This page intentionally left blank.
Acknowledgements

The authors acknowledge the assistance of numerous individuals in the preparation of this Resource Management Plan. On behalf of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department’s Division of State Parks, staff members were extremely helpful in providing access to information and in sharing of their time. The essential staff providing assistance for the development of the RMP included Rodger Cunningham, Mandee Hafer, and Vicki Hurst, all associated with Lake Wister State Park and Heavener Runestone State Park, and Bryce Todd, the regional manager for the southeast region of Oklahoma State Parks.

Assistance was also provided by Hardy Watkins, Kris Marek, and Doug Hawthorne – all from the Oklahoma City office of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

It is the purpose of the Resource Management Plan to be a living document to assist with decisions related to the resources within the park and the management of those resources. The authors’ desire is to assist decision-makers in providing high quality outdoor recreation experiences and resources for current visitors, while protecting the experiences and the resources for future generations.

Lowell Caneley, Ph.D., Professor
Leisure Studies
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK 74078
Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADAAG ................................................. Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
BCE ............................................................................................................. Before the Common Era
CCC ...................................................................................................... Civilian Conservation Corps
CDC ...................................................................................................... Centers for Disease Control
CE ................................................................................................................................ Common Era
CLEET ........................................................ Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
GIS ............................................................................................... Geographic Information Systems
GPS ......................................................................................................... Global Positioning System
EPA ............................................................................................. Environmental Protection Agency
MCL .................................................................................................. Maximum Contaminate Level
NAAQS ............................................................................. National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAWQA ................................................................... National Water Quality Assessment Program
NEPA ............................................................ National Environmental Policy Act
NPRM ........................................................................................... Notice of Proposed Rule Making
OSU .................................................................................... Oklahoma State University – Stillwater
OTRD .................................................................... Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
OWRB........................................................................................ Oklahoma Water Resources Board
PBCR ............................................................................................. Primary body contact recreation
pH ........................................................................................................... potential for hydrogen ions
ppm ......................................................................................................................... parts per million
R .............................................................................................................................................. Range
RMP ...................................................................................................... Resource Management Plan
SCORP ............................................................ Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCBR ......................................................................................... Secondary body contact recreation
T ......................................................................................................................................... Township
TNC ............................................................................................................ The Nature Conservancy
USFWS .............................................................................. United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS ...................................................................................................... United States Geological Survey
WBDO ...................................................................................................... Waterborne Disease Outbreak
# Table of Contents

Acknowledgements .................................................................................................................................. 3  
Abbreviations and Acronyms ............................................................................................................. 4  
Table of Contents ............................................................................................................................ 5  
List of Tables .................................................................................................................................. 8  
List of Figures ................................................................................................................................... 9  
Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department ...................................... 10  
Vision Statement ............................................................................................................................... 10  
OTRD Values .................................................................................................................................... 10  
Chapter 1 – Introduction .................................................................................................................. 11  
  Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process ................................................................... 11  
    Planning Process ........................................................................................................................... 11  
    Agencies Involved ....................................................................................................................... 12  
Chapter 2 – Project Description .................................................................................................... 15  
  About the Park .............................................................................................................................. 15  
    Purpose and Significance of Heavener Runestone State Park .............................................. 15  
    Geographic Location of Heavener Runestone State Park .................................................. 17  
Community and Regional Context ................................................................................................. 18  
  Brief History of Leflore County ................................................................................................... 18  
  Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact ......................................................... 22  
  Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities ..................................................... 26  
  Park History ................................................................................................................................. 29  
  Physical Setting .............................................................................................................................. 30  
Natural Resources in the Park ........................................................................................................... 31  
  Climate and Air Quality ............................................................................................................... 31  
  Topography .................................................................................................................................. 32  
  Geology ....................................................................................................................................... 33  
  Soil ................................................................................................................................................. 33  
  Hydrology ..................................................................................................................................... 34  
  Vegetative Cover ........................................................................................................................... 34  
  Wildlife .......................................................................................................................................... 35
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources in the Park</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Runestone</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Development</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Access and Entry Aesthetics</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Building</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic Shelters</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Office</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature Center</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort Stations</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking/Walking Trails</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Day Use Areas</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amphitheater</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concessions</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Visitation</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreational Use of Park Facilities</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Perception of Heavener Runestone State Park</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>User Evaluations of Heavener Runestone State Park</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Management</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staffing</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue and Expense</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Hazards</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational Hazards</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy-Related Exposures</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waste Management</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview and Summary</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issues and Alternatives</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Statement 1: Qualification and branding as a state park</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Issue Statement 2: Extending the educational outreach of the park ........................................ 65
Issue Statement 3: Further development in the park................................................................. 66
Issue Statement 4: Staffing and personnel for the future ....................................................... 67
Issue Statement 5: Green practices related to energy and conservation ............................... 67
Recommendations beyond the Issues ....................................................................................... 68
  Recommendation 1: Entry roads, signs, and protective gates .............................................. 68
  Recommendation 2: Clean air (No smoking) in state, public buildings ......................... 69
  Recommendation 3: Signage and marking of trails/parking lots ........................................ 69
References ..................................................................................................................................... 70
Appendix A – Documents related to Property .............................................................................. 72
List of Tables

Table 2.1 – Population of Leflore County ...................................................................................... 23
Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population ...................................................... 23
Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Leflore County .......................................................... 24
Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Leflore County ............................................................. 25
Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Leflore County ........................................................... 25
Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Leflore County ....................................................... 26
Table 3.1 – Total Visitation ........................................................................................................ 54
Table 3.2 – Staffing at Heavener Runestone State Park ............................................................ 56
Table 3.3 – Expense at Heavener Runestone State Park ........................................................... 57
List of Figures

Figure 1.1 – Gift shop and office at Heavener Runestone State Park ........................................ 13
Figure 1.2 – Panoramic view from Heavener Runestone State Park ........................................ 14
Figure 2.1 – Utilization of purpose and significance statements .............................................. 16
Figure 2.2 – Leflore County, Oklahoma ................................................................................... 17
Figure 2.3 – Aerial view of Heavener Runestone State Park ....................................................... 17
Figure 2.4 – Communities and access routes around Heavener Runestone State Park .......... 18
Figure 2.5 – Route of de la Harpe .............................................................................................. 19
Figure 2.6 – Overstreet-Kerr house and gardens ....................................................................... 22
Figure 2.7 – Talimena Scenic Byway and Ouachita National Recreation Trail ....................... 28
Figure 2.8 – Ouachita National Forest with management areas ................................................ 30
Figure 2.9 – Topographic map of Heavener Runestone State Park ............................................ 32
Figure 2.10 – Soils of Leflore County ......................................................................................... 33
Figure 2.11 – Watersheds of Leflore County .............................................................................. 34
Figure 2.12 – Vegetation near Heavener Runestone State Park ................................................... 34
Figure 2.13 – Vegetation within Heavener Runestone State Park .............................................. 35
Figure 2.14 – Venomous snakes possible in Heavener Runestone State Park ....................... 36
Figure 2.15 – Red-cockaded woodpecker .................................................................................... 37
Figure 2.16 – Indiana bat ............................................................................................................. 37
Figure 2.17 – Accessible Trail Signage ....................................................................................... 38
Figure 2.18 – Accessibility limited trails at Heavener Runestone State Park .............................. 39
Figure 2.19 – Restroom access at new location in the picnic area ............................................ 40
Figure 2.20 – Inscription on the Heavener Runestone ............................................................... 41
Figure 2.21 – Entry road, signage, and identifying monument .................................................. 43
Figure 2.22 – Developed areas at Heavener Runestone State Park .......................................... 44
Figure 2.23 – Rental property near park entrance ...................................................................... 45
Figure 2.24 – Sign and gate along entry road ........................................................................... 45
Figure 2.25 – Interpretive mural near information center .......................................................... 46
Figure 2.26 – Residential area at Heavener Runestone State Park .......................................... 46
Figure 2.27 – Community building at Heavener Runestone State Park .................................... 47
Figure 2.28 – Playgroup at Heavener Runestone State Park ..................................................... 48
Figure 2.29 – Picnic pavilions at Heavener Runestone State Park ............................................ 49
Figure 2.30 – Comfort stations at Heavener Runestone State Park ......................................... 49
Figure 2.31 – Runestone Interpretive Trail .................................................................................. 50
Figure 2.32 – Runestone Interpretive Trail features ................................................................. 51
Figure 2.33 – Nature Trail sign ................................................................................................... 51
Figure 2.34 – Portions of the Cliffside Trail and Nature Trail ...................................................... 52
Figure 2.35 – Roadway through picnic area .............................................................................. 53
Figure 2.36 – Hurst amphitheater and commemorative plaque .................................................. 53
Figure 2.37 – Hurst amphitheater from the stage ....................................................................... 61
Figure 2.38 – Deck at Heavener Runestone State Park ............................................................. 62
Figure 4.1 – Property along entry road ...................................................................................... 69
Mission Statement of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

The mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to advance Oklahoma’s exceptional quality of life by preserving, managing, and promoting our natural assets and cultural amenities.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department is to promote and enhance tourism throughout the state; protect and preserve the environment and natural resources; educate the public about Oklahoma’s people and places; provide exceptional customer service to all citizens and visitors; create a team environment in which all employees are successful, productive, and valued; embrace and seek diversity in our workforce and those we serve.

OTRD Values

- Responsibility and leadership
- Respect
- Quality
- Exemplary customer service
- Balance and self-fulfillment
- Teamwork and communication
- Flexibility
- Creativity and innovation
- Coordination
- Commitment
- Integrity
Chapter 1 – Introduction

Resource Management Plan: Purpose and Process

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) program and policy is to document management responsibilities to balance the use of water and land resources as they relate to recreation; in this instance, Heavener Runestone State Park. As a guiding plan, the RMP seeks to propose long-term policy that limits adverse impacts to critical resources while providing protection and management of fish, wildlife, and other natural and cultural resources. In addition, the RMP will provide guidelines for public health and safety, public access, and a wide variety of outdoor recreational opportunities.

The purpose and scope of the RMP are to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of Heavener Runestone State Park and its incorporated resources, summarize the plan’s components, and provide descriptive and historical information related to the project.

The ultimate purpose of the RMP is to establish a management framework for the conservation, protection, enhancement, development, and use of the physical and biological resources at Heavener Runestone State Park. With regard to Heavener Runestone State Park, the RMP is to:

- Provide managers and decision-makers with long-term direction and guidance for the successful management of the resources at Heavener Runestone State Park;
- Ensure that management of the resources is compatible with authorized purposes;
- Ensure that recreation experiences and facilities are compatible with other environmental resources;
- Ensure that planned developments are based on public need and the ability of the environmental resources to accommodate such facilities and use; and
- Resolve issues and concerns related to management of the environmental resources.

Planning Process

The planning process for preparation of this Resource Management Plan included discussion between research staff at Oklahoma State University (OSU) and management personnel from Oklahoma State Parks. In addition, the process incorporated (1) the acquisition of archival information from libraries, state parks, books, research reports, and other sources; (2) interviews of state park personnel; (3) records provided by state park management; (4) input from members of the public through surveys, comment cards, and focus groups; and (5) searches of the Internet for information that expanded on other archives.

The purposes of public involvement are to inform the public and solicit public response regarding their needs, values, and evaluations of proposed solutions. Public involvement programs are designed not only to meet state and federal regulations, but also to include interested individuals, organizations, agencies, and governmental entities in the decision-making
process. Techniques used for public involvement include interviews, workshops, advisory committees, informational brochures, surveys, and public hearings. The process of public involvement is important to help strengthen the relationship between public and government agencies involved in the proposed plan. The relative success of public involvement techniques and the participation of supporting government agencies regarding the program as a whole is indicated by how well informed the public is and by how much the public has contributed to making environmentally sound, feasible decisions that are supported by a significant segment of the public. The public involvement process for the Heavener Runestone State Park RMP is incorporated into the text of this document.

The original concept in preparation of an RMP is a federal action that requires compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); therefore, the public involvement process must fulfill the RMP and NEPA requirements as well as those of other entities. Oklahoma State Parks has committed the agency to follow a similar model at the state level for all state parks.

Using several public involvement methods to gain insight into the concerns of the public and governmental agencies potentially affected by provisions of the Heavener Runestone State Park RMP, representatives from OSU compiled and analyzed the data. The public involvement process offered citizens and various interest groups information about the project and its potential impacts. This course of action was used to gather information, ideas, and concerns regarding the different issues to be compiled and addressed to determine issues of public concern. The issues were then evaluated resulting in alternative solutions and recommendations for the park.

Finally, the RMP process included integration of global positional system (GPS) technology into Geographic Information System (GIS) software to document features and attributes within the park. This component of the process permits an on-going record of facilities with their respective attributes, locations, and conditions. As a result, the GPS and GIS components of the RMP process are integral to on-going implementation and application of the planning effort.

**Agencies Involved**

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement specified Heavener Runestone State Park during 2009 – 2010, and the intent of the agreement is to continue the RMP process across all state parks in Oklahoma.

The RMP agreement became effective July 1, 2009 between Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Oklahoma State University. Following a meeting between OTRD and OSU staff information, reports, and comment cards were provided to OSU for review. In accordance with the RMP contract, OSU performed research services and delivered reports to OTRD concluding with a written plan for Heavener Runestone State Park in June 2010.

The authority for the agreement between OTRD and OSU is based upon Title 74 § 2213 as authorized by Engrossed Senate Bill 823 of the 2005 session: “The Commission may contract for the study, analysis, and planning as reasonably necessary to aid in determining the feasibility of leasing, selling or privately managing or developing the property or facilities under the control of the Commission. The Commission shall be exempt from the competitive bidding requirements of the Competitive Bidding Act for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, and effectuating such a contract or contracts.”
Further, this authority is specified in Title 74 § 2215 which states: the Division of State Parks, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission shall formulate, establish, maintain, and periodically review, with public participation, a resource management plan for each state park. The resource management plan, upon approval by the Commission, shall be considered a guide for the development, utilization, protection, and management of the state park and its natural, cultural, historic, and recreational resources.

Figure 1.1 – Gift shop and office at Heavener Runestone State Park
Figure 1.2 – Panoramic view from Heavener Runestone State Park
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About the Park

The Division of State Parks, a part of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, is governed by the laws of the state of Oklahoma. These laws define the authority for the Division and the context in which individual state parks are managed. Title 74 § 2214 of the Oklahoma Statutes states that the Division of State Parks shall, subject to the policies and rules of the Commission:

1. Conserve, preserve, plan, supervise, construct, enlarge, reduce, improve, maintain, equip and operate parkland, public recreation facilities, lodges, cabins, camping sites, scenic trails, picnic sites, golf courses, boating, and swimming facilities, and other similar facilities in state parks reasonably necessary and useful in promoting the public use of state parks under the jurisdiction and control of the Commission;

2. Supervise the management and use of state properties and facilities under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The Commission may adopt rules to lease concessions in any state-owned facility if the Commission deems it feasible;

3. Authorize those employees in the Park Manager job family classification series, as established by the Oklahoma Office of Personnel Management, to maintain administrative control over all facilities, programs, operations, services, and employees in the park to which they are assigned; and

4. Enforce the rules and policies governing the use of and conduct of patrons in all recreational facilities and properties of the Commission.

Purpose and Significance of Heavener Runestone State Park

An initial requirement of the RMP process is the development of a purpose statement for the property under consideration. The process selected for the development of resource management plans for state parks requires purpose statements and statements of significance for each park. These statements drive the decisions as to planning for the respective parks, since individual parks in the state park system do not have identical purposes or intents.

At the initiation of this project, a purpose statement for Heavener Runestone State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff, representing Heavener Runestone State Park and the broader agency, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

The purpose of Heavener Runestone State Park is to provide for the protection and public enjoyment of the natural, scenic, historic, and ecological values that exist within the forested park property. Park management will conserve the natural, cultural, scenic, historic and environmentally-based recreational resources
within the park, and make them forever available for the education and enjoyment of all people. As a day use park, Heavener Runestone offers intriguing artifacts linking the present to a past culture in a surrounding mountain environment. Heavener Runestone provides visitor amenities to support day use activities and offers tourism and recreation values to park visitors.

Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel developed a statement of significance for Heavener Runestone State Park. That statement follows:

Heavener Runestone State Park encompasses unique artifacts of human activity in a forested ecosystem within a surrounding mountain environment. The principal significance of Heavener Runestone State Park is the evidence, in artifact form, of early northern European contact with the local environment and culture. In addition, recreation opportunities within this environment enhance the lives of visitors.

![Figure 2.1 - Utilization of purpose and significance statements](source: National Park Service)

Figure 2.1 demonstrates the inter-relationship of purpose and significance statements with the mission of the management agency in decisions related to a given park or property. This model has been developed by the National Park Service to assure consistency between the mission of the National Park Service and the operation of their respective properties. In a similar manner, park purpose statements and park significance can be consistent with the mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Among the properties identified as Oklahoma State Parks, Heavener Runestone State Park is somewhat unique. First, Heavener Runestone State Park serves as a day visitation park only. There is presently no overnight support service provided within the park. However, the mountain environment offers opportunities for hiking, picnicking, sight-seeing, and other recreational activity. Secondly, the principal attraction within the park is the rune stone: this is the engraving of runes (letters in the alphabets used by ancient Scandinavian peoples) on a rock wall on the property. As a result, the park focuses on the historic and cultural resource in the context of the
natural and physical environment of the surrounding area. The combination of natural, cultural, historic, and environmental features provide a range of potential recreational and educational interest for visitors.

**Geographic Location of Heavener Runestone State Park**

Heavener Runestone State Park is located in southeastern Oklahoma in the east central portion of Leflore County. The park is located on Poteau Mountain, a separate peak on the north and west edge of the Ouachita Mountain range. Specifically, Heavener Runestone State Park is on the western slope of Poteau Mountain.

Figure 2.2 – Leflore County, Oklahoma
Source: Google Maps

Heavener Runestone State Park is located along federal Highway 270 and federal Highway 59 approximately one mile northeast of the city of Heavener. An aerial photograph (Figure 2.3) of Heavener Runestone State Park shows its location on the west slope of Poteau Mountain and in the forested environment typical of the Ouachita National Forest. This aerial photograph also reveals the access road extending from the city of Heavener. Additional roadways are visible to the east of the park on the eastern slopes of Poteau Mountain.

Figure 2.3 – Aerial view of Heavener Runestone State Park
Source: Google Maps

Leflore County extends from the Arkansas River in the north to the Ouachita Mountains in the south. The county is bordered on the east by Arkansas and adjoined by five other Oklahoma counties on the south, west, and north: McCurtain, Pushmataha, Latimer, Haskell, and Sequoyah. Fort Smith, Arkansas, is located to the northeast of Leflore County and is an SMSA (Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area). As such, Fort Smith is the dominant population base and commercial center for this area.
Larger population centers are located northwest of Leflore County (Tulsa), west of Leflore County (Oklahoma City), and southwest of Leflore County (Dallas/Fort Worth). Little Rock, Arkansas, is well to the east on Interstate Highway 40. Tulsa is approximately 145 miles from Heavener Runestone State Park, while Oklahoma City is 180 miles from the park. The Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area is 220 miles distant.

Smaller communities in Leflore County include Poteau, Talihina, Heavener, Wister, and many other towns and unincorporated areas. These communities are shown in Figure 2.4 as are the roads and highways that serve the area around Heavener Runestone State Park.

