On Mon, Apr 30, 2018 at 1:02 PM, Griesemer, Holly <holly_griesemer@nps.gov> wrote:
Hello Chris and Mark,

Hope you are both well!

I just received a phone call from Mr. Norman MacLeod with the Kansas Natural Resources Coalition. He is looking for documentation or maps from the NPS regarding the Old Pioneers proposed NHA. He learned about the project at a conference/news paper article. Do either of you have any information on this project? He would like to be part of the project moving forward.

Many thanks,

Holly

--

Holly Griesemer
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Accessibility Project Manager
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[601 Riverfront Drive](#)
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holly_griesemer@nps.gov

--

Chris

Christopher E. Stein
Acting Superintendent
Gettysburg National Military Park

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: NE + KS Proposed NHA Discussion
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 3:22:28 PM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 1:30 PM
To: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: NE + KS Proposed NHA Discussion

Sounds fun Rachel. I think you will find that these meetings are some of the most enjoyable that come out of NHA work.

How are you doing?

Chris

On Wed, Jun 20, 2018 at 12:52 PM, Franklin Weekley, Rachel <rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov> wrote:

Thanks for the follow-up email, Kim, I received your phone message yesterday.

Yes, I would like to participate in the meeting on August 9 if possible. I need to check the calendar and confirm with my husband, Mark, whom you know, about his schedule, as well.

Thank you for including me in the discussion, I'll get back to you when I can confirm my participation.

Rachel.

Rachel Franklin-Weekley, PhD
Historian, History & National Register Program
JACS program, Midwest Region
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha Nebraska 68102

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On Wed, Jun 20, 2018 at 11:29 AM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Good morning Rachel,

I understand from Mark and Holly that you are the person to contact about National Heritage Areas. As you know, we have a small steering committee working towards understanding the viability of creating a National Heritage Area. The steering committee includes:

- Ashley Olson, Executive Director, The Willa Cather Foundation

- Joe Black, Executive Director, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer.
- Kim Wilson, Professor, UNL Landscape Architecture Program
- Mark Engler, Superintendent, Homestead National Monument of America (resource)

We are planning to expand this steering committee to include people who represent NHA priority areas (see attached list of invitees). We are organizing three meetings this fall with the goal to come to a decision whether to move forward with a feasibility study. Our first meeting is scheduled for August 9th, 10:00 – 2:30 at the Willa Cather Foundation, Red Cloud. We are hoping you are available to provide an overview of NHAs – criteria, benefits, process and timeframe. Attached is a draft agenda for the meeting. Also attached is an overview of the initiative and process.

Let me know about your availability to participate as well if you have additional questions or concerns.

Best,
Kim

Kim L. Wilson *ASLA*
Professor, Landscape Architecture Program

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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--
Chris

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Agenda for Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:10:19 AM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 9:05 PM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Agenda for Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential

Thanks Kim.
In the end...It is definitely worth the effort!
Although it definitely is not easy.
Be straight with people from the start re this...you only want the die hards anyway!
I'm now working with one effort that has been going in for almost a decade.
Also...I recommend that you think in geologic time...it makes it easier to think of the time invested as a flash in the pan.
Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2018, at 8:59 PM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Thanks Chris, we have a long way to go. Need to enlarge the number of stakeholders and increase the energy and momentum. I hope we accomplish a bit of this during the first of three meetings. Hope you're enjoying your new temporary assignment. Best,
Kim

From: Christopher Stein <chris.stein@nps.gov>
Date: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 at 8:28 PM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Cc: Julie McPike <jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org>, "Franklin Weekley, Rachel" <rachel.franklin-weekley@nps.gov>, "Griesemer, Holly" <holly.griesemer@nps.gov>, Mark Engler <mark_engler@nps.gov>, "nancy finley@nps.gov" <nancy_finley@nps.gov>, "jogle@freedomfrontier.org" <jogle@freedomfrontier.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Agenda for Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential

I'm watching this initiative with great interest, Kim. You are in great hands with Rachel and Julie!!!! My best to your important effort.

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Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 1, 2018, at 5:21 PM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Julie and Rachel,

We really appreciate you both agreeing to help us with this initiative.

Attached is the final agenda. We will have about 18 to 20 in attendance, including you both. I will be putting together printed materials including the agenda and NHA criteria, feasibility study, benefits and so on. Please let me know if there are other items you would like me to include and/or send additional digital material.

Have a nice week/weekend and safe travels!