Access to and from Heavener Runestone State Park is provided along federal Highway 270 and federal Highway 59, both of which serve the city of Heavener. Access directly to Heavener Runestone State Park is provided along hard surfaced roadways from Heavener. To the north and west, travelers may connect to a number of highways at Wister or Poteau, with the majority of travel including Interstate Highway 40 near Sallisaw. From the south, travelers would connect to Highway 259 near the Arkansas border. All of these roads in the local area are two-lane highways and include mountainous terrain. This is particularly true south and east of Heavener Runestone State Park.

Community and Regional Context

Brief History of Leflore County

The following history of Leflore County was written by Larry O’Dell for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society. [http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/L/LE007.html](http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/L/LE007.html)

“Abutting Arkansas in southeastern Oklahoma, Leflore County encompasses 1,608.03 square miles of total land and water area. Sequoyah County borders it on the north, Haskell, Latimer, and Pushmataha counties on the west, and McCurtain County on the south. The name honors the prominent Leflore family of the Choctaw Nation. Poteau stands as the county seat.

The physical environment varies, but is mountainous, with the Ouachita Mountains extending into the county from the south. Associated mountain ranges, including the Winding Stair Mountains and the Kiamichi Mountains, dominate the county’s southern half, while peaks such as Sugar Loaf and Cavanal mountains stand more independently in the north. Covered with forests, including pine and cedar, the region has fed a prosperous lumber industry. The Ouachita
National Forest covers much of the southern part of the county. The Arkansas River forms the county’s northern boundary, and its tributaries, the Poteau and the James Fork rivers, drain most of the county, with the Kiamichi, Little, and Mountain Fork rivers in the southern portion draining into the Red River.

Archaeologists have focused on the Caddoan-speaking Mound Builders (around A.D. 850 to 1450). The Spiro Mounds Site, near Spiro, gives insight into an important center for the Mississippian Culture and has produced a number of art and artifacts, many extracted by commercial diggers. From 1936 to 1941 archaeologists and Works Progress Administration (WPA) workers excavated the site. In the 1960s the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired the land. In 1978 the Spiro Mounds Archaeological State Park opened an interpretive center, operated since 1991 by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 69000153). At the beginning of the twenty-first century other county archaeological locales included 6 Paleo-Indian (prior to 6000 B.C.), 125 Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1), 95 Woodland (A.D. 1 to 1000), and 105 Plains Village (A.D. 1000 to 1500) sites.

In the eighteenth century French explorers, traders, and trappers, including Jean Baptiste Bénard de la Harpe, Paul and Pierre Mallet, and André Fabry de la Bruyère, investigated and operated in the area, contributing the many French place-names. When the United States purchased Louisiana (which included most of present Oklahoma) from the French in 1803, American explorers, military personnel, and scientists, such as Maj. Stephen H. Long, Thomas James, and Thomas Nuttall, began to scout the Leflore region. A number of the expeditions concentrated on the Arkansas River Valley in the present county’s northern portion. Military roads connecting Fort Smith (1817), across the border in Arkansas, to Fort Gibson (1824) and Fort Towson (1824) were early trails blazed through the vicinity.

In 1820 the Choctaw Nation signed the Treaty of Doak’s Stand, losing some of their tribal land in the southeastern United States and acquiring a large tract in present southeastern Oklahoma. In 1830 the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek ceded the remainder of the Choctaws’ eastern home and precipitated removal of the members that had not relocated. By 1832 the federal government erected a substantial building at the Choctaw Agency, approximately fifteen miles west of Fort Smith. Around the agency the important Choctaw settlement of Skullyville developed. This town not only housed the government Indian agents and dispensed annuity payments, but held a station on the Butterfield Overland Mail route, served for a time as the Choctaw capital, and
hosted notables such as artist George Catlin, who painted some of the residents. It was also the home of prominent Choctaw Tandy Walker. Portions of present Leflore County existed in the former Moshulatubbee and the Apukshunnubbee districts, and in Sugar Loaf, Skullyville, and Wade counties in the Choctaw Nation.

In 1834 the U.S. Army established Fort Coffee on the southern bank of the Arkansas River a few miles north of the Choctaw Agency. In 1838 the fort closed, and the soldiers founded Fort Wayne in the Cherokee Nation. The Choctaw Nation then allowed the Methodist Episcopal Church to operate the Fort Coffee Academy for boys at the site. In 1845 the Methodists opened the New Hope Seminary for girls east of Skullyville. There were several early neighborhood schools for the Choctaw, with most operated by missionaries. In 1847 the Choctaw Agency burned, and it was relocated to Fort Washita in 1858. In 1854 the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) founded Lenox Mission in the southern Leflore County.

The schools and the mission closed during the Civil War, and in 1863 Union troops burned the Fort Coffee Academy, which had been used as barracks for Confederate troops. On September 1, 1863, federal forces under Maj. Gen. James Blunt defeated Brig. Gen. William Cabell at the Battle of Devil's Backbone Mountain, near present Pocola. A day earlier, these armies had skirmished near Skullyville. After the war New Hope Seminary reopened and operated until it burned in 1896. In December 1866 the Choctaw government passed legislation to again fund neighborhood schools. Education for the Choctaw Freedmen commenced, with the first school at Boggy Depot, and present Leflore County hosting schools at Skullyville and Fort Coffee. In 1892 the Tushkalusa (black warriors) Freedmen Boarding school opened three miles southeast of Talihina. The school operated into the twentieth century.

Coal mining and the forestry industry ruled as economic staples at the turn of the twentieth century, attracting workers and railroads to the county. In 1886-87 the Fort Smith and Southern Railway, soon purchased by the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway, laid tracks through the country from the northeast to southwest. In 1889-90 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (leased to the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway in 1904) built tracks from Wister west to McAlester and in 1898 from Wister east to Howe, continuing the line to Arkansas in 1899. In 1892-93 the Indianola Coal and Railway (later acquired from a third company by the Poteau and Cavanal Mountain Railroad) built a short spur (3.4 miles) from Poteau to Wittenwille. In 1896 the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railroad (acquired by the Kansas City Southern Railway in 1900) built tracks through the region north to south, exiting into Arkansas near the Page community in southern Leflore County. In 1900-01 the Poteau Valley Railroad built a line from Shady Point to Calhoun, which they abandoned in 1926. Also in 1900-01 the Arkansas Western Railroad constructed tracks from Heavener east to Arkansas. In 1901 the Fort Smith and Western Railroad connected Coal Creek west to McCurtain in Haskell County. In 1903-04 the Midland Valley Railroad laid tracks from Arkansas west through Bokoshe to Muskogee. The Oklahoma and Rich Mountain Railroad, owned by the Dierks Lumber and Coal Company, constructed the county’s last railroad, which traveled from Page to the lumber town of Pine Valley in 1925-26.

In 1927 the Dierks company ambitiously established Pine Valley as one of the largest forest-industry towns in the American South. It offered a large hotel, general store, drugstore, post office, barbershop, doctor, school, boarding house, movie house, ice plant, jail, churches, and a segregated section for African American workers. In 1941 the company began closing the town,
and the rail line was abandoned in 1942. Honobia, Stapp, and Big Cedar served as other active
mill towns in the first half of the twentieth century.

Agriculture has also been an integral component of Leflore County’s financial stability. In 1910
the county had 3,433 farms, 4,360 in 1930 and 3,085 in 1950, with corn and cotton as the early
dominant crops, but by 1965 farmers planted only 180 acres of cotton. That same year they
planted 7,500 acres of soybeans, 4,000 acres of wheat, 3,300 acres of sorghum, and 500 acres of
corn. In 2000 there were 20,000 acres of soybeans and 12,000 acres of wheat. Cattle raising
expanded from nearly 28,000 head in 1918 to 74,000 in 1968, reaching 95,000 in 2000. In 1997
there were 1,774 farms. Since the mid-twentieth century the poultry businesses has expanded,
with millions of broiler chickens raised in the county. In 1986 OK Foods established a poultry
 hatchery at Heavener. In 1992 the company opened a processing plant and in 1995 a feed mill.

Mineral extraction in Leflore County has centered on coal, but limestone, sand and gravel, and
natural gas have also been produced. Coal mining began in the late-nineteenth century in the
Choctaw Nation. After statehood it continued to expand, with 224,408 tons produced in the
state’s District Number One, which included Coal, Latimer, and Leflore counties in 1908. In
1939 the district extracted 264,119 tons. By 1966 Leflore County produced only 6,291 tons, and
the district totaled only 7,574. In 2002 Leflore led the state in coal produced, registering 743,348
tons. Natural gas is confined to the north half of the county, with the Poteau Field the largest (its
first well was completed in 1910). In 1975 Leflore County produced 27,547,839 million cubic
feet (mcf) of natural gas. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission reported 22,906,460 mcf from
the county in 2000.

When the county organized at 1907 statehood, the population stood at 24,678. By 1920 it had
climbed to 42,765 and continued to rise to 45,866 in 1940. As the area’s coal and timber
industries declined, so did the population, falling to 35,276 in 1950. In 1960 the county reached
its lowest number, when the U.S. Census registered 29,106 residents. After this, it began to
ascend as the Kerr-McClellan Arkansas River Navigation System opened and other businesses
burgeoned, including the poultry industry. In 1970 it stood at 32,137 and rose to 43,270 in 1990.
Many transportation routes have crossed the county, from the early Butterfield stage, military
roads, and California Trail to the modern highway system. In 1969 Oklahoma State Highway 1
opened. It became known as the Talimena Scenic Byway in 1989, showcasing the area's fall
foliage and attracting numerous tourists. U.S. Highways 59, 259, 270,and 271 and State
Highways 9, 9A, 31, 63, 82, 83, 112, 120, 128, and 144 also traverse the county. In 1961 Pres.
John F. Kennedy visited to dedicate U.S. Highway 259. The McClellen-Kerr Arkansas
Navigation System, completed in 1971, flows in northern Leflore County. The county's major
lake is Wister, impounded in 1949 for flood control, conservation, and recreation. The Ouachita
National Forest, in the county’s southern half, and Heavener Runestone State Park are popular
recreation areas that produce income from tourism.

Robert S. Kerr left a legacy in Leflore County, where in the 1950s he established a ranch outside
of Poteau. Kerr died in 1963, and in 1978 the family donated his ranch home to the state, and it
was opened as the Kerr Conference Center and Museum. Carl Albert State College, formerly
Poteau Junior College, in Poteau operates the center. The Kerr Center for Sustainable
Agriculture and the Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm are also in the county. In 1980 the
Overstreet farm house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 80004285).
Twenty-one other Leflore County properties are also listed, including Oklahoma's only railroad
tunnel, the Jenson Tunnel (NR 76001567) northeast of Cameron, the Peter Conser House (NR 71000665), which is an Oklahoma Historical Society property, two stations on the Butterfield Overland mail route, Trahern’s Station (NR 72001073) and Choctaw Agency-Walker Station (NR 72001074), and the Leflore County Courthouse (NR 84003099).

In 1955 Poteau integrated its school system, when Dr. John Montgomery petitioned the school board and students entered the elementary school during the 1955 school year, making the town one of Oklahoma’s first to do so after the Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (Kansas) 1954 decision. In 2000 the county’s population stood at 48,109, with 80 percent white, 10.7 percent American Indian, 4.1 percent Hispanic, 1.9 percent African American, and 0.2 percent Asian. In 2004 the incorporated towns were Arkoma, Bokoshe, Cameron, Cowlington, Fanshawe, Fort Coffee, Heavener, Howe, Leflore, Panama, Pocola, Poteau (county seat), Rock Island, Shady Point, Spiro, Talihina, and Wister.”

**Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact**

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Leflore County. For comparison and trend purposes, these data are presented over a period of years with the most recent information provided as a portrait of current conditions in the county.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during the spring 2010 from [http://factfinder.census.gov](http://factfinder.census.gov).
Table 2.1 – Population of Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2008 (est.)</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>1980</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td>49,477</td>
<td>49,528</td>
<td>48,109</td>
<td>43,270</td>
<td>40,199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>24,810</td>
<td>50.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>24,667</td>
<td>49.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>36.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td></td>
<td>12,498</td>
<td>25.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>36,979</td>
<td>74.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>7,000</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>39,226</td>
<td>79.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>1,226</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>3,222</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other</td>
<td>1,078</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>4,483</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>Of any race</td>
<td>3,127</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based upon the population figures in Table 2.1, it is apparent that the population of Leflore County has increased in recent decades, reaching a high in 2005, and then leveling over the next four years. The 2010 census may provide additional information on the trends in the population. A comparison of 2000 census data with the 2008 American Community Survey estimate indicates that there have been changes over the intervening period. As summarized in the American Community Survey, the population of Leflore County has changed in the following ways:
• Number of males has increased more rapidly than number of females, leading to males being more than 50% of the population;
• Median age has increased from 36.1 years of age to 36.7 years of age;
• The number (5,157 in 2000 census to 3,222 in 2008 estimate) and reported percentage (10.7% in 2000 to 6.5% in 2008) of American Indian and Alaska Native residents has declined;
• The number (1,849 in 2000 census to 2,127 in 2008 estimate) and reported percentage (3.8% in 2000 to 6.3% in 2008) of Hispanic or Latino residents of any race has increased.

The population characteristics detailed in Table 2.2 indicates that Leflore County shows similar composition to that shown across the state of Oklahoma. Leflore County has a slightly higher percentage of persons indicating they are White (79.3%) than is true in Oklahoma more broadly (78.5%). The greatest variance is shown between the American Indian population in Leflore County (6.5%) and the 8.1% of the population identified as American Indian across the state. In addition, the state of Oklahoma reports 6.6% of its population to be Hispanic of any race, while Leflore County is slightly lower at 6.3%. Many of those residents identified as Hispanic in Leflore County live in and around Heavener.

### Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>18,331</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>47,295</td>
<td>96.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>7,344</td>
<td>40.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>4,743</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>18,319</td>
<td>87.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>2,716</td>
<td>12.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>12,989</td>
<td>70.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>5,330</td>
<td>29.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The general household characteristics represented in Leflore County are similar to those across Oklahoma. The vast majority (96.9%) of Leflore County residents reside in households, while the other residents live in settings that might include group homes or other congregate living.

The percentage of households in Leflore County that are below the established poverty levels is 14.1%, very similar to the 14% that are below the poverty level across the state of Oklahoma. In consideration of individuals rather than households, Leflore County reports 19.1% of its population below the poverty level as compared with 15.8% across the state of Oklahoma. This
is verified by the median household income in the county at $37,105 which is about 80% of the national average ($44,334) and similar to that for the rest of Oklahoma ($37,109).

**Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Leflore County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$37,105</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>2,585</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>9,364</td>
<td>19.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with public assistance income</td>
<td>2,132</td>
<td>11.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Financial characteristics in a population tend to be highly correlated with educational levels within the population. Table 2.5 reports the level of education attained by persons in Leflore County above the age of 25. For comparison purposes, approximately 80.6% of Oklahomans have completed a high school diploma or equivalency as contrasted with 77.4% of the eligible population in Leflore County. In addition, approximately 20% of all Oklahomans have completed a baccalaureate degree or higher as compared with 11.1% of the eligible population in Leflore County.

**Table 2.5 – Education Characteristics in Leflore County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment (25 years old and above)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>2,919</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>4,464</td>
<td>13.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>12,075</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>6,606</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>3,003</td>
<td>9.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>2,638</td>
<td>8.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Leflore County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2008, Leflore County reported unemployment to be approximately 10% of the workforce, while the American Community Survey estimate showed unemployment at 4.9%. Figures for 2010 were not available, although the recession of the past couple of years has likely had adverse impacts upon the employment numbers for Leflore County.
Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Leflore County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in the labor force (16 years and over)</td>
<td>21,457</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>20,399</td>
<td>53.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>15,665</td>
<td>76.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>3,302</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>1,429</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that assists in understanding the local population is related to persons with disabilities. The 2000 census reported that among those persons in Leflore County over the age of five, there are 11,035 individuals (25.3%) of the population with a disability. This percentage increases in the population from ages 21 to 64 years to 25.6% or 6,663 individuals. Among those persons aged 65 years or more, 56.7% or 3,467 individuals have one or more disabilities.

In summary, Leflore County is a rural area with approximately 30 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. This rural environment has yielded somewhat limited employment opportunities for its population. The population is similar in composition to that for the general state population and is below the income levels for the state of Oklahoma. Conversely, the population in Leflore County shows a higher percentage of its population to have one or more disabilities than is true across the state.

Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities

Southeastern Oklahoma and the adjoining areas in western Arkansas provide an environment of forests, lakes, and mountains that offer some similar outdoor recreation experiences to those provided at Heavener Runestone State Park. Most of these competing properties offer a broader range of true recreational services than is true at Heavener Runestone State Park, while few offer the historic and cultural focus that is available on property.

Within Leflore County, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers developed Lake Wister and manages a portion of that property west of Heavener Runestone State Park near Wister. These USACE recreational sites include campgrounds, picnic facilities, and boat ramps similar to those available at the adjoining Lake Wister State Park properties. The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department operates Lake Wister State Park on the western shore of Lake Wister and provides campgrounds, picnic areas, boat ramps, cabins, and day use areas. The Lake Wister area includes a lake environment that is not available at Heavener Runestone State Park, but that location does not include the mountain environment or the historic significance associated with Heavener Runestone State Park.
The adjoining county southwest of Leflore County is Pushmataha County. At the northern end of Pushmataha County, OTRD operates Clayton Lake State Park under contract to Little Dixie Community Action Agency. Clayton Lake State Park offers cabins, campgrounds, and picnic areas with a significantly smaller lake environment than that available at Lake Wister State Park. The Clayton Lake State Park environment does include forested foothills that would be comparable to those in the area around Heavener Runestone State Park. Immediately north of Clayton Lake is a larger USACE lake – Sardis Lake. This lake also includes picnic areas, camping, and boat ramps.

The county south of Leflore County in Oklahoma is McCurtain County. Within McCurtain County, OTRD operates Beavers Bend State Park on Broken Bow Lake and on the Mountain Fork River. Beavers Bend State Park includes campgrounds, group camps, a guest lodge, cabins, interpretive nature center, the Forest Heritage Center, Cedar Creek Golf Course, and a number of other amenities that allow it to attract a clientele that is not likely to be present at Heavener Runestone State Park.

Leflore County also includes the Ouachita National Forest. The principal recreational development within the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma includes Cedar Lake Recreation Area, Winding Stair Recreation Area, and Billy Creek Campground. Winding Stair and Billy Creek offer forest camping and hiking experiences, in which Winding Stair includes a higher level of development than does Billy Creek. Both of these campgrounds are in mountain environments without water-based recreation opportunities. Winding Stair and Billy Creek offer similar forested environments to that available at Heavener Runestone State Park, but neither location offers the historic and cultural significance associated with the rune stone.

Cedar Lake is a small impoundment offering minimal boating opportunities in a no-wake environment. Cedar Lake does include well-developed campgrounds and hiking trails, plus a large equestrian campground. The recreational opportunities provided at Cedar Lake Recreation Area do not compete directly with those at Heavener Runestone State Park due largely to the presence of Cedar Lake and the enhanced development for equestrian activities. It is likely that visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park would visit Cedar Lake or other recreational properties in the area.

Across the border in Arkansas and within the Ouachita National Forest, Queen Wilhelmina State Park and Lodge offer camping, picnicking, hiking, and a lodge within a mountain environment. Queen Wilhelmina State Park offers some of the same recreational environment as that at Heavener Runestone State Park, but includes numerous amenities that exceed those available at Heavener Runestone. As a result, it is unlikely that visitors to Queen Wilhelmina State Park would be similar to those that would utilize Heavener Runestone State Park.

Other Arkansas state parks just east of Heavener are Cossatot River State Park, Daisy State Park, and Millwood State Park. These parks offer camping, picnicking, and hiking experiences in a mountain environment. Cossatot River State Park offers float and angling experiences similar to those on the Mountain Fork River in McCurtain County. Daisy State Park and Millwood State Park are located on lakes and offer boating experiences that would not be available at Heavener Runestone State Park.

Approximately twelve miles south of Heavener along Highways 59, 259, and 271, Oklahoma Highway 1 offers a mountainous driving experience. This portion of Oklahoma Highway 1 is designated as the Talimena Scenic Byway, one of America’s Byways, most of which pass...
through federal lands. This is true of the Talimena Scenic Byway as it passes through the Ouachita National Forest for 54 miles from the intersection at Highway 271 eastward to Mena, Arkansas.

Byways.org describes this drive as, “Visual delights await those who travel along the Talimena Scenic Drive. See vistas with shades of green in the foreground’s forests to blue haze in the distant mountains. Rocky fields and trees gnarled from winter winds and ice testify to the harsh environment the early settlers encountered in these mountains.” Because of the narrow, winding road, the speed limits are reduced along Talimena Scenic Drive, requiring approximately two and a half hours for a drive end-to-end. In addition, commercial vehicles, travel trailers, and recreational vehicles are also advised to avoid travel on the byway or use extreme care.

Figure 2.7 illustrates the location of Heavener Runestone State Park near Heavener and the access to the Talimena Scenic Drive. The byway then continues through the Ouachita National Forest to its eastern terminus in Mena, Arkansas. The Ouachita National Recreation Trail is shown in Figure 2.7 as a gray, dotted line running parallel to the Talimena Scenic Drive. The western terminus of the Ouachita National Recreation Trail is within Talimena State Park and the eastern terminus is near Little Rock, Arkansas.

The Talimena Scenic Drive and the Ouachita National Recreation Trail are significant complementary resources for Heavener Runestone State Park. Several other features presented in Figure 2.7 are also complementary recreation resources. These include Cedar Lake Recreation...
Area, Winding Stair National Recreation Area and Winding Stair campground, the Black Fork Wilderness and the Upper Kiamichi River Wilderness. Visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park have easy access to these federal properties and numerous other natural and cultural resources throughout the Ouachita National Forest.

Of greater value to certain visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park are properties associated with Spiro Mounds north of Poteau. At one time this location was also managed as a state park, but has since been assigned to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Park History

The property that would eventually become Heavener Runestone State Park was originally a portion of allotted lands for the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. The history of the property is detailed in documents provided in the appendix. This history reveals that the initial title in 1917 was signed by the Principal Chief of the Choctaw nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw nation. Title was claimed by O.J.M. Brewer and Ocie Brewer in 1922. By 1927, title to this property was sold to David Ward as guardian of Herbert Z. Ward, a minor at that time.

Over the next several years, this property remained in the Ward family. However, the history of the ownership is documented in a journal entry accompanying the abstract of title included in the appendix. Family difficulties, including a divorce, several rentals and leases for mining, oil and gas exploration, and other events are recorded in that journal.

Herbert Z. Ward donated 50 acres of his property, that encompassing Heavener Runestone State Park, to the state of Oklahoma on August 3, 1965. However, the history of the property does not reveal why the property was deemed worthy of status as a state park.

In 1928 a child growing up in Heavener was guided by friends to a location on Poteau Mountain during which she was shown a broad stone known locally as “Indian Rock.” This child, who became Gloria Farley as an adult, described the rock as “a huge billboard. It was 12 feet high, 10 feet wide, and only 16 inches thick” (Farley, 1994). Following several years of absence from Oklahoma, Gloria Farley returned to live in Heavener in 1950. She began a search for the location of this “Indian Rock”, eventually rediscovering its location on February 2, 1951. With that second discovery, Gloria Farley began a 35-year effort to document the authenticity of the Heavener Runestone.

Other rune stones have been found in the area near Heavener, as well as at locations in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas (Farley, 1994). Additional evidence of runic inscriptions throughout the United States is also documented in Farley’s book.

Farley also presents her record of the rationale for establishment of Heavener Runestone State Park. As she documents, State Senator Clem Hamilton called a town meeting in Heavener in 1965 to discuss the feasibility of establishing a state park. Farley indicates she had approached Herbert and Betty Ward about donating their property, ultimately leading to the transaction of donation of 55 [sic] acres plus an access easement. Mr. and Mrs. Leland Dial approved of an access easement across their property (see appendix). By October 1965, Senator Hamilton was able to establish the first appropriation for the state park. His son, James who also became a senator in Oklahoma, was important in the establishment of the state park following his father’s death.
Farley records several other events that intervened over a period of five years. Finally, on October 25, 1970, Heavener Runestone State Park was dedicated. The warrant deed of August 3, 1965 indicates that the property was dedicated for use as a “public park or historical site.”

**Physical Setting**

As has been stated, Heavener Runestone State Park is located on the western slope of Poteau Mountain, part of the Ouachita Mountains. A dominant feature of the Ouachita Mountains is the designated national forest. The Ouachita National Forest covers 1.8 million acres in west central Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma. As federal property under the U.S. Forest Service in the Department of Agriculture, the forest is managed for multiple uses, including timber and wood production, watershed protection and improvement, habitat for wildlife and fish species (including threatened and endangered ones), wilderness area management, minerals leasing, and outdoor recreation. The Ouachita National Forest is the oldest federal forest in the south, created December 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt.

*Figure 2.8 – Ouachita National Forest with management areas*

Source: U.S. Forest Service
The national forest is divided into ranger districts, with Heavener Runestone State Park to the north of the Choctaw Ranger District. Headquarters for the Ouachita National Forest are located in Hot Springs, Arkansas, while the Choctaw Ranger District has its offices near Hodgen, Oklahoma.

Poteau Mountain, like most of the Ouachita Mountains, stretches east and west. Poteau Mountain extends about 40 miles east into Arkansas bordering the Poteau River. Ridges extend out from the mountain. Two such ridges near Heavener are named High Top and Cowskin.

**Natural Resources in the Park**

**Climate and Air Quality**

As is true for most of the state of Oklahoma, Heavener Runestone State Park is included in the humid, sub-tropical climate type using the Koeppen classification (National Geographic Society, 2008). This climate type is characterized by hot muggy summers and mild winters. The summers include frequent thunderstorms, while the precipitation in the winter is mostly rain resulting from mid-latitude cyclones. This portion of Oklahoma receives the highest annual rainfall, averaging about 47.5 inches per year. Temperatures range from an average high of 94°F Fahrenheit during the summer, mainly July and August, to an average low of 28°F during January. During the summers, it is quite common for temperatures to exceed 100°F on several occasions. If the park experiences snowfall, it is typically two to four inches at the most in any given year.

Thunderstorms are common during the summer as indicated above, with an average of about 50 such events each year. Severe weather is possible throughout Oklahoma, with higher reported frequency of tornadic storms in the western part of the state. However, Leflore County receives one or two storms that produce tornadoes each year and about three significant hail storms annually.

All of eastern Oklahoma, including Leflore County, is classified as a humid temperate ecoregion. However, the Heavener Runestone State Park area is within the “subtropical regime mountains” division of the humid temperate ecoregion. This area is classified as the Ouachita Mixed Forest-Meadow province. As indicated in earlier discussion, this province is dominated by oak-hickory-pine forest. The Lenihan classification type identifies the area as Southern Mixed Forest (National Geographic Society, 2008).

Air quality for Leflore County is reported based on National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). EPA has identified six criteria pollutants that can injure health, harm the environment, and cause property damage. These pollutants are (1) carbon monoxide, (2) lead, (3) nitrogen dioxide, one of several nitrogen oxides, (4) Ozone, (5) particulate matter (PM), and (6) sulfur dioxide. Somewhat surprisingly, given its rural setting, Leflore County is at or above the 60th-percentile of dirtiest or worst counties in the United States in levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, particulate matter (at two levels), and volatile organic compounds (Scorecard: The Pollution Information Site).

Approximately three-quarters of the nationwide carbon monoxide (CO) emissions are generated from transportation sources, although other sources include wood-burning stoves, incinerators, and industrial sources. Nitrogen dioxide is a byproduct of most combustion processes and may result from sources similar to those identified for carbon monoxide emissions. Similarly, sulfur dioxide is released from combustion of fuels that contain sulfur including coal, oil, and diesel
fuel. Point source polluters for sulfur dioxide include coal- and oil-fired power plants, steel mills, pulp and paper mills, and refineries.

Particulate matter (PM) is a mixture of particles of various sizes that can adversely affect human health. PM is typically divided into two broad categories based on the size of the total suspended matter: PM-10 for particles less than 10 microns in aerodynamic diameter and PM-2.5 for particles less than 2.5 microns. The smallest particles pose the highest human health risks. PM includes dust, dirt, soot, smoke and liquid droplets emitted into the air by sources such as factories, power plants, cars, construction activity, fires and natural windblown dust. Leflore County is in the 80th percentile on PM-2.5 and in the 90th percentile on PM-10 ratings.

**Topography**

Leflore County varies in elevation from approximately 2,099 feet above sea level in the Winding Stair Mountains to 472 feet above sea level at Lake Wister. The land surrounding Heavener Runestone State Park varies in elevation with the hills and hollows common to this portion of Oklahoma.

This portion of Leflore County is classified as “Interior Highlands” using the Fenneman Physiography Classification system (National Geographic Society, 2008) and specifically in the Ouachita Province. As a result, the dominant feature related to topography around Heavener Runestone State Park is the Ouachita Mountains. The sharp topographical differences common to these mountains is demonstrated by the fact that Heavener Runestone State Park is approximately 400 feet above the city of Heavener (Figure 2.9).

Since the Ouachita Mountains and its several sub-divisions tend to be an east-west range, there are direct effects upon the ecology of the area. Leflore County is in the humid temperate domain as an ecoregion classification. This portion of Leflore County is in the subtropical regime mountains division of that domain. The east-west range of the mountains allows the north facing slopes to be cooler and moister than the southern slopes which receive much more sunlight. As a result, the southern slopes tend to be dominated by pine trees with a mix of hardwoods: post oak, blackjack oak, black oak, southern red oak (at lower elevations), black hickory, and winged elm, with an understory of serviceberry, wild plum and fringe tree. The northern slopes include white oak, northern red oak, mockernut hickory, bitternut, black walnut, black locust, basswood, sugar maple, red maple, and at lower elevations or in moist soil, beech. Understory trees include
dogwood, pawpaw, Carolina silverbell, American bladdernut, umbrella magnolia, Ohio buckeye, redbud and wild hydrangea. The north slopes offer a rich habitat for spring wildflowers.

Geology

Leflore County is dominated by geology of the Quaternary and Pennsylvanian formations dating from the Cenozoic and Paleozoic periods. Quaternary formations are often called “alluvium” and are characterized as unconsolidated silt, sand, and gravel as seen in stream channels. Leflore County is divided north and south by the Choctaw Fault. Heavener Runestone State Park is north of the Choctaw Fault and presents Boggy Formation (Pennsylvanian). These are predominantly grayish-green, fine to medium grained, noncalcaneous, scarp forming sandstone.

Soil

![Soils of Leflore County](image)

Figure 2.10 presents a mapping of the soils of Leflore County. As indicated in the discussion of the topography of the county, the Choctaw Fault separates soils in the northern part of the county from the soils in the southern portion. Around Heavener Runestone State Park, most of the soils are stony loam on Poteau Mountain with stony-fine sandy loam at lower elevations.

Soil analysis in Leflore County reveals the detail of these soils. They are typically alfisols, of the sub-order udalfs, and ultisols, of the sub-order udults. Alfisols are moderately leached soils that have formed under forest canopies. Alfisols have relatively high native fertility with accumulated clays. Alfisols common to sub-tropical areas are identified as udalfs. Ultisols are typically acidic soils, commonly known as “red clay.” Ultisols are commonly found across the southeastern United States, with a western extent through the eastern counties in Oklahoma – including Leflore County. These soils tend to occur in humid, warm climates with growing season of about 200 days per year. In addition, these soils tend to be rich in iron content, mixed with quartz and translocated silicate clay (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service).

Udults are a suborder that is freely drained, but humus poor. Most udults were once covered with forests, but when cleared have been used to support cropland. However, such soils require considerable amounts of amendments to support appropriate agricultural production.
Hydrology

Leflore County includes portions of five watersheds as shown in Figure 2.11: the extreme northern portion of the county drains into the Robert S. Kerr reservoir, an impoundment on the Arkansas River; the central portion of the county drains into the Poteau River; the southeastern portion of the county is drained by the Mountain Fork River; the southwestern corner of the county drains into the Upper Little River; and the south central to southwestern portion of the county drains into the Kiamichi River. Heavener Runestone State Park is situated in the drainage basin of the Poteau River, an east to west flowing river at this location.

The Poteau River originates in the Ouachita Mountains of eastern Arkansas and flows west across Leflore County. The Poteau River is one of the few rivers that flow in a general northerly direction in Oklahoma. However, in the area near Heavener, the Poteau River flows west, somewhat parallel to Highway 128 and federal Highway 270.

The Poteau River has been impounded to form Lake Wister in the center of Leflore County. This impoundment is along Highway 270, west of Heavener, and forms a 4,000 acre lake with a shoreline of 115 miles. Lake elevation at normal summer conservation pool is 478 feet above mean sea level. The drainage area above the Lake Wister dam encompasses a watershed of 993 square miles, including the area around Heavener Runestone State Park.

Vegetative Cover

Much of Heavener Runestone State Park has been cleared of forest cover to allow for the development of roads, parking areas, and structures associated with access and service areas. However, the surrounding area on Poteau Mountain remains forested with vegetation common to the forests of southeastern Oklahoma. The Choctaw Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest includes less timbering activity than is true in other districts within the forest. As a result, the panoramic views from Heavener Runestone State Park allow visitors to enjoy a landscape of forests, intermixed with agricultural areas, extending to a view of Lake Wister about 12 miles to the west (Figure 2.12).
This portion of the Ouachita National Forest includes shortleaf pine, black jack oak, post oak, red oak, white oak, water oak, pin oak, overcup oak, willow oak, red cedar, cedar elm, winged elm, sycamore, iron wood, sweet gum, black gum, black locust, honey locust, hackberry, black willow, bitternut hickory, white heart hickory, holly, box elder, red maple, silver maple, linden, Osage orange (Bois D’ Arc), persimmon, black walnut, and black cherry. Shrubs present within the surrounding forest include sassafras, witchhazel, alder, mulberry, pawpaw, sumac, Hawthorn, red bud, dogwood, wild plum, fringe tree, St. John’s Wort, and many more. Vines included briar, wild grape, honeysuckle, trumpet and Virginia creeper, poison ivy, blackberry, wild rose, and vetch. Herbs ranged from western spider lily to black-eyed Susan, to fern, and water lily among many others. Some of these plants are also present within Heavener Runestone State Park.

Within Heavener Runestone State Park, visitors can enjoy the typical forest environment common to the uplands in southeastern Oklahoma. As shown in Figure 2.13, the post-oak hickory forest shades the stony hillside. Shrubs are common as a lower story under the higher forest canopy.

Wildlife

As is true with all Oklahoma state parks, Heavener Runestone State Park is a wildlife sanctuary. However, due to its relatively small size, Heavener Runestone State Park does not serve the same habitat purpose as many larger properties do. For most wildlife species, Heavener Runestone State Park would be only a temporary place of visitation rather than a “home.” By contrast, the surrounding Ouachita National Forest is the home ecosystem for a wide range of wildlife species.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) reports the wildlife common to this forest community include white-tailed deer, coyote, bobcat, red and gray fox, raccoon, striped skunk, opossum, armadillo, flying squirrel, red and gray squirrel, cottontail and swamp rabbit, and numerous rodents. Slightly less diversity is likely within the boundaries of Heavener Runestone State Park due to human activity and the open forest canopy, but transient species include wild turkey, bobwhite quail, various raptors, woodpeckers, and many migrant species. Common birds in and around the park include robins, Blue Jays, cardinals, sparrows, larks, finches, and many more. The forest environment is home to numerous reptiles including skinks, lizards of various sorts, and several species of snakes. Among the snakes that may be present in Heavener Runestone State Park are the copperhead and various species of rattlesnakes. These rattlesnakes may include the pigmy rattlesnake (sistrurus miliarius) and the timber rattlesnake.
(crotalus horridus) (Figure 2.14). Gloria Farley commented in her book, *In Plain Sight*, that her expeditions seeking to initially find or make return visits to the rune stone were scheduled to avoid encounters with rattlesnakes (Farley, 1994).

As black bears have increased in numbers in the Oklahoma districts of the Ouachita National Forest, it is possible that black bears may enter Heavener Runestone State Park. Bears have become more common at Winding Stair campground and Cedar Lake Recreation Area where similar human activity in park environments has become an attraction for bears.

A federally endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker, can be heard with its distinctive call and noisy hammering on old-growth trees throughout the Ouachita National Forest. Occasionally visitors are able to see this robin-sized (8½”) woodpecker within the park or in the surrounding forest. It is more likely that the red-cockaded woodpecker would be seen along the Talimena Scenic Byway in stands of old-growth trees.

Among the species that live in the habitat surrounding and including Heavener Runestone State Park, three species are federally-listed as endangered and 17 are of special concern. Endangered species are native species whose prospects of survival within a given ecoregion are in imminent jeopardy. Threatened species are native species that, although not presently in danger of extirpation, are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future without special protection and management. Species of special concern are those that (1) have a presently stable population but are especially vulnerable to extirpation because of limited range, low population or other factors, and (2) are possibly threatened or vulnerable to extirpation but for which little, if any, evidence exists to document population level, range or other factors.
Among the endangered species on the federal list or the Oklahoma list for the Heavener Runestone State Park area is: the Indiana Bat (myotis sodalis shown in Figure 2.16), the red-cockaded woodpecker (picoides borealis), and the American burying beetle (nicrophorus americanus). The rocky environment present in Heavener Runestone State Park, with numerous caves and overhangs, makes it an ideal environment for a number of bats including the endangered Indiana Bat. Those on the list of threatened species include the American alligator (alligator mississippiensis), the river otter (Lutra Canadensis), Rafinesques Big-eared bat (Corynorhinus rafinesquii), Southeastern myotis (myotis austroriparius), and Mexican free tailed bat (tadarida brasiliensis). It should not be assumed that these species are present within the park, although they may live within the larger ecoregion.

Prairie mole crickets (Gryllotalpa major), a protected species, are known to inhabit Leflore County. However, the protected habitat for the prairie mole cricket is between Wister and Poteau, west of Heavener Runestone State Park and at lower elevations.

**Accessibility**

The Oklahoma State Parks Division strives for accessibility for those with disabilities in all its park locations and facilities and has an access plan for the Division. Many parks and facilities were designed and constructed before the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and before the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) were developed. Further, by its very nature, the natural environment may not lend itself to easy access for those with mobility impairments.

The technical provisions of the ADA permit deviation from the stated guidelines. These provisions allow deviation from full compliance if accessibility cannot be provided because (1) compliance would cause substantial harm to cultural, historic, religious or significant natural features or characteristics; (2) substantially alter the nature of the setting or purpose of the facility; (3) require construction methods or materials that are prohibited by federal, state or local regulations or statutes; or (4) would not be feasible due to terrain or the prevailing construction practices.