Best,
Kim

Kim L. Wilson ASLA
Professor, Landscape Architecture Program

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<18_08_09 Agenda .pdf>

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: Meeting Agenda for Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:02:42 AM
Attachments: [18_08_09_Agenda.pdf](#)

From: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, August 1, 2018 5:21 PM
To: Julie McPike <jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org>; Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Cc: Griesemer, Holly <Holly_Griesemer@nps.gov>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting Agenda for Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential

Julie and Rachel,

We really appreciate you both agreeing to help us with this initiative.

Attached is the final agenda. We will have about 18 to 20 in attendance, including you both. I will be putting together printed materials including the agenda and NHA criteria, feasibility study, benefits and so on. Please let me know if there are other items you would like me to include and/or send additional digital material.

Have a nice week/weekend and safe travels!

Best,
Kim

Kim L. Wilson ASLA
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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:57:19 AM
Attachments: [Homestead National Monument of America.pdf](#)
[18_11_13_Steering Committee Agenda .pdf](#)
[NHA Description 06_18 Final.pdf](#)

From: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Sent: Monday, November 5, 2018 7:31 AM
To: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Cc: Griesemer, Holly <Holly_Griesemer@nps.gov>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00

Good morning Rachel,

We are looking forward to your participation at the second of three meetings focused on understanding the potential of establishing a National Heritage Area (NHA) across 52-counties stretching from Nebraska into Kansas (see the two-page overview of the study area).

The second steering committee meeting will be held on **Tuesday, November 13th from 10:00 – 2:30 at the Homestead National Monument of America Education Center**, just west of Beatrice (see attached map for location). We expect about 20 to 25 participants in attendance representing all aspects of a NHA including tourism, preservation, conservation, economic development and community development. We have put together a robust agenda that includes an overview of the Homestead National Monument of America and the surrounding NHAs comparing themes, organizational structures, funding, programs and benefits. Please see the attached meeting agenda.

Finally, you have homework. We would like you to be prepared to share up to three assets, stories, places and landscapes that make this area a unique. We hope to learn from each other and begin to develop a *cohesive, nationally important story about this region*.

Please RSVP by responding to this email so we can order lunch.

Looking forward to your participation!

Joe Black, Executive Director, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Ashley Olson, Executive Director, The Willa Cather Foundation

Kim Wilson, Professor, Landscape Architecture Program, UNL

From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 10:56:11 AM

From: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 10:18 AM
To: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00

Thanks Chris, we doing our best! Kim

From: "Stein, Christopher" <chris_stein@nps.gov>
Date: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 10:16 AM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00

Kim:

You know this already but I want to say it again.

In my work with NHAs, developing from the start this "nationally important story" is the absolute most important thing you can do. I have been working with another NHA effort (for the past decade) and they are still struggling with this!!!! It gets very old and frustrating. By the way, Omaha (Rachel and I) and DC (Martha Raymond and company) can give you a pre-read on your nationally important story before you do a full fledged feasibility study.

My best to you. You're fortunate to have Rachel on your team! Me too!!

Chris
(402) 881-1387

On Mon, Nov 5, 2018 at 7:23 PM Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Thanks! Kim

From: "Stein, Christopher" <chris_stein@nps.gov>
Date: Monday, November 5, 2018 at 8:42 AM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Creating a National Heritage Area: Discovering the Potential, Steering Committee Meeting, November 13th, 10:00 - 2:00

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason B](#)
Subject: Fw: Nebraska NHA meeting
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 12:32:10 PM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 2:42 PM
To: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Nebraska NHA meeting

Thanks for the info Rachel. They could actually use someone like you to help them, but I understand. Thanks for letting Kim know.

Chris

PS. I have always found these meetings interesting. If I lived closer and was feeling well enough to travel, I'd go myself.

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 6, 2018, at 2:03 PM, Franklin Weekley, Rachel <rachel_franklin-weekley@nps.gov> wrote:

Thanks for copying me on your message to Kim. I don't plan to go to that meeting next week and I will contact Kim to let her know.

They keep having the same meeting over and over again. You said in your message to her that she needs to identify exactly what is nationally significant and that's what they keep avoiding.

That seems to be the focus of the lunch session, but just having people talk about what **story** they think is nationally important won't cut it.

The afternoon might be important to do some networking for support, but she keeps talking to the same people about what other heritage areas are about.

Rachel.

402-661-1928

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] RSVP - Final Steering Committee Meeting, Thursday, December 13th, 10:00 - 2:30, Stuhr Museum, Grand Island
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:08:51 AM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Thursday, November 29, 2018 1:32 PM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Cc: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Griesemer, Holly <Holly_Griesemer@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] RSVP - Final Steering Committee Meeting, Thursday, December 13th, 10:00 - 2:30, Stuhr Museum, Grand Island

Kim

My best at this meeting! Very exciting place to be!!!

Chris

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 29, 2018, at 11:57 AM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

Good morning Rachel,

We are looking forward to your participation in the **third and final meeting** focused on understanding the potential of establishing a National Heritage Area (NHA) across 52-counties stretching from Nebraska into Kansas (see the two-page overview of the study area). **It is during this meeting we will ask for a recommendation on whether we should move forward with a NHA Feasibility Study.**

The third steering committee meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 13th from 10:00 – 2:30 at the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer, Grand Island, NE**, just north of I-80. We expect about 20 to 25 participants in attendance representing all aspects of a NHA including tourism, preservation, conservation, economic development and community development. We have put together a robust agenda including an overview of the Stuhr Museum of the Prairie, discussion around the study area's national significance and associated themes, and share logistics of developing a NHA Feasibility Study. Please see the attached meeting agenda.

During the November meeting, participants developed an extensive list of themes, stories and assets. Please review the attached document for this information. Also

attached is a document outlining the key questions about the Feasibility Study Process. The information contained in both documents are useful as we make the decision to continue with this initiative.

Please RSVP by responding to this email so we can order lunch.

Looking forward to seeing you in Grand Island!

Joe Black, *Executive Director, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer*
Ashley Olson, *Executive Director, The Willa Cather Foundation*
Kim Wilson, *Professor, Landscape Architecture Program, UNL*

Kim L. Wilson *ASLA*
Professor, Landscape Architecture Program

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<18_12_13 NHA Steering Committee Agenda .docx>

<NHA Description 06_18 Final.pdf>

<National Heritage Area Feasibility Study Process.pdf>

<Summary Brainstorming Session NHA Themes 11_13_18.docx>

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: Can NHAs overlap?
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:17:44 AM

From: Franklin Weekley, Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 12:55 PM
To: Durcan, Kathleen C <Kathleen_Durcan@nps.gov>
Cc: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>; Durcan, Kathleen C <Kathleen_Durcan@nps.gov>; Raymond, Martha <Martha_Raymond@nps.gov>
Subject: Re: Can NHAs overlap?

Yes, Katie, I will continue telling them the realities of the process and expected outcome.

I'll meet with the group on Thursday and will highlight the inaccuracies in the Kearney news article. Thanks for sending the link, I hadn't seen it.

All the best,

Rachel.

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 12:12 PM Durcan, Kathleen <kathleen_durcan@nps.gov> wrote:
Please be clear with them about expectations for feasibility studies and designation - as in no new designations since 2009, uncertainty in funding, and that there is no application process for federal funds to conduct a study. This article states that it "takes an average of 3½ years to complete the designation process."

It also states "An application could be made by January 2019 for federal funds to do the required National Heritage Area study and complete details such as setting boundaries and writing a financial plan."

https://www.kearneyhub.com/news/agriculture/potential-seen-for-nebraska-kansas-national-heritage-area/article_4caef228-4515-11e8-90ab-efcb1cb3bc37.html

Thanks,
Katie

Katie Callahan Durcan

New Address:
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7508, Room 7515
Washington, DC 20240
202-354-2268
Katie_Durcan@nps.gov
<http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas/>

"I am a proud graduate of the GOAL Academy. Ask me about the program!"



On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 12:47 PM Stein, Christopher <chris_stein@nps.gov> wrote:
Thanks Katie. Good stuff.
Most of O'Pioneer would not overlap with Freedom's Frontier...stories are completely different, mind you.
Chris

On Tue, Dec 11, 2018 at 11:34 AM Durcan, Kathleen <kathleen_durcan@nps.gov> wrote:
Generally, overlap exists if the resources intersect/overlap, such as Erie Canal, Hudson River, and Lake Champlain. Those three resources intersect in the Albany NY area.

South Catalonia overlaps with Gullah Geechee in South Carolina.

Many others come close or are neighbors but generally, we don't encourage overlap if there isn't a strong reason for the overlap as that can be confusing to the public etc.

We had an emerging area that NPS had a negative finding called the Southern Campaign of the American Revolution that was proposed for North Carolina and South Carolina. The draft map of the area at one stage was going to overlap 3 existing areas.

The O Pioneers would need to make a strong argument in their feasibility study as to why these resources need to be in the proposed NHA and if they are not already interpreted in the existing NHA.

Here is a good map for zooming in and out:
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritageareas/discover-nhas.htm>

Two other maps are attached as well.