In 2007, the United States Access Board issued a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) for outdoor developed areas. These rules and their associated interpretations have direct bearing on the consideration of access in Heavener Runestone State Park. The minimum requirements found in the NPRM for outdoor developed areas are based on several principles developed through the regulatory negotiating process. They include (U.S. Access Board, 2009):

1. Protect the resource and environment
2. Preserve the experience
3. Provide for equality of opportunity
4. Maximize accessibility
5. Be reasonable
6. Address safety
7. Be clear, simple, and understandable
8. Provide guidance
9. Be enforceable and measurable
10. Be consistent with Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (as much as possible)
11. Be based on independent use by persons with disabilities

Trails that currently exist in the recommended properties are all natural surfaces, although several of the properties have hard surface sidewalks in the developed areas. Any one designated trail may make use of all or several surface types. If major trail redesign or construction were to occur, it would be important to ensure compliance with the ADA standards where appropriate. The NPRM addresses ten provisions that must be considered related to trail accessibility. These provisions are:

1. Surface – must be firm and stable
2. Clear tread width – minimum of 36 inches
3. Openings in surface – may not permit passage of sphere one-half inch in diameter
4. Protruding object – minimum of 80” of clear headroom above the trail
5. Tread obstacles – cannot exceed a maximum of two inches
6. Passing space – minimum of 60” by 60” at intervals of 1000’ or less
7. Slope – addresses cross slope and running slope
8. Resting intervals – at least 60” in width
9. Edge protection – not necessarily required, but may be provided
10. Signage – information on distance and departure from technical provisions

An example of possible signage for trails as suggested by the National Center on Accessibility is shown in Figure 2.17. As of 2010, no specific signs have been designated for universal communication related to accessible trails. However, these signs communicate the concept of accessibility in outdoor developed recreation spaces that include trails.

Other considerations related to access for persons with disabilities include “Braille trail” concepts that allow persons with visual limitations to enjoy the features of a trail. This is particularly true if the trail is interpretive in nature, with signs communicating information related to natural, cultural, historic, or other significant topics related to the park environment.

In an effort to fully disclose the extent of accessibility within state parks, the Oklahoma State Park Division developed terms to describe two levels of access; these terms are used in State Parks publications: accessible and usable.
Accessible indicates that the park “substantially complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). The facility is connected with a barrier-free-route-of-travel from an accessible parking area.”

Usable indicates that the “facility allows significant access. Some individuals with disabilities may have difficulty and need assistance. Due to topography and the primitive nature of some sites, parking and connecting routes may not be accessible to all with disabilities” (OTRD, 2007).

OTRD began development of the properties at Heavener Runestone State Park well before the passage of the ADA; thus, many of the established structures do not meet the explicit requirements of the law. In several locations, OTRD has added accessible restrooms, developed dedicated and signed parking spots, installed walkways, and made other efforts to improve accessibility. The very nature of Heavener Runestone State Park with its mountain-side terrain makes it difficult to provide accessibility to the primary features of the park. The existing trails in these properties are not currently accessible trails, and such modification may not be desirable. The natural terrain varies considerably and is quite rocky; in addition, the environment includes vulnerable animal species. Thus, ADAAG-defined accessibility to every area of the park is not practical, nor necessarily desirable (Figure 2.18).

Figure 2.18 – Accessibility limited trails at Heavener Runestone State Park
Left and below

Throughout Heavener Runestone State Park, significant efforts have been made to improve accessibility to the community building, restrooms, parking areas, the information center/gift shop, and the picnic shelters. The information center/gift shop has been modified to provide...
accessibility, including the addition of signage in Braille for persons with visual limitations. Group shelter #2 is accessible from the parking lot and includes an accessible grill. The Community Building has been modified with widened door access, improved ramps, and accessible restrooms. The new comfort station in the picnic area has also been improved in accessibility through addition of paved sidewalks; however, the doors swing outward and require considerable effort to open (Figure 2.19). For visitors with mobility limitations who desire to experience the rune stone, a video is available in the office for viewing in an accessible location. Such accommodations must also recognize other potential disabilities and provide closed captions for persons with mobility and hearing limitations.

Figure 2.19 – Restroom access at new location in the picnic area

Cultural Resources in the Park

The Runestone

As the principal resource on which Heavener Runestone State Park was dedicated, it is essential that the rune stone be included in a resource management plan. As discussed briefly in the section dealing with the history of Heavener Runestone State Park, Gloria Farley served as the driving force to gain recognition of the value and meaning of the rune stone.

During her childhood in Heavener, Gloria had become aware of a broad stone known locally as “Indian Rock.” In 1928, she saw the stone for the first time and later described it as “a huge
billboard. It was 12 feet high, 10 feet wide, and only 16 inches thick” (Farley, 1994). Following several years of absence from Oklahoma, Gloria Farley returned to live in Heavener in 1950. She began a search for the location of this “Indian Rock”, eventually rediscovering its location on February 2, 1951. With that second discovery, Gloria Farley began a 35-year effort to document the authenticity of the Heavener Runestone.

The actual stone includes runic characters attributed to ancient Scandinavian languages. Quoting from Gloria Farley: “The eight symbols increased gradually in size from 6 ½ inches at the left to the final 9 ½ inch one at the right. There was an ‘X,’ an ‘M,’ and a slanted-down ‘F,’ but the other five letters were not familiar.” Based upon the work of Richard Nielsen, a Norse scholar, Farley reports that the runes on this stone and those on stones found in Poteau and Shawnee were actually in the Elder Futhark – an ancient Norse alphabet. From this language and determination, Nielsen and Farley suggest that the Heavener runes transliterate to “G L O M E D A L.” Farley writes that “Glome” is an ancient name and “Dal” means valley. Therefore, the inscription would mean “Glome’s valley” or land claimed by a man named Glome. The inscriptions were dated by Nielsen to have been made between “600 and 900 A.D., probably around 750 A.D.” (Farley, 1994).

Other rune stones have been found in the area near Heavener, as well as at locations in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas (Farley, 1994). Additional evidence of runic inscriptions throughout the United States is also documented in Farley’s book.

Gloria Farley described herself as an “epigraphic explorer.” Epigraphy is the study and interpretation of ancient inscriptions.

In reviewing available literature related to the Heavener rune stone, scholars have taken positions supporting its authenticity while others have debunked the genuine status of the rune stone. One such opposing perspective is provided by another Oklahoman, Dale Cox (2008).

The huge rock, now called the Heavener Runestone, is the centerpiece of a state park in Heavener, Oklahoma. To say that the theory of Vikings roaming around
prehistoric Oklahoma is controversial would be putting it mildly. The scientific community does not consider the Heavener Runestone an authentic artifact of the Viking era. Others, however, firmly believe that the mysterious carving is more than 1,000 years old.

Public attention was first brought to the Heavener Runestone decades ago by the late Mrs. Gloria Farley. She heard of the unusual inscriptions and arranged for a local guide to take her to the site. After consulting with students of ancient languages, Mrs. Farley became convinced that the carving had been left by ancient Norse explorers.

One of the leading diffusionists (people who believe in travel to the Americas by other cultures prior to Columbus) of her time, Mrs. Farley went on to write a book outlining her theories about the Heavener Runestone and other mysterious carvings around the country. Mrs. Farley and her supporters came to believe that the inscription on the stone could be interpreted to read “Glomesdal” or “Valley of Glome.” Glome, they theorized, was a Viking explorer who claimed the little ravine of his own centuries ago.

The carvings on the stone are runes (symbols that can be translated to letters), but they can also be interpreted to read “Gnomesdal” or “Gnomes Valley.” And in fact, the beautiful mountain ravine at Heavener Runestone State Park does look like the kind of place where our ancestors believed gnomes could be found. Plus, there is the fact that a group of local residents gave a signed statement to the State of Oklahoma some years ago confessing to the carving of the stone. The state park service does not consider the runestone to be an actual archaeological site.

During the research necessary to prepare this resource management plan, the authors had access to paperwork related to the property and dedication of Heavener Runestone State Park. If a signed statement of confession existed or had been presented to state officials, that statement was not among the official documents related to this property. There is valid evidence cited by Farley (1994) of Native American discovery of the rune stone as early as 1830.

At least one other state park, Kensington Runestone State Park in Minnesota, had similar history to that of Heavener Runestone State Park. The Kensington Runestone is addressed by Farley (1994) and is the subject of a number of other documents. It has had a comparable record of authentication and debunking. Kensington Runestone State Park has been changed in status and is no longer a state park.
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

Heavener Runestone State Park is managed as a “pod” under oversight from Lake Wister State Park. As a result, management and development at Heavener Runestone State Park is coordinated through the manager at Lake Wister who also has responsibility for Talimena State Park. However, Heavener Runestone State Park has a permanent, full time supervisor living on-site.

The physical development of facilities at Heavener Runestone State Park began in the early 1970s following designation as a state park. The map on the following page, Figure 3.2, provides an overview of the developed features of Heavener Runestone State Park.

The following presentation and discussion of the recreation development is organized as a north to south tour through the park. The entry road provides direct access for the park visitor at the north end of the parking lot. To properly present the visitors’ perspective related to a visit to Heavener Runestone State Park, the following presentation begins outside the actual boundaries of the park.

Public Access and Entry Aesthetics

Almost all visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park approach from the city of Heavener along federal Highway 270/59 as a major route through town. Signs direct visitors to turn onto county roads and across railroad tracks. Two primary access routes allow visitors to enter through the business district of Heavener or through a more industrialized area near the railroad terminal. Either access route then takes the visitor along a county road (Morris Creek Road) bordered by low quality residential development and mobile home sites, along Old Pike Road. The signage and quality of the entry road are shown in Figure 3.1.

The actual entry road to Heavener Runestone State Park is identified by an arch and a large stone monument as shown in Figure 3.1 to the left. A corral and agricultural properties border this road prior to entry into the park. The road begins to rise in elevation as it turns toward the right and continues to increase in elevation. After a sharp left hand turn and increasing elevation change, relatively new development is apparent on the south side of the road.
Figure 3.2 – Developed areas at Heavener Runestone State Park
This new development just outside the actual park boundary includes rental properties and outdoor advertising. At present, the signs are temporary in design and construction and the rental property is appropriate for the mountain side setting. This property should benefit from being adjacent to the park and the park may benefit from the presence of attractive private rental property. As a result, this may be a mutually beneficial development. Clearly this property development is of higher quality than other development along the entry into Heavener Runestone State Park.

Two iron gates have been installed along the entry road into the park. One gate is near the bottom of the hill and well outside the park boundary. This gate is not utilized at this time. The sign that accompanies this first gate may be of greater value than the gate. It is important information for park visitors to know that the second gate may be closed and turnaround is easier at the first gate. The second gate is at the park boundary and can be closed and padlocked by management. At this location, a visitor would have a difficult time turning around, especially in a large vehicle or with a travel trailer.

Once inside the park boundary, the entry road continues to climb in elevation and then bears to the right. The information center/gift shop is directly in front of the entering vehicles, separated from the roadway by several marked parking spots and an interpretive mural (Figure 3.5 on the following page).
Trails and walkways radiate from the parking lot near the information center/gift shop providing linkage to the valley and the rune stone beyond that location. These trails will be discussed later.

The Information Center serves as a focal point for most visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park. This building includes public restrooms, interpretive displays, a gift shop, and a small office area. A deck allows visitors to circle behind the office to view the park area below. When the park is open, a staff member manages the facility and is present for visitors entering the building.

Normally the person staffing the Information Center is the on-site supervisor. A residential area for this individual is located directly across the parking lot from the Information Center. Several head-in parking spots are marked along the entry drive facing the residential area. As shown in Figure 3.6, the residential area is somewhat shielded from the public area by vegetation. Additionally, a native rock embankment provides an attractive front view for this area. Beyond the residence is a maintenance area, quite hidden from public view.
Moving south from the residential area and the area near the Information Center, a visitor enters the main portion of the developed park. The roadway and parking lots are continuously paved and poorly defined as the roadway widens in some locations and narrows in others. A clockwise rotation around this roadway brings a visitor past the community building, a playgroup, several picnic tables, three picnic shelters, two restrooms, and an amphitheater. Each of these developments is identified on the map in Figure 3.2. Each of these developments is presented in the following discussion.

Community Building

On the east side of the parking lot, with an excellent panoramic view of the valley below, there is a community building (Figure 3.7) available for public rental and use. This facility includes a single accessible restroom and area for group meetings, picnics, and other events. The community building includes heating and air-conditioning for the comfort of guests, and a small kitchen for food service.

The community building has been designed with two large double-door entries allowing for easy access for tables, chairs, and other furnishings. In addition, this allows for ease of access for larger groups moving into and out of the building. Interior furnishings vary slightly over time, but chairs and tables are provided for those who rent the building.

Outside the community building there are a number of marked parking spaces although the painting for these spots is faded. The parking lot is large enough to accommodate vehicles for...
groups using the building. The view in Figure 3.7 also shows the location of the playgroup just beyond the community building and a picnic shelter to the left of the photograph. Visitors provide their own amenities, such as tents and picnic canopies, to support their activity around the community center.

**Playgroup**

A playgroup is adjacent to the community building and provides support for groups that rent the building. This playgroup is also available to other park visitors. The playgroup is constructed of treated timber with several metallic components. A border of landscape timbers outlines the sand play surface and defines the fall zone associated with the play ground.

It is difficult to identify the exact date of the installation and construction of this playgroup. However, similar playgroups were installed in several other Oklahoma state parks during the late 1980s and early 1990s. The playgroup is not in compliance with current guidelines for public playgrounds as published by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. In addition, the playgroup is not accessible as specified by ADAAG. The principal safety concerns related to the playgroup are (1) maintenance of the wood components to assure safety and integrity of those components, (2) maintenance of the surface of the wood to assure that it will not splinter or cause slivers, and (3) maintenance of the fall zone to assure compliance with standards for absorbency in the event of falls from the elevated play surfaces.

**Picnic Shelters**

There are three picnic shelters distributed around the day use area of the park. Each of these picnic shelters is designed to accommodate up to 24 people and each shelter includes electricity, water, and grills. Picnic tables are also distributed around the shelters.

Shelter #1 is located on the east side of the parking lot near the Hurst amphitheater. As indicated in Figure 3.9 on the following page, this shelter includes a concrete walkway, but it is not fully accessible. Shelter #2 is situated at the far south end of the parking lot and is accessible from the parking lot. Shelter #3 is located in the middle of the circular drive. Each is supported with several moveable picnic tables. Shelters can be reserved for a fee and are popular with park visitors throughout the summer.

The three shelters are distributed in such a manner that it is possible for three distinct groups to be reasonably separated. This allows for separation between groups while providing equivalent services to each.
Comfort Stations

Two comfort stations or restrooms (Figure 3.10) are located in the park, although one has been closed throughout the time of the preparation of the Resource Management Plan. Inadequate plumbing support for the older restroom has led to the need to close that facility. Its construction is similar to the stone utilized in other older buildings within the park and makes for an attractive
facility. As mentioned in earlier discussion related to accessibility within the park, the newer restroom is designed to be accessible. A possible limitation for true accessibility is the weight of and difficulty in opening the doors.

**Hiking/Walking Trails**

As shown on the map of Figure 3.2, there are three trails for visitors to enjoy while at Heavener Runestone State Park. The first of these trails for most visitors is the Runestone Interpretive Trail, beginning near the Information Center and extending 200 yards down the ravine to the rune stone. This trail is fairly steep and includes several stair steps along the way.

The Runestone Interpretive Trail winds through the ravine and along the rock walls giving visitors an excellent opportunity to understand some of the geology and biology of the area. Interpretive signs present information in text and pictures along the trail and upon arrival at the protective structure housing the rune stone (Figure 3.12 on the following page).

The rune stone had been moved according to Farley by miners and scavengers in the early twentieth century (Farley, 1994). In addition to the potential for further vandalism, the rune stone would be subject to normal weathering if exposed to the natural environment. As a result, a protective structure surrounds the stone, protecting it and the adjoining setting. As shown in Figure 3.11, this structure has been designed to allow visitors to walk past a series of interpretive signs and a viewing window through which the rune stone can be seen.

The Runestone Interpretive Trail loops back to the Information Center. Visitors can choose the direction for their walk to and from the rune stone, although a clockwise tour is probably the most common. Along the trail, an intermittent waterfall is also a feature enjoyed by visitors. This waterfall was noted by Farley on her visits to the rune stone and is still enjoyed by visitors, especially during the spring when adequate moisture is present.
The second trail provided at Heavener Runestone State Park is a one-mile Nature Trail originating at the Information Center and following the ravines and hillsides to the west and above the rune stone. Most of the Nature Trail follows natural pathways, making it easy to navigate. figure 3.13 – Nature Trail sign

Figure 3.12 – Runestone Interpretive Trail features
Above left: protective structure housing the rune stone
Above right: interpretive display and viewing window
Above center: interpretive sign along the trail

Figure 3.13 – Nature Trail sign

The second trail provided at Heavener Runestone State Park is a one-mile Nature Trail originating at the Information Center and following the ravines and hillsides to the west and above the rune stone. Most of the Nature Trail follows natural pathways, making...
it more rugged than the Runestone Interpretive Trail and including areas that are not accessible for persons with physical limitations.

The entry (Figure 3.13 on the previous page) to the Nature Trail is well marked near the parking lot, but portions of the trail are less clearly identified. As shown on the map in Figure 3.2, several spokes radiate from a central core to the outer loop of the Nature Trail.

**Figure 3.14 – Portions of the Cliffside Trail and Nature Trail**

The third trail at Heavener Runestone State Park is the Cliffside Trail. This well-named trail originates near Group Shelter #2 and intersects the Nature Trail. It also follows the overlook area, passes through the picnic area, and then ascends along the cliffs above the ruins. The Cliffside Trail is approximately one mile in length with one climb requiring significant effort from hikers.

**General Day Use Areas**

All recreational activity at Heavener Runestone State Park is day use, but portions of the park are designed for traditional recreational use. These general use areas include the picnic sites surrounding the parking area and extending upward along a one-way road. The park is designed with a one-way, counterclockwise road looped from the south end of the parking lot, along the hillside, and back to the parking lot near the comfort station. Picnic tables are distributed along this roadway under the shade of the post-oak, hickory canopy. However, parking spurs are not provided for visitors. As a result, it is quite common to see cars parked on grass and on soft surfaces in this area.

As shown in Figure 3.15 on the following page, the one-way road allows a visitor to have a sense of solitude within the park. Picnic tables throughout the park area are concrete and beginning to show wear. Most of these older picnic tables are inaccessible for persons with mobility limitations. From observation of use patterns, these dispersed picnic tables are not utilized as frequently as the newer, moveable tables associated with the three group shelters.
Amphitheater

A somewhat unique feature of Heavener Runestone State Park is the Hurst Amphitheater located just west of the parking lot near Group Shelter 1 and quite close to the main comfort station. The Hurst Amphitheater is easily accessed along hard surface trails that also link the Nature Trail and the Cliffside Trail. The amphitheater commemorates Eddie L. Hurst, former park manager as shown in Figure 3.16.

Hurst amphitheater has constructed seating, designed to accommodate about 100 people, in multiple levels surrounding a small stage area. In addition, space allows for people to bring their own chairs for more flexible seating. The stage area is small, but is quite appropriate for interpretive programming and small presentations.
Concessions

At the time of the preparation of the resource management plan, there were no concessionaires operating within the park. The gift shop provides retail sale of souvenirs, books, and similar materials. However, the gift shop is operated by Oklahoma State Parks.