Katie

Katie Callahan Durcan

New Address:
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Mail Stop 7508, Room 7515
Washington, DC 20240
202-354-2268
Katie_Durcan@nps.gov
<http://www.nps.gov/heritageareas/>

"I am a proud graduate of the GOAL Academy. Ask me about the program!"

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From: [Stein, Christopher E](#)
To: [Morgan, Jason R](#)
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] NE/KS National Heritage Area Initiative Will Conduct a Feasibility Study
Date: Wednesday, April 28, 2021 11:08:42 AM

From: Stein, Christopher E <Chris_Stein@nps.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 18, 2018 12:11 PM
To: Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu>
Cc: rowesanctuary@audubon.org <rowesanctuary@audubon.org>; nebraska@audubon.org <nebraska@audubon.org>; ppri@hamilton.net <ppri@hamilton.net>; Roger Kuhn <Roger.Kuhn@nebraska.gov>; rjasnoch@visitkearney.org <rjasnoch@visitkearney.org>; Kelly Gewecke <kelly.gewecke@nebraska.gov>; Jill Dolberg <jill.dolberg@nebraska.gov>; tinah@nefb.org <tinah@nefb.org>; Katie Nieland <knieland2@unl.edu>; curator@orphantraindepot.org <curator@orphantraindepot.org>; info@cloudcountytourism.com <info@cloudcountytourism.com>; rcedc@nckcn.com <rcedc@nckcn.com>; info@visitnorthplatte.com <info@visitnorthplatte.com>; John Carroll <jcarroll2@unl.edu>; Chris@humanitiesnebraska.org <Chris@humanitiesnebraska.org>; jenna.bartja@nebraska.gov <jenna.bartja@nebraska.gov>; John.ricks@nebraska.gov <John.ricks@nebraska.gov>; carol@visitmccook.com <carol@visitmccook.com>; director@visitmarysvilleks.org <director@visitmarysvilleks.org>; 96cruisin@embarqmail.com <96cruisin@embarqmail.com>; Richard Edwards <redwards@unl.edu>; vachak@bluevalley.net <vachak@bluevalley.net>; jblack@stuhmuseum.org <jblack@stuhmuseum.org>; jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com <jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com>; Engler, Mark A. <Mark_Engler@nps.gov>; Ashley Olson <aolson@willacather.org>; (b) (6) (b) (6)
(b) (6) Franklin Weekley,
Rachel <Rachel_Franklin-Weekley@nps.gov>; Griesemer, Holly <Holly_Griesemer@nps.gov>; jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org <jmcpike@freedomfrontier.org>; don macke <don@e2mail.org>; Ben Dutton <ben.dutton@unl.edu>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] NE/KS National Heritage Area Initiative Will Conduct a Feasibility Study

My sincere "congratulations" to all of you.

Chris

Christopher E. Stein
Chief, National Heritage Areas and Partnerships
National Park Service, Midwest Region
(402) 881-1387

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 18, 2018, at 11:42 AM, Kim Wilson <kwilson4@unl.edu> wrote:

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Good morning,

We are thrilled...on December 13th, during the third of three NHA Ad Hoc Steering Committee meetings, all twenty participants voted yes to conduct a National Heritage Area (NHA) Feasibility Study.

Before the vote there was much excitement and in depth discussions around national significance and themes. Among the ideas discussed were migration, crossroads of the Great Plains or America, America's Heartland, The Great American Desert, and so on. Although we did not select one idea, it became apparent to everyone that there was much to work with and a more detailed mapping of the assets will clarify and define this area's significance, themes and geographic extent.

The group discussed and determined that a 7 to 11-member core NHA steering committee with representatives from Kansas and Nebraska would need to be formed to drive and guide the Feasibility Study (see the attached document). Core committee members will be expected to determine the initial organizational structure and process, seek funding, participate in regularly scheduled online meetings, advocate for the initiative locally, regionally and with political entities, and review components of the Feasibility Study. Please let us know of your interest in participating at this level and/or recommendations of others.

We are so grateful for your participation thus far and need your continued support.

We will develop a communications strategy to keep everyone informed of our progress. And as we move forward, please continue to provide your extensive knowledge and insight, letters of support and assist with organizing local and regional meetings. We expect there will be many opportunities to meet and contribute to the future of this National Heritage Area Initiative.

Best Always and Happy Holidays,

Joe Black, Executive Director, Stuhr Museum of the Prairie Pioneer

Ashley Olson, Executive Director, The Willa Cather Foundation

Jarrod McCartney, Heritage Tourism Development Director, Red Cloud

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