Park Visitation

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor – but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At Heavener Runestone State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park for other than recreational purposes. Visitation to Heavener Runestone State Park is based on vehicle counts generated by pneumatic or magnetic counters as axles cross a specific location in the roadway. These generated numbers are then entered into a standard formula with an associated algorithm for number of occupants per vehicle. As a result, park visitation is an estimate of actual use.

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Data regarding visitation at Heavener Runestone State Park was provided through the central Oklahoma City office of OTRD. These data reveal that total visitation was in excess of 105,000 over the past three years, with elevated visitation during fiscal 2008. No specific rationale is available related to the higher level of visitation reported during 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Total Visitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>112,957</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>125,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>105,146</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The highest level of visitation at Heavener Runestone State Park typically occurs in May, June, and September, October. The fall visitation is often in association with the changing of colors of the foliage. During 2008 and 2009, that visitation pattern extended into November with almost 13,000 visitors during November in each of those years. The highest visitation month during the past four years occurred in May 2008 with 21,426 visitors. By contrast, the lower visitation months are January and February, although January 2006 showed 5,614 visitors. That level of visitation is unusual for what would be considered an off-season month.

Public Perception of Heavener Runestone State Park

At the time of preparation of this resource management plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to Heavener Runestone State Park, which were provided by private sources. Further, private citizens and visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park
maintain personal “blogs” and social networking sites that address their opinions related to the park, as well as their experiences and visits to the park.

While some errors in numbers or misperceptions in management are noted in these various sites, the overall tone regarding Heavener Runestone State Park is highly positive. These positive perspectives are expressed in many local marketing efforts, through personal websites, and in blogs from visitors who have had traditions of family reunions and other gatherings at Heavener Runestone State Park.

Among the comments available from the public are those of hang-gliders who speak of visits to Heavener Runestone State Park. In fact, they are likely utilizing private property outside the park boundaries as their launch point. However, the area is acknowledged as having excellent conditions for hang-gliding, including hosting the 1976 national hang-gliding championships.

Park management reported that 70% of local visitation at Heavener Runestone State Park is Hispanic. If this is accurate, the park is serving a distinctly underserved population. Park management also reports that 20-30% of visitors come to see the rune stone, while the balance of visitation is seeking other recreational activity. For example, during the blue grass festival hosted at the park, the facilities are at maximum capacity.

**User Evaluations of Heavener Runestone State Park**

The most formal and scientific evaluations for Heavener Runestone State Park were generated during the 2003 park visitor survey (Caneday & Jordan, 2003). These evaluations are the result of on-site interviews with park visitors contacted at various locations throughout the park. The analysis of the data from these interviews was reported by category of type of visitor: day visitor, camper, cabin guest, or lodge guest. For Heavener Runestone State Park, all visitors were day visitors. This visitor survey is the most recent thorough analysis of attitudes and opinions represented by visitors to Oklahoma state parks. The contacts were made at public locations throughout the park and provided opportunities of equity for all visitors to be included in the survey.

Approximately one half of visitors contacted during the study were first time visitors. By contrast, the half of the visitors that were repeat visitors was very familiar with Heavener Runestone State Park, making numerous trips to the park each year. Hiking and walking were the most common activities reported by visitors, with an emphasis upon participation in interpretive activities. Family reunions and weddings were also common motivators for visiting Heavener Runestone State Park, especially in the picnic area and around the community building. These visitors were often the repeat guests, having enjoyed a tradition of family reunions or other gatherings at the park.

While visitors to the park crossed all ages, the most commonly reported age range was in the 40’s for these visitors. Visitors to Heavener Runestone were predominantly white, although a significant portion of those sampled included Native American respondents. In addition, approximately 10% of the park visitors reported Hispanic origins.

The visitors to Heavener Runestone State Park were well educated, above that for most parks in the state and above the state average. In addition, the first-time visitors traveled 150 or more miles on their visit, while many of the repeat visitors traveled less than 50 miles for their visit to Heavener Runestone State Park.
**Park Management**

Over the years of operation, management structure for Heavener Runestone State Park has changed at the direction of leadership from Oklahoma City. At various times the property has been managed as an independent property. At other times Heavener Runestone State Park has been operated under the direction of a manager from another associated property in the region. At present, Heavener Runestone State Park is managed as a subunit under the park manager at Lake Wister State Park. One permanent staff person is assigned to Heavener Runestone State Park and lives on property.

Heavener Runestone State Park is currently included in the Southeast Regional Office of Oklahoma State Parks. This intermediate management structure allows park management to work with regional oversight as an intermediary or in direct contact with the Oklahoma City office. As with all state parks in Oklahoma, personnel, purchasing, contracting, and all other aspects of operation are governed by Oklahoma state statutes, policies, and procedures.

**Staffing**

Staffing at Heavener Runestone State Park has remained consistent over the past three years. In numbers provided by the central office of OTRD in Oklahoma City, two individuals have been reported as being assigned to Heavener Runestone State Park each year. In actual practice, one full time salaried staff member is physically on-site at the park, while a second person may be at Heavener Runestone State Park for specific tasks while also working at Lake Wister State Park.

Table 3.2 documents the staffing pattern for Heavener Runestone State Park.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal staff</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In consideration of actual tasks conducted by staff at Heavener Runestone State Park, one staff member normally operates the visitor center and gift shop, maintaining an official presence at that location. Park maintenance, including service for the restrooms, comfort stations, community building, and other buildings and grounds is typically handled by a second person. Those responsibilities do not make up a full-time-equivalent person present on-site.

**Revenue and Expense**

Personnel expenses are the major component of operating costs at Heavener Runestone State Park, averaging around two-thirds of the budgeted expenses for operation of the park. These expenses are reported in Table 3.3, but it must also be acknowledged that capital expenses are not included in these data.
Table 3.3 – Expense at Heavener Runestone State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Heavener Runestone State Park</th>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Heavener Runestone State Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2007 Total</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$20,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$107,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$80,435</td>
<td>$26,611</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2008 Total</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$24,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$124,183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$79,903</td>
<td>$44,280</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td>Revenue</td>
<td>$23,773</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td>Total Expense</td>
<td>$121,772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$80,930</td>
<td>$40,842</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heavener Runestone State Park produced slightly more than $20,000 in annual revenue from a variety of sources. Actual visitation and access to the park is at no direct cost to the visitor. However, additional services may include fees for use. The revenue generated at Heavener Runestone State Park is largely produced through sales of merchandise at the gift shop. Other revenue sources include rental of the picnic shelter, meeting room space, and the community building. Smaller revenue generation comes through vending machines and magazines, with occasional donations.

Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational

Any recreational activity includes the exposure to hazards, and the probability of specific risks may increase in many outdoor settings. In most current discussions related to hazard and risk, hazards are defined as conditions or events. Risk is the likelihood of injury resulting from a given hazard and is typically defined as a probability of adverse effects from those conditions or events. Everything people do exposes them to hazards. It is how people conduct themselves that determines the risk. An agency or site risk management plan addresses potential loss from anticipated hazards.

Natural Hazards

As with all natural areas, Heavener Runestone State Park includes a number of hazards. Some of those hazards are natural and related to such things as topography, flora, and fauna. Some of the hazards are structural or related to design; other hazards are operational in nature.

Natural hazards in Heavener Runestone State Park include the steep terrain, flora and fauna. The development of facilities encourages visitors to interact with the natural environment, encouraging people to participate in recreation in an outdoor setting. For example, trails invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, distressed and lost hikers are certainly possible within the park. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions.

Among the natural hazards present in the park are those associated with weather events. The National Climatic Data Center reports a variety of such hazards by county over time. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes,
heavy snow, ice, excessive heat, and drought. Because of the hill-top setting for Heavener Runestone State Park and the likelihood of thunderstorms in Oklahoma, lightning strikes are a distinct possibility, especially in the exposed areas near the parking lot. Staff members are prepared to notify park visitors in the event of severe weather, but appropriate shelter is limited. At the present time, neither signage nor printed visitor materials provide severe weather information to park visitors.

Other natural hazards are related to life forms in the natural environment. Any time people are hiking and recreating in an outdoor environment, a chance exists that they will inadvertently encounter such wildlife; this is the case in Heavener Runestone State Park. The Park encompasses an environment suitable for venomous snakes including the copperhead, rattlesnake, and water moccasin. As indicated in earlier discussion, Gloria Farley (1994) commented on the likelihood of encounters with rattlesnakes when exploring the area. It is probable that visitors and staff have occasional sightings of venomous snakes, but there are no recent records of any adverse encounters between people and snakes within the park.

A number of mammals common to the park are subject to rabies. They include raccoons, opossums, skunks, badgers, and bats. Additional nuisance animals include armadillos and the possibility of bears.

The forest environment at Heavener Runestone is home to mosquitoes, ticks, and spiders—all of which may be hazards or present hazards to recreational visitors. The Brown Recluse spider and the Black Widow are native to Leflore County. Both spiders have produced adverse effects for humans in recreational settings (and other environments). In addition, ticks are known carriers of a number of serious diseases in humans.

The 2002 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (Caneday, 2002) stated:

An “environmental problem” of increasing occurrence in Oklahoma in recent years is related to ticks and tick-transmitted diseases. Although there are a number of tick-transmitted diseases, the most frequent occurrence is shown by Rocky Mountain spotted fever, Lyme disease, and Tularemia. A number of factors are related to this increased occurrence of disease including demographics, living preferences, and recreational behavior. Oklahoma has experienced significant increases in tick-transmitted diseases over the past decade. While most of these diseases can be treated, the diseases can also be life threatening. Participants in outdoor recreation are among those who encounter the ticks and who contract the tick-transmitted diseases. A concerted, unified effort is necessary to educate the recreational visitor regarding the results of recreational behaviors.

At the time of the writing of the 2002 SCORP, the author contacted the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta regarding rumors (at that time) of a mosquito borne virus – West Nile virus. The CDC assured Caneday that Oklahoma would not experience West Nile virus within the five-year period covered by the 2002 SCORP (2002-2007). However, by summer 2003, Oklahoma was experiencing cases of West Nile virus among horses and humans. Often these resulted from outdoor recreation activity, and that pattern is continuing.

Some plants are also hazardous to some individuals and the risk varies by degree of exposure and response to that exposure. Poison ivy is among those potentially hazardous plants at Heavener Runestone State Park.
Operational Hazards

Operational hazards include those vulnerabilities to park staff, the park system, or the state of Oklahoma that exist as a result of management or operation of the resource and application of policy. Management and operational decisions are made on a daily basis and are affected by budgets, prioritization within the state park system, staffing patterns, local and state politics, and other external influences.

At present, emergency fire and medical service is provided by the Heavener Fire Department. Emergency response time is estimated to be seven minutes.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to Heavener Runestone State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors include a lack of directional signs found along trails and in recreation areas in the park. In addition, play structures utilize a variety of surfacing materials and several areas are showing a good deal of wear. Areas under swings are deeply eroded, and multiple tripping hazards are found in the immediate vicinity of playgroups. A thorough examination of the play structures and the applicable surface materials for compliance with Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for public playgrounds is warranted at this time.

Further, weather-related events (e.g., ice storms, strong winds) in Oklahoma often result in tree and limb damage throughout the park. The locations in which downed trees and limbs have immediate impact on visitors include the day-use areas, trails, parking lot and roadway. Currently, Heavener Runestone State Park does not have a formal limb management or tree replacement program; this is common throughout the state park system. Park staff members attend to downed trees and limbs as they discover them and/or are notified of the hazard.

Law Enforcement

The CLEET certified rangers and reserve-CLEET certified rangers are responsible for primary activity related to law enforcement within the boundaries of the park. At present under the staffing and management provided through Lake Wister State Park, there are no CLEET certified rangers available for Heavener Runestone State Park. It is common for law enforcement units to have mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies. As a result, enforcement of applicable laws at Heavener Runestone State Park relies on the support and cooperation of the LeFlore County sheriff and police support from the City of Heavener.

No citation records were available specifically for Heavener Runestone State Park. It can be assumed that patterns of behavior among visitors would be similar to those in other parks. However, due to the day-use only at Heavener Runestone State Park, the presence of a resident staff supervisor, the visibility of the parking lot from the park office, the limited access and egress provided by a single entry road, and the locked gate, Heavener Runestone State Park provides a safe and quiet environment.

Just prior to the initiation of work on this RMP, newspaper reports of a body found at Heavener Runestone State Park had been published across the state. In actuality, the remains were found outside the park boundary, but the adverse publicity may still have an effect on perception of safety for potential visitors to the park.
Policy-Related Exposures

Some aspects of management of risk is incorporated into law enforcement. Park rangers are the law enforcement personnel for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, although they frequently have cooperative (mutual aid) agreements with county sheriffs and the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. Law enforcement authority for Oklahoma State Park Rangers is authorized by state statute as follows (Title 74 § 2216, 2005):

Park rangers, when commissioned, shall have all the powers of peace officers except the serving or execution of civil process, and shall have in all parts of the state the same powers with respect to criminal matters and enforcement of the laws relating thereto as sheriffs, highway patrolmen [sic] and police officers in their respective jurisdictions and shall possess all immunities and matters of defense now available or hereafter made available to sheriffs, highway patrolmen, and police officers in any suit brought against them in consequence of acts done in the course of their employment, provided, however, they shall comply with the provisions of Section 3311 of Title 70 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

In parks with CLEET certified or reserve certified personnel, written logs are maintained by park staff to document incidents. In addition to the regular log, staff members complete incident reports when notified of property damage or personal injury to visitors or staff. While the incident reporting form requires information regarding personal injury or property damage, the process does not appear to require follow-up with the reporting party.

In terms of wildlife, Heavener Runestone State Park is a sanctuary as are all state parks in Oklahoma. When necessary, OTRD can request assistance from ODWC related to policies affecting wildlife within the park. As an important natural resource in the park, the vulnerable and endangered species in the area lack a management plan other than classification by ODWC.

Perhaps one of the most essential operational hazards related to the public is the concern that cell phones and radios have limited to sporadic service in rural areas, and possibly within the park. During the preparation of the RMP, research staff members were able to acquire and maintain cell phone signals throughout Heavener Runestone State Park. Thus, in case of injury, illness, fire, or other emergency, park visitors with personal cell phones should be able to contact necessary emergency services. For those without personal cell phones or with inadequate signals, park staff must use a landline based telephone to call emergency personnel.

Waste Management

The relatively small and concentrated area of development at Heavener Runestone State Park allows for a focused effort related to waste management. There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste.

Solid waste is transported off-site by park staff, although the park was included in a bid for garbage service through Lake Wister State Park. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Per park management, liquid waste is managed on-site through septic tanks and distribution fields. The older comfort station is the one served by the sewer lift station, and that facility has been closed to public use. CAD drawings for Heavener Runestone State Park do not show the
three septic tanks and distribution fields reported by staff. These systems are located to service the (1) office, (2) the residence, and (3) the two comfort stations and community building.

Water lines enter the park along the main road. A hydro-pneumatic tank provides necessary pressure for distribution of water throughout the park, serving the various buildings and several yard hydrants. Potable water is provided from a rural water district and distributed on property.

Park management did not express any concerns or problems with waste management at Heavener Runestone State Park. As with any area that is utilized by the public, some trash and litter is present within the park. This solid waste presents a visual detraction, but presents limited problems other than clean-up of the area.

*Figure 3.17 – Hurst amphitheater from the stage*
Figure 3.18 – Deck at Heavener Runestone State Park
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Heavener Runestone State Park. When analyzed, this information raises several issues for consideration. These issues are presented in the following discussion with alternatives for management to consider. In each case, based on the available information a preferred alternative is identified.

Issues and Alternatives

Issue Statement 1: Qualification and branding as a state park

One of the central issues for consideration related to Heavener Runestone State Park is its qualification for continuance with that designation. At one time, several properties with primarily historic or cultural resources were included in the state park system. Those properties, with the exception of Heavener Runestone, were transferred to other agencies for management.

What is a state park? Jordan and Caneday addressed this question in an earlier report for OTRD as a part of the state park visitor study in 2003 (Caneday and Jordan). As stated in that report –

The research team believes that the term “state park” should mean something specific. The term, “state park,” should identify a property distinctively through management practices, quality of experience and appearance to the public. The research team believes that visitors to Oklahoma “state parks” should know immediately that they are in a State Park because of the distinctive “branding” apparent to the visitor and deliberately intended by management. The research team believes that the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department must jealously guard the use of the term “state park” in much the same manner as companies protect symbols of intellectual property.

An example of resource qualifications for specific classifications can best be demonstrated through the National Park Service. For a property to be classified as a National Park there must be (1) evidence of national significance for a natural, cultural, or recreational resource, (2) management of the property must be feasible, and (3) the property must be suitable within the mission, purpose, and system of the National Park Service.

By contrast, other classifications of National Park Service properties include National Monuments, National Recreation Areas, and National Preserves. National monuments must be significant natural, cultural, or recreational resources, but may be managed by entities other than the National Park Service. National preserves are limited to significant environmental resources and may vary in ownership and management of the resource. National recreation areas, including Chickasaw National Recreation Area in south-central Oklahoma, are managed for more intensive recreation in outdoor settings.
OTRD policy related to acquisition of property uses some of this language, thereby establishing a general pattern of resource qualification. These criteria include (1) state-wide significance for natural beauty, uniqueness, or other recreational and resource preservation purposes, and (2) sites which will improve the overall availability of public recreation facilities to the recreating public while possessing resource significance (Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, 1988).

In addition, branding and classification of properties within the Department has varied over the years. Minutes of the Oklahoma Planning and Resource Board (a precursor to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission) from September 18, 1953 record the passing of a motion defining state parks, state recreation areas, state memorials, and state monuments. That variation in descriptive classification was changed by legislation during the 1980s.

Applying the national concepts to state parks in Oklahoma and utilizing the earlier definitions in Oklahoma, it could be concluded that a state park must (1) have a significant statewide natural, cultural, or recreation resource, (2) be feasible to manage by the agency, and (3) be suitable within the mission, purpose, and statewide system of state parks. If this set of qualifications is applied to Heavener Runestone State Park, it could be concluded that:

1. Heavener Runestone State Park does not offer a historical, cultural and environmental resource of statewide significance. Neither the natural nor developed recreational resource is significant from a statewide perspective. The property does not attract a statewide audience – with the exception of a small group of history buffs, and actually attracts and serves a localized clientele.
2. Heavener Runestone State Park is one of two (with Talimena State Park) Oklahoma parks set in a mountain environment. As such, Heavener Runestone is an important environment resource in the state park system
3. Heavener Runestone State Park is feasible to manage within the agency, but fits only within a very narrow portion of the mission of OTRD. Inclusion of Heavener Runestone State Park as a sub-component (“pod”) of Lake Wister State Park permits Heavener Runestone State Park to be considered in light of the related properties and resources.
4. Heavener Runestone State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD to preserve and manage the natural assets of the state. It also improves the overall availability of public recreation resources in an underserved portion of the state.
5. The property may better qualify as a “historic park” or a “cultural park” – a classification that is not presently supported through OTRD. In addition, the property may be better classified as a state recreational area – a classification that is not presently supported through OTRD, but has been utilized in the past.

As a result, the research team recognizes the value of Heavener Runestone State Park as a state resource because of the historic and cultural resources in a mountain environment and the need to preserve and manage those assets. It is not worthy of state park classification based on the present recreational use, structures, and patterns of visitation. However, that recreational use is an important service to an underserved population and portion of the state.

Alternatives
A. Transfer the property and management to a more appropriate agency – possibly the Oklahoma Historical Society;
B. Discontinue management as a “public park or historical site” and let the property revert to its prior owner;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative(s):

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is. However, that continuance should only be considered if management of Heavener Runestone does not impede proper management of those properties that are truly significant as state parks.

A name change to more properly reflect the classification and use of Heavener Runestone would assist with branding of State Parks. Although somewhat cumbersome, Heavener Runestone Cultural Day-Use Park would be a proper description for the property.

Alternative B: Discontinue management as a “public park or historical site” and let the property revert to its prior owner. If management of Heavener Runestone is deemed to be an impedance to proper management of more significant properties in the state park system – for financial reasons, for personnel reasons, or for philosophical reasons – the property should revert to its prior owner. Such a decision does reduce the public recreation estate at the state level, but may allow for the property to be managed through another agency.

---

**Issue Statement 2: Extending the educational outreach of the park**

The 2003 report of visitors to Oklahoma State Parks (Caneday and Jordan, 2003) reported on the priorities for Oklahoma State Parks as perceived by Oklahoma state park visitors. These priorities are: (1) to preserve natural, cultural, and historic properties in Oklahoma; (2) to serve as examples of Oklahoma’s natural resources – land, water, birds, animals, and plants; and (3) to educate visitors regarding appropriate use of the parks. All of these priorities can be achieved at Heavener Runestone State Park.

Interpretive services are variously defined depending upon the source or the agency involved. The classic definition of interpretation was given by Freeman Tilden (1977) as “An educational activity that attempts to reveal meaning and relationships through the use of original objects, by first hand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than to simply communicate factual information.”

William E. Brown (1971), in *Islands of Hope*, presented the role of parks in the interpretive process. His definition of interpretation encompassed technology as well as process, as he stated that interpretation is “That body of communications, devices and facilities that conveys environmental knowledge, stimulates discourse on environmental problems and results in environmental reform.” Brown also indicated that interpretation has a distinct purpose, especially in a sensitive natural environment. Brown argued that “Environmental interpretation not only informs, it motivates to action – sometimes it is action. Even at the informing level, it ceases to be innocent nature study or whitewashed history. It questions value systems, folk heroes, and conventional wisdom.”

The National Association for Interpretation (2008) has developed a professional, contemporary definition of interpretation that incorporates the theory from Tilden, the purpose from Brown, and the mission of the agency delivering the service. “Interpretation is a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”
Heavener Runestone offers several resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The rune stone is the principal resource that must be interpreted better than it is at present. The present interpretive signage for the rune stone is dated and inadequate; several more modern and appropriate technologies should be considered. However, other natural and cultural resources are present in the immediate area and demand interpretive attention. These include the mound culture in the Poteau River valley, the forest ecosystem, the geology of the area, and more. Heavener Runestone State Park includes an excellent community building and the Hurst Amphitheater, both of which provide outstanding facilities for interpretive and educational programming.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Heavener Runestone State Park and the state park system more broadly.

Alternatives

A. Employ a well-qualified interpreter, capable of developing and delivering programming appropriate to the park resources;
B. Work with local personnel in schools and colleges to develop and deliver programming appropriate to the park resources;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Given the current economic and budgetary constraints, work with local personnel in schools and colleges to develop and deliver programming appropriate to the park resources.

Issue Statement 3: Further development in the park

The present level of development at Heavener Runestone State Park limits visitation to day-use only. In discussions during preparation of the RMP, visitors and park management suggested a desire for overnight accommodations. Development of a campground would require a significant investment in a comfort station with showers, plus the necessary waste management system. Some campsites could be developed along the one-way road on the southeast side of the park.

Other suggestions included the potential for development of cabins for overnight lodging. Cabins would also require a significant investment in water distribution and waste management. Locating the cabins would also require considerable design expertise due to the rocky environment.

At present, campgrounds and cabins are not cost effective for Oklahoma State Parks. Several competing locations in the vicinity, including Lake Wister State Park, offer camping and cabins that are not at capacity at present. There does not appear to be the demand to support further development of facilities at Heavener Runestone.

Alternatives

A. Design and develop overnight lodging facilities with support services;
B. Design and develop other facilities and guest services;
C. No change – continue management as it is.
Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is.

**Issue Statement 4: Staffing and personnel for the future**

Efficiencies in operation are necessitated by budgetary conditions and demanded by good management practices. Heavener Runestone State Park operates with one full-time person, although additional staff time is needed to maintain the exterior facilities and properties. Looking to the future, it is likely that funding will continue to be limited and assigned staff patterns will not change significantly. As a result, efficient and effective management will demand attention to the staffing pattern and personnel assigned to Heavener Runestone State Park.

Since Heavener Runestone State Park is operated as a “pod” of Lake Wister State Park, the personnel for those properties and Talimena State Park are interconnected. However, the nature of Heavener Runestone State Park demands the presence of a staff member in the park office during times the park is open.

In fact, proper maintenance and programming at the park would require more than one individual on several days each week, especially during the higher demand times of spring, summer, and fall. Increased number of staff members and, potentially, greater diversity and qualification of those staff members could be achieved through utilization of collegiate interns. Properly qualified interns could be employed for relatively low wage levels in roles such as: (1) basic park maintenance, (2) historic, cultural, and natural interpretation, (3) office management, (4) outreach, and (5) other necessary duties. Interns would require supervision and oversight – to be provided by a manager for the multiple properties. Interns would require housing – that could be available on property or from lodging available at Lake Wister State Park.

Cooperative education agreements and internships could be arranged for persons in a variety of disciplines, including (1) recreation, park, and leisure studies, (2) history – especially public history, (3) botany, zoology, or other natural science, (4) environmental science or environmental education, and (5) other disciplines as appropriate. OTRD and Oklahoma State Parks would benefit greatly from such agreements, as would participants in the internship experience.

Alternatives

A. Develop and sustain agreements for qualified internships;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: Develop and sustain agreements for qualified internships.

**Issue Statement 5: Green practices related to energy and conservation**

Within the past few years Americans have begun to take conservation practices seriously. On behalf of citizens and as a representative of the park and recreation profession – a field with a
strong connection to the environment – Oklahoma State Parks has initiated several practices that are intended to conserve energy and other resources. This has been initiated with energy efficient lighting in the lodge and office structures, and needs to be expanded to other management practices.

Among the many possible areas that would benefit from conservation practices are: (1) park policies related to mowing, maintenance, debris removal, and waste disposal; and (2) recycling opportunities for the entire operation and its guests.

At present, state laws do not encourage a state agency to recycle waste or trash products, especially when private citizens generate (and thereby ‘own’) those materials. Inventory management and accounting procedures prevent the sale of, or revenue production from, recycled materials. However, volunteer groups such as a possible “Friends of Heavener Runestone State Park” are permitted to serve as an agent for the collection and sale of recyclable materials. Another challenge to the establishment of a recycling program is the difficulty in finding a consistent market for the various products that might easily be recycled: glass, aluminum, and paper. These challenges do not lessen the desirability of establishing a recycling program in the state park system.

Alternatives

A. Seek to change state accounting regulations to permit operation of the recycling program by park staff;

B. Encourage the development of “Friends of Heavener Runestone State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;

C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: Encourage the development of “Friends of Heavener Runestone State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park.

**Recommendations beyond the Issues**

**Recommendation 1: Entry roads, signs, and protective gates**

As indicated in the RMP, the aesthetics along the access routes from Heavener to the park are less than desirable. The city of Heavener has relatively few codes regarding the appearance and upkeep of private property within the city limits, and very limited enforcement of codes that may be on the books. However, the chamber of commerce does have an interest in Heavener Runestone State Park as an attraction with economic impact upon the community.

Park management should communicate with city leadership regarding the condition of properties adjacent to the north-south roadway (Old Pike Road), just east of the railroad. Improvement of the visual presentation along the area would be an asset to the park.

A second location requiring some attention is on the north side of road leading into Heavener Runestone State Park. This area includes a corral, soccer facility, and a mobile home. Clean-up at that location would also benefit the park.
As indicated in the discussion in Chapter 3, there are two lockable gates along the roadway leading uphill to the park. The second of these gates is presently used. That gate needs to have clearly marked “stop” signs and reflectors apparent to anyone coming up the hill in the dark. It would also be helpful to have adequate signs along the entry road clearly indicating whether the gate is open or closed. Once at the gate, it is difficult to turn around, especially in a larger vehicle or one with limited turning radius.

Recommendation 2: Clean air (No smoking) in state, public buildings

Oklahoma has passed legislation limiting smoking in public areas, including private businesses. Several public areas, such as universities, have chosen to become tobacco-free environments. The park office at Heavener Runestone State Park is too small an area, with too limited ventilation and air handling, to allow anyone to smoke inside the building. “No Smoking” signs are posted, but visitors need to be reminded of the policy. This is also true at the community building.

Recommendation 3: Signage and marking of trails/parking lots

At present the trails in Heavener Runestone State Park are marked at their entry points, but have limited signage or maintenance beyond that point. Cliffside and Nature Trail offer excellent recreational experiences that would be enhanced by improved signage and maintenance.

Similarly, the parking lot should be remarked allowing for clearly designated parking space – including those for persons with disabilities. The paint has weathered leaving the lot without clearly designated parking spots.
References


Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), (2003). State Soil Geographic Database, STATSGO.


http://www.wildlifedepartment.com/endanger.htm


http://factfinder.census.gov


U.S. Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service. (Retrieved February 25, 2010).  
http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/ouachita/recreation/nra/nramap.JPG

http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/county.cfm?fips_code=40079
Appendix A – Documents related to Property

1. 1977 Supplemental agreement for easement related to television tower
2. 1965 Warranty deed of transfer to State of Oklahoma
3. 1965 Easement for access to state property
4. 1992 Farley gift of brochure
5. 2003 Project agreement with Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society
6. Abstract of Title
SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, on July 9, 1954, a lease agreement was entered into by and between H. Z. WARD and JANE WILLIAMSON WARD, his wife, called "lessors", and TRANSWESTERN VIDEO, INC., a corporation, called "lessee";

AND WHEREAS, the reception signal towers operated by the lessee are not receiving signals in a manner so as to provide outstanding services to the City of Heavener, and the lessee has been having difficulty gaining reception of the Educational TV Channel, and the parties would like to amend the original lease contract, so as to allow the lessee to move its signal towers;

NOW, THEREFORE, for One Dollar ($1.00) and other good, valuable and sufficient consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereof, it is mutually agreed by and between the parties as follows:

1) The lessors hereby lease, let and demise unto the lessee, its successors or assigns, part of the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section 20, Township 5 North, Range 28 East in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, described as Beginning 250 feet West of the Northeast Corner of said tract, thence South 250 feet; thence West 250 feet; thence North 250 feet; thence East 250 feet to the point of beginning, for the purpose of establishing signal reception towers to operate the Cable TV System in Heavener and the vicinity, and continues to grant said lessee the right of ingress and egress and necessary right of way to make use of such site to receive and transmit television signals for the operation of the system.

2) This new site is adjacent to the Clem Hamilton Heavener Runestone State Park, and there is a fence presently dividing the Park property from the lands listed herein. The State Park Department of the State of Oklahoma does not object to the parties hereto placing a gate to allow ingress and egress to the above site, provided that the lessee will construct the gate, using creosote ties so as to keep the fence stretched tight, and will use a metal gate, and agree to keep the same locked by chain and lock. Further, the lessee shall only have the right to enter, during such time as the Park is open, and lessee shall avoid making special
requests to enter upon Park property to reach the above site, during times that the Park will be closed. None of the provisions herein shall be interpreted nor construed to make the State of Oklahoma a party to any of the agreements, rights, obligations or liabilities as regards the lessors or lessee. In event such parties should leave the gate open, and allow the lessors cattle to escape onto Park land, or in event any other problems should arise by reason of the permission granted herein, which cannot be settled by the parties, the State of Oklahoma retains its privilege to withdraw permission granted herein.

3) All other provisions of the original lease contract, not specifically amended hereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**LESSORS**

H. Z. WARD

Jane Williamson Ward

JANE WILLIAMSON WARD

**LESSEE**

TRANSWESTERN VIDEO, INC., a corporation

By JOE D. DAVIS
President

THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel., STATE PARK DEPARTMENT

By JOHN DEVINE
Director
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, )
) SS.
COUNTY OF LEFLORE, )

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 29th day of August, 1973, personally appeared H. Z. Ward and Jane Williamson Ward, his wife, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires:

January 17, 1977

NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, )
) SS.
COUNTY OF LEFLORE, )

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 29th day of August, 1973, personally appeared Joe D. Davis, to me known to be the identical person who subscribed the name of the maker thereof to the foregoing instrument as its President and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed and as the free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires:

January 17, 1977

NOTARY PUBLIC

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, )
) SS.
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA, )

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 29th day of August, 1973, personally appeared John Devine, Director of the State Park Department of the State of Oklahoma, to me known to be the identical person who subscribed the name of the maker thereof to the foregoing instrument as its Director and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed and as the free and voluntary act and deed of such Department, for the uses and purposes therein set forth. Given under my hand and seal of office the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

My Commission Expires:

08/17/73

NOTARY PUBLIC
WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That Herbert Z. Ward and Jane E. Ward, his
wife,

parties of the first part, of Heavener, Oklahoma, in consideration of the sum of
Ten Dollars, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant,

The State of Oklahoma for the use, control and management of the Oklahoma
Industrial Development and Park Department of the State of Oklahoma, the following described real property
and premises, situate in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, to wit:

Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 17, AND
Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 20,
ALL in Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County, Oklahoma,
less and except and reserving unto the grantees herein, all of the oil, gas,
lead, zinc, coal, asphalt and all other minerals of whatsoever kind, character,
and nature,

RECITAL: The grantee above, the State of Oklahoma for the use, control,
and management of the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Depart-
ment, to have and to hold the above and foregoing properties for so long as
the same shall be used and maintained as a public park or historical site,
and should said grantee or its successors or assigns abandon said property
or fail to maintain them as a public park or historical site, all right, title
and interest to said property shall revert to the grantor above Herbert Z.
Ward, his heirs, successors or assigns.

Together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereto, belonging and
situated thereon;

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said premises for the use, control and management of the State of
Oklahoma, to have and to hold the same forever, free and clear of and discharged from
all liens and encumbrances of whatever nature, except the reservations noted above,
and the right of reversion, as hereabove set out.

Signed and delivered this 3rd day of August, 1969

Herbert Z. Ward

Jane E. Ward

76
I, Carroll Casar, a bonded public surveyor and a practicing civil engineer, hereby certify that on August 12, 1935, I completed my survey of a parcel of land, situated in T.S. N., R.26 E., described as being the SE 4/4 of the SE 4/4 of Section 17 and the NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 20, and that this plat conforms to my survey.

I found the original stone properly marked and in place for the corner to Sections 16, 17, 20, and 21. I find a previously set, unmarked stone on the NW corner of SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Section 17; all other stones set by me and referenced as shown.

[Signature]
WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS. That Herbert Z. Ward and Jane E. Ward, his wife,

parties of the first part, of Heavener, Oklahoma, in consideration of the sum of

Ten Thousand Dollars, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant,

The State of Oklahoma for the use, control and management of the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, part Y of the second part of the State of Oklahoma, the following described real property and premises, situate in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, to wit:

Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 17, AND Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 20, ALL in Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, less and except and reserving unto the grantees herein, all of the oil, gas, lead, zinc, coal, asphalt and all other minerals of whatsoever kind, character and nature,

RECITAL: The grantee above, the State of Oklahoma for the use, control and management of the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, to have and to hold the above and foregoing properties for so long as the same shall be used and maintained as a public park or historical site, and should said grantee or its successors or assigns abandon said properties or fail to maintain them as a public park or historical site, all right, title and interest to said property shall revert to the grantor above Herbert Z. Ward, his heirs, successors or assigns.

together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereof belonging and pertaining to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, its successors and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature, except the reservation noted above, and the right of reversion, as hereinafore set out.

Signed and delivered this 3rd day of August, 1955,

Herbert Z. Ward

Jane E. Ward
State of Oklahoma, County of LeFlore, ss:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 3rd __________ day of August, 1965 ____________________________________________________________ personally appeared

Herbert Z. Ward and Jane E. Ward, husband and wife, ____________________________________________________________ to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they ____________________________________________________________ executed the same as their ________________________________

free and voluntary act and deed for uses and purposes therein set forth.

Will swear my hand and seal the day and year above written. ________________________________

(SEAL)

My Commission expires 1-10-1967

Notary Public

INDEXED

DIRECT ✓

INDIRECT ✓

NUMERICAL ✓

WARRANTY DEED

FROM

TO

79
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That LELAND D. DIAL and CRISTABEL DIAL, husband and wife, of LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma, for and in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and other good, valuable and sufficient consideration paid by the State of Oklahoma, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged have this day granted, bargained, sold and conveyed unto said State of Oklahoma, a perpetual easement across, over and under the following described lots or parcels of land,

A strip of land fifty feet wide off the north side of Lots to-wit: One and Two in LeFlore County Townsite Addition No. 10, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the Section Corner between Section 17 and Section 20, Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, thence North 89° 57' 00" East a distance of 1,320 feet to a point on the Centerline of the proposed Humestone Highway, thence on an angle of 90° 0' 00" Rt. and a distance of 50 feet to a point of permanent right-of-way, thence an angle of 90° 0' 00" Rt. and a distance of 1,250 feet westerly on bearing North 89° 57' 00" East to a point 70 feet East of North and South Section line, thence an angle of 22° 30' 00" Lt. and a distance of 76 feet to a point 16.5 feet East of North and South Section line, known as Norris Creek Road, thence North and paralleling North and South Section line a distance of 80 feet to the Center line of the proposed Humestone Highway, which is 16.5 feet East of Section corner between Sections 17 and 20, Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County, the point of beginning. These same bounds enclosing 16.5 feet of Section line right-of-way and 33.5 feet of required right-of-way, within Section 20, Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County, some required right-of-way comprising 1.0052 acres, more or less.

RECITAL:

This easement being given with the express understanding that a bridle path will be constructed along the above property and will thereafter be maintained in a manner for use by the public.

The consideration herein covers, and this easement constitutes a release of any and all kinds and character of damage or injury that may be sustained directly or indirectly by reason of the construction and maintenance of a highway and all highway/structures, bridges and drains that may now or hereafter be, in the discretion of the grantee necessary for the maintenance of a highway over, across or along the above described real estate. This easement is granted for the sole purpose of enabling the State of Oklahoma, its officers, agents, contractors and employees to go upon, construct, build and at all times maintain and keep open a public road on the property herein described.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the grantors herein named have hereunto set their hands and sealed this 14th day of January, 1965.

LELAND D. DIAL
CRISTABEL DIAL
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, SS
COUNTY OF LEFLORE

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County
and State, on this 21st day of October, 1965, personally
appeared Leland D. Dial and Cristabel Dial, husband and wife, to me known to
be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument,
and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary
act and deed for uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS my hand and seal the day and year above written.

My Commission Expires:

[Signature]

NOTARY PUBLIC

[Stamp]

[Notary Public]

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, County of LeFlore
I hereby certify that this instrument
was filed for record in my office.
AT LEFLORE

OCT 18 1965

M. E. SMITH
COUNTY CLERK

Deputy
CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

This Certificate issued under the seal of the Copyright Office in accordance with title 17, United States Code, attests that registration has been made for the work identified below. The information on this certificate has been made a part of the Copyright Office records.

REGISTER OF COPYRIGHTS
United States of America

DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

1

TITLE OF THIS WORK ▼
THE HEAVYH HEAVY ♦

PREVIOUS OR ALTERNATIVE TITLES ▼

PUBLICATION AS A CONTRIBUTION ▼
If this work was published as a contribution to a periodical, serial, or collection, give information about the collective work in which the contribution appeared. Title of Collective Work ▼

If published in a periodical or serial give: Volume ▼ Number ▼ Issue Date ▼ The Pages ▼

2

NAME OF AUTHOR ▼
Gloria Stewart Farley

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH ▼
Year Born ▼ 1916 Year Died ▼

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?

☐ Yes ☐ No

AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY OR DOMICILE

Citizen of ▼ U.S.A. ☐

DOMICILED IN ▼

WAS THIS AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK Anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pseudonym? ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTE

Brochure written as a gift to Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dev't. Div. of State Parks

NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH ▼
Year Born ▼ ☐ Year Died ▼

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?

☐ Yes ☐ No

AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY OR DOMICILE

Citizen of ▼ ☐

DOMICILED IN ▼

WAS THIS AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK Anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pseudonym? ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTE

Briefly describe nature of the material created by the author to which copyright is claimed.

NAME OF AUTHOR ▼

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH ▼
Year Born ▼ ☐ Year Died ▼

Was this contribution to the work a "work made for hire"?

☐ Yes ☐ No

AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY OR DOMICILE

Citizen of ▼ ☐

DOMICILED IN ▼

WAS THIS AUTHOR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK Anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Pseudonym? ☐ Yes ☐ No

NOTE

Briefly describe nature of the material created by the author to which copyright is claimed.

3

YEAR IN WHICH CREATION OF THIS WORK WAS COMPLETED ▼
1958

DATE AND NATION OF FIRST PUBLICATION OF THIS PARTICULAR WORK ▼

Copyright Claimant(s) Name and address must be given even if the claimant is the same as the author given in space 2 ·

COPYRIGHT CLAIMANT(s) ▼
Gloria Stewart Farley
310 West 3rd St.
Heaven, OK 74937

APPLICATION RECEIVED ☐
AUG 17 1982

DUE DATE RECEIVED ☐
SAME DATE AS ABOVE

DEPOSIT(S) RECEIVED
TWO DEPOSITS RECEIVED
OCT 17 1992

REMITTANCE NUMBER AND DATE

DO NOT WRITE HERE

MORE ON BACK ▼
Complete all applicable spaces (numbers 5-11) on the reverse side of this page. See instructions behind the space.

82
DO NOT WRITE ABOVE THIS LINE. IF YOU NEED MORE SPACE, USE A SEPARATE CONTINUATION SHEET.

PREVIOUS REGISTRATION Has registration for this work, or for an earlier version of this work, already been made in the Copyright Office?
☐ Yes ☐ No  If your answer is "Yes," why is another registration being sought? (Check appropriate box.)
☐ a. This is the first published edition of a work previously registered in unpublished form.
☐ b. This is the first application submitted by this author as copyright claimant.
☐ c. This is a changed version of the work, as shown by space 6 on this application.
If your answer is "Yes," give Previous Registration Number □

Year of Registration □

DEROGATIVE WORK OR COMPILED Complete both space 6 & 10 for a derivative work, complete only 10 for a compilation.
a. Presenting Material. Identify any presenting work or works that this work is based on or incorporates. □

Similar 5-page brochure formerly published by Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Dept.

b. Material Added to This Work. Give a brief, general statement of the material that has been added to this work and on which copyright is claimed. □

This is update, to add new translations by Dr. Richard Nielsen

—space deleted—

REPRODUCTION FOR USE OF THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED INDIVIDUALS A signature on this form at space 10, and a check in one of the boxes here in space 8, constitutes a non-exclusive grant of permission to the Library of Congress to reproduce and distribute solely for the blind and physically handicapped and under the conditions and limitations prescribed by the regulations of the Copyright Office. (1) copies of the work identified in space 1 of this application in Braille or similar tactile symbols; (2) phonorecords embodying a reading of the text of this work; or (3) both.

☐ Copies and Phonorecords
☐ Copies Only
☐ Phonorecords Only

See instructions before completing the space

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT If the registration fee is to be charged to a Deposit Account established in the Copyright Office, give name and number of Account

Name □
Account Number □

CORRESPONDENCE Give name and address to which correspondence about this application should be sent. Name Address □
Gloria Stewart Farley
310 West 3rd St.
Heaven, Oklahoma 74937
918-653-7703

Area Code & Telephone Number □

CERTIFICATION I, the undersigned, hereby certify that I am the □ author □ other copyright claimant □ owner of exclusive rights
☐ owner of exclusive rights
☐ authorized agent of
☐ Name of author or other copyright claimant or owner of exclusive rights □

Typed or printed name and date □ If this application gives a date of publication in space 3, do not sign and submit it before that date.
Gloria Stewart Farley □

Date □ August 14, 1992

MAIL CERTIFICATE TO Certificate will be mailed in window envelope

Name □
Gloria Stewart Farley
Member Union Agreement Number □
310 West 3rd St.
City-State ZIP □
Heaven, Oklahoma 74937

Fees for Sending Materials:

1. Application Fee: $20.00 (payable to Register of Copyrights)
2. Deposit Material
3. Submission of work

Mail to: Register of Copyrights
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C. 20559

For Copyright Office use only

83
PROJECT AGREEMENT

This Agreement, is made this 15th day of Oct., 2003, by and between the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, and Department, an agency of state government, hereinafter called Department, and the Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society, a non-profit organization supportive of the park, hereinafter called Organization, pursuant to the authority found in 74 O.S. 2001 §1834.

I. Purpose:
The Department manages and operates Heavener Runestone State Park, which is a site of historical interest within the State. The Organization wishes to conduct archeological work at Heavener Runestone to discover significances that can then be further promoted by the Department.

II. The Department will:

   a. Provide Organization with authorizations for archeological survey, exploration work and excavation in the cave area within Heavener Runestone State Park.

   b. Appoint an authorized representative who shall have the authority to act for the Department in matters relating to work under this Agreement. The person appointed for the purpose of this Agreement is Tom Creider with the Division of State Parks, Resorts and Golf. Mr. Creider may be reached by phone at 405-521-3412 or by mail at 15 N. Robinson, Suite 100, Oklahoma City, OK 73102.

   c. Provide Organization with information about the professional qualifications and standards that will be required of the archeologist performing the work at this property. A copy of the federal register information regarding U.S. Department of Interior archeological documentation objectives, documentation methods, reporting results, qualifications and other pertinent material is included in attachment A, which is considered a part of this agreement.

   d. Cooperate with Organization at Heavener Runestone State Park through the Manager at the park by assisting with access to the site and identification of appropriate areas for materials storage as necessary and appropriate within the park, during the archeological work.

   e. Upon finding of any artifacts or other significant materials discovered at the site, the Department shall take custody and possession of the materials and shall properly provide them to the appropriate agencies of state government for recording and preservation purposes.

84
f. The Department shall also develop and integrate data and information relative to any artifacts or other significant materials discovered into the interpretive and promotional program for Heavener Runestone State Park.

III. Organization will:

a. Provide the necessary equipment and an appropriately qualified archeologist, in conformance with the professional qualifications included in Attachment A, to accomplish the work whether through contract or other means of performance.

b. Provide a time schedule and site location information relative to the archeological work to be performed.

c. Indemnify the Department for any damage to person or property that is associated with the archeological work at this park and provide fencing, signage and other appropriate installations to insure visitor safety.

d. Handle all financial responsibilities, including but not limited to, procuring and paying for the archeological work and resultant reports, without obligation to the Department.

e. Restore any disturbed areas to their pre excavation condition within one month after completion of the archeological work.

f. Provide Department with a copy of any and all reports of findings developed as a part of this project.

g. Initiate the work within six months of the signing of this Agreement and keep Department advised of work progress.

IV. Both Parties agree that:

a. This Agreement may be terminated in whole or in part when it is determined that either party has failed to comply with any of the conditions of this Agreement. Either party shall promptly notify the other party, in writing, of the termination and the reasons for the termination, together with the effective date. Said notification will be sent to the other party at the address noted at the end of this Agreement.

b. Organization may temporarily suspend this Agreement if it determines that corrective action by the Department is needed to meet the provisions of this Agreement. Further, Organization may suspend this Agreement when it is evident that a termination is pending.
c. That both Organization and Department must agree on the professional archeologist selected to do the work on this project. Without such agreement, no survey work will be undertaken at the site. The archeologist must submit the published findings/analysis to various professional journals as noted in Attachment A.

d. Once archeological work has been initiated on this project, both parties agree to make every effort possible to avoid contract termination and to achieve completion of the project. This includes but is not limited to a commitment by both parties to enter into mediation prior to termination.

e. All reports, surveys and other work products that result from this project will be reviewed by the State Archeological Survey and the State Historic Preservation Office prior to acceptance by the Department.

f. This Agreement is effective the date it is signed by both parties and shall not extend for more than one (1) year past that date.

g. Modifications within the scope of this Agreement shall be made by the issuance of a mutually executed agreement prior to any changes being performed.

h. This Agreement is made in the State of Oklahoma and shall be interpreted in accordance with Oklahoma laws. If any part of this Agreement shall be found to be unconstitutional or in violation of state or federal law, the balance of the Agreement shall be construed to the extent the illegal clause were not contained in the Agreement.

In Witness Whereof, the parties have executed this Project Agreement as of the last date written below.

Ralph McCalmon, Interim Director
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
15 North Robinson, Suite 100
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

President
Eastern Oklahoma Historical Society

Address

7.30.03
Date

Lind M. King

Oct. 13, 2003
Date

Road
Poteau, Okla. 74953
Abstract of Title

TO THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE SITUATED IN

LEFLORE COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA

The Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section Seventeen (17), Township Five (5) North, Range Twenty-six (26) East of the Indian Base and Meridian,

AND

The Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of Section Twenty-(20), Township Five (5) North, Range Twenty-six (26) East of the Indian Base and Meridian.

COMPILED BY

POTEAU ABSTRACT COMPANY
BONDED ABSTRACTERS
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA

-1-
I, Carroll Caesar, a bonded public surveyor and a practicing civil engineer, here-by certify that on August 13, 1965 I completed my survey of a parcel of land situated in T5N and R26E described as being the NW 1/4 of section 17 and the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 20 and that this plat conforms to my survey.

I found the original stone properly marked and in place for the corner to sections 16, 17, 20 and 21. I find a previously set, unmarked stone on the NE corner of SE 1/4, SE 1/4, section 17; all other stones set by me and referenced as shown.
Date of Final Payment January 4, 1922

SEGREGATED COAL LAND PATENT No. 4406
LEFLORE COUNTY Tract No. S 1277

CHOC TAW AND CHICKASAW NATIONS
State of Oklahoma (Formerly Indian Territory.)

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, The land hereinafter described is a portion of the segregated coal and asphalt lands of the Choc Taw and Chickasaw Nations or tribes of Indians, and the surface of the same has been sold to Ocie Brewer for the sum of $600.00 in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, under the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of Congress approved February 12, 1912 (37 Stat. L. 67), and whereas said purchaser has paid the full purchase price as required by said regulations;

Now, Therefore, We, the undersigned, the Principal Chief of the Choc Taw Nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation by virtue of the power and authority vested in us by law, have granted and conveyed, and by these presents do grant and convey unto the said

Ocie Brewer

heirs, successors or assigns, all right, title and interest of the Choc Taw and Chickasaw Nations, and of all citizens of said Nations, in and to the following described land, viz:

The North East Quarter of the North West Quarter and the North Half of the North East Quarter of section Twenty (20), Township Five (5) North and Range Twenty-six (26) East.

Said North East Quarter of the North West Quarter is under lease as hereinafter indicated and the balance of the above described land is unleased.

of the Indian Base and Meridian in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, containing 120 acres, more or less as the case may be, according to the United States Survey thereof, subject to all lawful rights-of-way, and subject to the coal (or asphalt) lease of the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad Company, and also reserving, saving and excepting from this conveyance all coal and asphalt in, upon and underlying said land, and reserving to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, their grantees, lessees, assigns and successors, the right at all times to enter upon said lands for the purpose of prospecting for coal or asphalt thereon, and also the right of underground ingress and egress without compensation to the surface owner, and upon the further condition that said Nations, their grantees, lessees, assigns or successors shall have the right to acquire such portions of the surface of the above mentioned tract or tracts or rights thereto as may be reasonably necessary for the prospecting or for the conduct of mining operations or for the removal of deposits of coal and asphalt, upon paying a fair valuation for the portion of the surface so acquired, and upon the further condition that if the owner of the surface and the then owner or lessee of such mineral deposits shall be unable to agree upon a fair valuation for the surface so acquired, that such valuation shall be determined by three arbitrators; one to be appointed, in writing, a copy to be served on the other party, by the owner of the surface, and one in like manner by the owner or lessee of the mineral deposits, and the third to be chosen by the two so appointed, and in case the two arbitrators so appointed shall be unable to agree upon a third arbitrator within thirty days then, and in that event, upon the application of either interested party, the United States District Judge in the district within which said land is located shall appoint the third arbitrator; and provided further that the owner of such mineral deposits or lessee thereof shall have the right of entry upon the surface so to be acquired for mining purposes immediately after the failure of the parties to agree upon a fair valuation and the appointment as above provided of an arbitrator by the said owner or lessee; and provided further, that all the reservations, restrictions, covenants and conditions herein contained or provided for in the Act of Congress of February 19, 1912 (37 Stat. L. 67), under which the above mentioned surface was sold, shall run with the land and bind the grantees or grantees herein, their successors, representatives and assigns.

In Witness Whereof, We, the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, have hereunto set our hands and caused the Great Seal of our respective Nations to be affixed at the dates hereinafter shown.

(SEAL) Date Jan. 11, 1922
William F. Semple
Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

(SEAL) Date Jan. 19, 1922
Douglas H. Johnston
Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: Approved Jan. 21, 1922

By: Albert B. Fall Secretary.

Victor M. Locke, Jr.
Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes by Direction of the Secretary, authorized under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1911—36 Stat. 1058.

Filed for Record January 23, 1922 at 9:00 A.M. and Recorded in Book 8 Sec. page 234 in Muskogee.

ALSO FILED FOR RECORD September 20, 1926 at 11 A.M. and RECORDER IN BOOK 96, page 555, Office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma.
SEGREGATED COAL LAND PATENT No. 899
LEFLORE COUNTY Tract No. 1271 & 1290

CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW NATIONS
State of Oklahoma (Formerly Indian Territory.)

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, The land hereinafter described is a portion of the segregated coal and asphalt lands of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations or tribes of Indians, and the surface of the same has been sold to Cren J. M. Brewer for the sum of $2280.00 in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of Section 9 of the Act of Congress approved February 19, 1912 (37 Stat. L. 67), and whereas said purchaser has paid the full purchase price as required by said regulation;

Now, Therefore, We, the undersigned, the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation by virtue of the power and authority vested in us by law, have granted and conveyed, and by these presents do grant and convey unto the said Cren J. M. Brewer, his heirs, successors or assigns, all right, title and interest of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and of all citizens of said Nations, in and to the following described land, viz:

The South East Quarter of Section Seventeen (17) and the North Half of the North East Quarter and the North East Quarter of the North West Quarter of Section Twenty Nine (29) Township Five (5) North and Range Twenty six (26) East,

of the Indian Base and Meridian in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, containing 230 acres, more or less as the case may be, according to the United States Survey thereof, subject to all lawful rights-of-way,

and also reserving, saving and excepting from this conveyance all coal and asphalt in, upon and underlying said land, and reserving to the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, their grantees, lessees, assigns and successors, the right at all time to enter upon said lands for the purpose of prospecting for coal or asphalt therein, and also the right of underground ingress and egress without compensation to the surface owner, and upon the further condition that said Nations, their grantees, lessees, assigns or successors shall have the right to acquire such portions of the surface of the above mentioned tract or tracts or rights thereto as may be reasonably necessary for the prospecting or for the conduct of mining operations or for the removal of deposits of coal and asphalt, upon paying a fair valuation for the portion of the surface so acquired, and upon the further condition that if the owner of the surface and the then owner or lessee of such mineral deposits shall be unable to agree upon a fair valuation for the surface so acquired, that such valuation shall be determined by three arbitrators; one to be appointed, in writing, a copy to be served on the other party, by the owner of the surface, and one in like manner by the owner or lessee of the mineral deposits, and the third to be chosen by the two so appointed, and in case the two arbitrators so appointed shall be unable to agree upon a third arbitrator within thirty days then, and in that event, upon the application of either interested party, the United States District Judge in the district within which said land is located shall appoint the third arbitrator; and provided further that the owner of such mineral deposits or lessee thereof shall have the right of entry upon the surface so to be acquired for mining purposes immediately after the failure of the parties to agree upon a fair valuation and the appointment of the arbitrators therefor, and that in case of disagreement of the arbitrators the surface shall be valued at the assessed or actual value as the case may be, and provided further, that all the reservations, restrictions, covenants and conditions herein contained or provided for in the Act of Congress of February 19, 1912, (37 Stat. L. 67), under which the above mentioned surface was sold, shall run with the land and bind the grantee or grantees herein, their successors, representatives and assigns.

In Witness Whereof, We, the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation and the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, have hereunto set our hands and caused the Great Seal of our respective Nations to be affixed at the dates hereinafter shown.

William F. Semple
Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Douglas H. Johnston
Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

(SEAL) Date Feb. 23, 1917
(SEAL) Date Feb. 28, 1917

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR: Approved March 5, 1917

Franklin K. Lane
Secretary.

By Gobe E. Parker
Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes by Direction of the Secretary, authorized under the provisions of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1911—36 Stat. 1038.

Filed for Record March 9, 1917 at 9:00 A.M. and Recorded in Book 2 Seg, page 256 in Muskogee.

ALSO FILED FOR RECORD May 26th, 1919 at 8:00 A.M. and RECORDED in Book 69, page 561 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma.
O. J. M. Brewer and Ccie Brewer, husband and wife

Instrument: Mortgage
Dated: March 2, 1917
Filed: March 5, 1917 at 9:20 A.M.
Recorded in Book 26, page 447
Office of the County Clerk
LeFlore County, Oklahoma

CONSIDERATION: $5,000.00

GRANTING CLAUSE: Hereby mortgage...the following described real estate situated in LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION: The West half (W1/2) of Section Seventeen (17) and the Southeast (SE1/4) of Section Seventeen (17) and the Northeast quarter (NE1/4) of Section 29 and the East Half of the Northwest quarter of Section 29, all in Township five north and Range Twenty six East of the Indian Base and Meridian containing 720 acres more or less.

COVENANT: Warrant the title to the same

RECITAL: This mortgage is given to secure the payment...of one promissory note of even date herewith...described as follows, to-wit: One note for Five Thousand and no/100 Dollars due five years from date, interest thereon at the rate of seven per cent per annum payable annually from date....

MORTGAGE TAX: Paid $5.00

SIGNED: O. J. M. Brewer
Ccie Brewer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OMITTED HEREFROM BY ABSTRACTER
O. J. M. Brewer and Océe Brewer, his wife

-to-

David Ward, Guardian of
H.Z. Ward, a minor

CONSIDERATION:

$5000.00

GRANTING CLAUSE:

Hersby mortgage...the following described real estate and premises situate in ___ County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION:

West Half of Section 17 and the Southeast Quarter of Section 17 and the Northeast Quarter of Section 29 and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 29 Township 5 North Range 26 East

COVENANT:

Warrant the title to the same

RECITAL:

This mortgage is given to secure the principal sum of five thousand and no/100 dollars with interest thereon at the rate of 8 per cent per annum payable annually from May 1st, 1922 according to the terms of one certain promissory note described as follows, to-wit: Loan #120 Serial #378 amt. of note $5000.00 executed ...of even date herewith due and payable as follows, $5000.00 on May first, 1927.

MORTGAGE TAX:

Paid $5.00

SIGNED:

O. J. M. BREWER

Océe BREWER

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:

Before me, W. L. Lile, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 12 day of May 1922 personally appeared O.J.M. Brewer and Océe Brewer his wife to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing Instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and year above set forth.

(SEAL)

My commission expires March 10, 1923

W. L. Lile

Notary Public
Interstate Coal Company of Muskogee, Oklahoma

- to -

Equitable Powder Mfg. Company
(no address shown)

CONSIDERATION:

$5,672.04 ---- $2,612.34

GRANTING CLAUSE:

Hereby mortgage.....the following described property owned by it and situated in LeFlore County, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION:

All of Segregated Coal Leases Numbers Twenty-six (26), Twenty-seven (27) and Twenty-eight (28) covering the lands therein described, being situated in Sections 1, 2, 11 and 12, Township 5 North, Range 25 East, and Sections 6, 7, 17, 18, 19 and 20 in Township 5 North, Range 26 East.

RECITAL:

These presents are upon the express condition that whereas...is indebted...in the sum of $5,672.04 represented by its note...for said amount...executed on September 1, 1922, with interest thereon from the date of said note at the rate of 7 per cent per annum, ...and also in the further sum of $2,612.34 represented by its note...executed on February 27, 1923, with interest from the date thereof at 6 per cent per annum...and does by these presents obligate itself to pay upon said indebtedness the sum of $1,000.00 each thirty days hereafter...and to pay the whole indebtedness...within six months from the date hereof....

MORTGAGE TAX:

Paid $1.66

SIGNED:

(CORPORATE SEAL)

INTERSTATE COAL COMPANY

Attest: H.C. Croft, Jr.

Secretary

BY R. T. Price

President

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OMITTED HEREFROM BY ABSTRACTER

POTEKAU ABSTRACT CO.
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
O.J.M. Brewer and Ocie Brewer, husband and wife

                              -to-

David Ward, Guardian of H.2. Ward, a minor

CONSIDERATION:

GRANTING CLAUSE:

DESCRIPTION:

SE 3 of SW 5 of Section 20; NE 5 of NE 5; NE 5 of NW 5; in Township 5 North, Range 26 East.

COVENANT:

RECITAL:

This mortgage is given to secure the payment of the principal sum of...one promissory note of even date herewith...described as follows, to-wit:
One note for Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty-two and 14/100 Dollars, due January 1, 1932 bearing interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from date payable annually...

MORTGAGE TAX:

SIGNED:

Paid $14.30

C. J. M. Brewer
Ocie Brewer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OMITTED HEREFROM BY ABSTRACTER
HERBERT Z. WARD........................TO.................C.J.M. BREWER ET UX

RELEASE OF MORTGAGE

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: WHEREAS, on the 1st day of January, 1927, a certain mortgage was executed by C.J.M. Brewer and Ocie Brewer, mortgagors, to David Ward, Guardian of Herbert Z. Ward, Mortgagor, for the sum of Fourteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty Two and 14/100 Dollars, upon the following described real estate, viz:

(First lands not under examination herein, omitted herefrom)
All of Section 17, NE NE; NE NW; SE and E SW of Section 20;
NE and E of NW of Section 29, all in Township 5 North, Range 26 East, LeFlore County, Oklahoma

which said mortgage is recorded in Vol. 157 of Mortgages on page 104 of the records of LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma.

Whereas, the note secured by said mortgage has been paid in full.

Now, Therefore, Herbert Z. Ward, now of legal age, the above named mortgagor, does hereby remise, release and forever quit claim all his right, title and interest in and to the above mentioned property which he may have acquired by virtue of said above named mortgage to C.J.M. Brewer and Ocie Brewer, the said mortgagors, their heirs or assigns, forever.

Witness my hand this 17th day of February, 1934.

Herbert Z. Ward

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:

Before me, C.S. Hampton, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this 17th day of February, 1934, personally appeared Herbert Z. Ward and to me known to be the identical person who executed the within foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he had executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the day and year last above mentioned.

(SEAL)
My comm. exp. 10/22/35

C. S. Hampton
Notary Public

FILED FOR RECORD February 23, 1934 at 10:00 A.M.
RECORDED IN BOOK 189 at page 536 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma
O.J.M. BREWER ET UX........................................TO........................HERBERT Z. WARD

WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That O.J.M. Brewer and Ocie Brewer, husband and wife, parties of the first part, of Heavener, LeFlore County, Oklahoma, in consideration of the sum of One Dollar and cancellation of mortgage in original amount of $11,282.14 DOLLARS ($11,282.14) in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto Herbert Z. Ward, party of the second part, of Heavener, LeFlore County, Oklahoma, the following described real property and premises, situate in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

(First lands not under examination herein, omitted herefrom)
All of Section Seventeen (17) less the NE¼ of NE¼; N½ of NE¼; NE¼ of NW¼; SE¼ and E¼ of SW¼ of Section Twenty (20); NE¼ and E¼ of NW¼ of Section Twenty nine (29) all in Township Five (5) North and Range Twenty six (26) East, containing Fourteen Hundred and Sixty (1460) acres more or less as the case may be according to the U.S. Government survey thereof.

together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature, except the original mortgage of $11,282.14 given to the Grantee named herein by the Grantors and all due and unpaid taxes.

Signed and delivered this 17th day of February, 1934.

O.J.M. Brewer
Ocie Brewer

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OMITTED HEREFROM BY ABSTRACTER

FILED FOR RECORD February 23, 1934 at 10:00 A.M.
RECORDED IN BOOK 190 AT PAGE 71 IN THE OFFICE
OF THE COUNTY CLERK, LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

POTEAU ABSTRACT CO.
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
Chocktaw and Chickasaw Nations

Instrument: Deed of Release No. 8
Dated: November 29, 1950
Filed: June 11, 1951 at 8 A.M.
Recorded in Book 306 Page 319
Office of the County Clerk
LeFlore County, Oklahoma.

SYNOPSIS:

Under a contract authorized by Act of Congress and approved by a vote of the majority of the living enrolled eligible voters of the Chocktaw and Chickasaw Nations, the Chocktaw and Chickasaw Nations agreed to sell certain property to the United States for a consideration of $8,500,000.00

GRANTING CLAUSE: "We hereby grant and convey to the United States of America, all right, title and interest of the Chocktaw and Chickasaw Nations, and of all the citizens thereof, in and to the following described lands and mineral deposits, the same being a portion of the lands and mineral deposits reserved from allotment under the supplemental agreement of 1902, and being situated in the County of LeFlore, State of Oklahoma, Indian Base and Meridian viz:

(Symbols: F.S.A. following acreage denote fee simple absolute; c & a denote coal and asphalt
l. w/o c. & a denote Lands without coal and asphalt.)

T. 5 N., R. 26 E.
Sec. 17: All 640.00 ac. c. & a.
Sec. 20: E 1/2, E 1/2 SW 1/4, NW 1/4 560.00 ac. c. & a.

(With other lands not under examination herein, omitted herefrom)

SIGNED: Harry J. W. Belvin, Principal Chief of the Chocktaw Nation
Floyd E. Maytubby, Governor of Chickasaw Nation

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE, SS
Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 29th day of November, 1950, personally appeared Harry J. W. Belvin, Principal Chief of the Chocktaw Nation, and Floyd E. Maytubby, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, the day and year in this certificate first above written.

(SEAL)
Clinton O. Talley, Notary Public
STATE OF OKLAHOMA  
COUNTY OF LEFLORE  

IN THE DISTRICT COURT.

Goldia Floyd Ward,  

PLAINTIFF,  

-Vs-  

Herbert Z. Ward,  

DEFENDANT.  

No. D-1237

--- J O U R N A L  E N T R Y ---

On this 9th day of April, 1954, the same being a regular judicial day of the January 1954 Term of this Court, the above styled and numbered action came regularly on for trial pursuant to assignment. The parties appeared in person and by their respective counsel and announced ready for trial.

The cause is submitted to the court upon the pleadings of the parties, the evidence adduced and the admissions and statements of the parties made in open court and the court having considered the same and the argument of counsel finds:

That plaintiff and defendant were married as in the petition alleged and have resided in LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma, for more than one year next preceding the filing of the petition herein as in the petition alleged.

The court further finds that all the material allegations of the
petition of the plaintiff are true, sustained by the evidence introduced in support thereof; that the defendant has been guilty of extreme cruelty toward the plaintiff by reason of which she is entitled to an absolute decree of divorce from the defendant, to be restored to her maiden name of Goldia Floyd, to have a division of the property and property settlement as hereinafter set forth.

The court having considered the accumulation of income, assets and acquisition of property and the management and operation of the business affairs of the parties subsequent to their marriage finds that the plaintiff is entitled to an equitable and just division of property being of the cash value of $13,000.00 which should be awarded to the plaintiff and paid to her by the defendant as a just and equitable property division and settlement.

The court finds that the defendant should retain as his separate property all other property, both personal and real, of which he is the owner.

IT IS, THEREFORE, BY THE COURT, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the plaintiff, Goldia Floyd Ward, be, and she is hereby granted an absolute decree of divorce from the defendant, Herbert Z. Ward; that the marriage relation heretofore existing between the parties hereto be, and it is hereby dissolved, vacated, set aside and both parties released from the same.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT that the defendant pay to the plaintiff as a just, fair and reasonable property division and settlement the sum of $13,000.00 in cash, which is accordingly done, in open court; said award and judgment is therefore
ordered satisfied by the court and the clerk is hereby directed to make all necessary entries on his record to show the payment and satisfaction of said judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the defendant retain as his own separate property any and all other property, both real and personal, of which he is the owner and the plaintiff is hereby forever barred and perpetually enjoined from claiming or asserting any right, title or interest therein or thereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED BY THE COURT that the plaintiff be, and she is hereby restored to her maiden name of Goldia Floyd.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this decree do not become absolute and take effect until six months from the date hereof.

[Signature]
DISTRICT JUDGE

Filed in LeFlore County
Poteau, Oklahoma
Apr 12, 1954
Edd Farrar, Court Clerk
By J. H. Gober, Deputy
Ent. DCJ Bk. 24, Page 218

POTEAU ABSTRACT CO.
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
Herbert Z. Ward of
Heavener, Oklahoma

-to-

Don Pierce of
Peabody, Kansas

CONSIDERATION:

Rents, covenants and agreements...

GRANTING CLAUSE:

Rent, lease and let...the following
described real estate situated in LeFlore
County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION:

Section 17, Township 5 North, Range 26
East, less the Northeast Quarter of the
Northeast Quarter and the East Half and the East Half of the West Half
of Section 20, all in Township 5 North, Range 26 East (With other lands)

TERM:

Five years, commencing the first day of
January, 1954 and ending December 31, 1958

RENTAL:

$85 an acre...with option to renew lessee
at end of term.

SIGNED:

Herbert Z. Ward
Party of the First Part

Don Pierce
Party of the Second Part

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE S:\nBefore me, C.R. Gatewood, a Notary Public in and for said State on this
16th day of April, 1954, personally appeared Herbert Z. Ward, and Don Pierce
to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing
instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free
and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the
day and year last above written.

(SEAL)

My commission expires 11-15-1957

C. R. Gatewood
Notary Public
Herbert Z. Ward, a
single man

--to--

W.C. McBride, Inc.
(no address shown)

CONSIDERATION:

Ten and more Dollars

GRANTING CLAUSE:

Grants, leases and lets...for the purpose
of mining and operating for and producing
oil and gas...the following described tract of land in LeFlore County,
Oklahoma, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION:

Lots 2 & 3 and the W\(\frac{1}{4}\) SE\(\frac{1}{4}\) NW\(\frac{1}{4}\), except
the Railroad right of way of Section 7,
and the W\(\frac{1}{4}\) and the SE\(\frac{1}{4}\) and the W\(\frac{1}{4}\) NE\(\frac{1}{4}\) and the SE\(\frac{1}{4}\) NE\(\frac{1}{4}\) of Section
Seventeen (17) in Sections 7 & 17, Township 5 North, Range 26 East and
containing 695 acres more or less.

TERM:

Ten years and as long thereafter...

ROYALTY:

One-eighth part of all oil and/or gas
produced and saved from said premises...
Pooling option granted lessee...

DELAY RENTAL:

$695.00

COVENANT:

Warrant and defend the title

REVENUE:

$1.10

SIGNED:

Herbert Z. Ward

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:
Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, within and for said County
and State, on this 15th day of March, 1957, personally appeared Herbert Z.
Ward, a single man, to me personally known to be the identical person who
executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he
executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and
purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal the
day and year last above written.

(SEAL)
My commission expires March 1, 1961

Monroe Burton
Notary Public

POTEAU ABSTRACT CO.
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
Herbert Z. Ward, a
single man

-to-

C. B. Branan of
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

CONSIDERATION:

Grant, demise, lease and let... for the sole and only purpose of exploring by geophysical and other methods, mining and operating for oil and gas and laying pipe lines... all that certain tract of land situate in the County of LeFlore, State of Oklahoma, described as follows, to-wit:

DESCRIPTION:
The East Half (E/2) AND the East Half of the West Half (E/2 W/2) of Section 20,

Township 5 North, Range 26 East and containing 480 acres, more or less.

TERM:
Ten years from date and as long thereafter.

ROYALTY:
One-eighth part of all oil and oil or gas produced and saved from said premises... Pooling option granted lessee...

DELAY RENTAL:
Four Hundred Eighty and 0/100 DOLLARS

COVENANT:
Warrants and agrees to defend the title

$IGNED:
Herbert Z. Ward (SEAL)

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:
Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 23rd day of July, 1958, personally appeared Herbert Z. Ward, a single man, to me personally known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my official signature and affixed my official seal the day and year first above written.

(SEAL)
Claude Arnold
My commission expires Sept. 18, 1960
Notary Public
ASSIGNMENT OF OIL AND GAS LEASES

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That the undersigned, C. B. BRANAN, for and in consideration of the sum of $1.00 and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, does hereby sell, assign, transfer and convey unto REPUBLIC NATURAL GAS COMPANY, a corporation, all interest in and to certain oil and gas leases described and identified in Exhibit A, attached hereto and made a part hereof, said leases, and each of them, covering lands therein described located in LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma.

Assignor reserves unto himself and unto Claude Arnold, and their respective heirs, successors and assigns, an overriding royalty interest of 1/32nd of 7/8ths of the oil, gas and other minerals produced, saved and sold from the premises described in said leases, such overriding royalty interest to be free and clear of any and all costs of development and operation, save and except gross production taxes and like taxes chargeable thereto. In the event the oil and gas leases hereby assigned cover less than the entire mineral interest under any of the lands therein described, the overriding royalty interest hereby reserved shall, as to such lands, be payable only out of that proportion of 1/32nd of 7/8ths of the oil, gas and other minerals produced, saved and sold therefrom which the mineral interest covered by such lease or leases bears to the entire mineral interest under such lands.

It is expressly understood and agreed that if the lands covered by any of the leases hereby assigned, or any portion of such lands, are pooled, unitized or communized with other lands, not covered by such leases, then the overriding royalty interest hereinabove reserved shall by payable only out of that proportion of 1/32nd of 7/8ths of the oil, gas and other minerals produced, saved and sold from the pooled, unitized or communized premises which the mineral interest covered by any lease or leases hereby assigned bears to the entire mineral interest under such pooled, unitized or communized premises.

It is further expressly understood and agreed that the overriding royalty interest hereinabove reserved is reserved as to one-half thereof, or 1/64th of 7/8ths, unto assignor, his heirs, successors and assigns and as to the other one-half thereof, or 1/64th of 7/8ths, unto and for the benefit of Claude Arnold, his heirs, successors and assigns.

Assignor hereby warrants the title to the leasehold estates hereby assigned.

Executed this 24th day of October, 1958.

Revenue §3.30

STATE OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA SS.

Before me, the undersigned Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 24th day of October, 1958, personally appeared C. B. BRANAN, to me well known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

(Seal)

Mary L. Sebring, Notary Public

(see next page)
EXHIBITA

Attached to assignment of oil and gas leases from C.B. Branan to Republic Natural Gas Company, dated October 24th, 1959, and identifying leases thereby assigned.

19. Lease dated July 23, 1958, from Herbat Z. Ward, a single man, lessor, to C. B. Branan, lessee, recorded in Book 355, page 331 and covering

E/2 and E/2 W/2 of Section 20-5N-26E.

(With other leasehold interest not under examination herein)

FILED FOR RECORD November 12, 1958 at 1:00 P.M.
RECORDED IN BOOK 356 at page 312 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma

POTEAU ABSTRACT CO.
POTEAU, OKLAHOMA
STIPULATION AND DECLARATION OF INTEREST

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: WHEREAS, heretofore on the 26th day of October, 1963, the undersigned, C. B. Branan, executed and delivered to Republic Natural Gas Company, a corporation, a certain Assignment of Oil and Gas Leases whereby he did sell, assign, transfer and convey unto said Republic Natural Gas Company, a corporation, all interest in and to certain oil and gas leases described and identified in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof, said leases, and each of them, covering lands therein described located in LeFlore County, State of Oklahoma;

AND WHEREAS, said C. B. Branan, by said Assignment of Oil and Gas Leases, reserved unto himself and unto Claude Arnold and their respective heirs, successors and assigns, an overriding royalty interest of 1/32 of 7/8 of all oil, gas and other minerals produced, saved and sold from the premises described in said leases;

AND WHEREAS, said Assignment of Oil and Gas Leases contains no words of conveyance unto Claude Arnold from the said C. B. Branan;

AND WHEREAS, some doubt might exist as to the exact interest which was reserved unto said C. B. Branan and conveyed unto Claude Arnold by virtue of said Assignment of Oil and Gas Leases;

AND WHEREAS, some doubt might exist as to the exact interest now claimed by each of the undersigned;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of One Dollar and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the undersigned do hereby stipulate and declare that the above mentioned overriding royalty interest of 1/32 of 7/8 of all oil, gas and other minerals produced, saved and sold from the premises described in said leases, which said leases are identified in Exhibit "A", attached hereto as before stated, is owned by the undersigned in the amount set out as follows:

OWNER
C. B. Branan
Claude Arnold

OVERDING ROYALTY INTEREST
1/64th of 7/8ths
1/64th of 7/8ths

And to affect the purpose of this stipulation and declaration, each of the undersigned does hereby grant, bargain, sell, quit claim and convey unto the other in the proportions necessary to make the ownership of the above mentioned overriding royalty interest comply with the above stipulation, any interest he may own in said leases, said leases being more particularly described in Exhibit "A", attached hereto, inconsistent with that next above set out.

The provisions hereof shall be binding upon the undersigned, their respective heirs, legatees, devisees, executors, administrators, personal (see next page)
representatives and assigns.

EXECUTED AND DELIVERED this 13th day of December, 1960.

C. B. Branan
Claude Arnold

STATE OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA SS

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 13th day of December, 1960, personally appeared C. B. Branan, to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL) Gene F. Turney, Notary Public

STATE OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA SS

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this 13th day of December, 1960, personally appeared Claude Arnold, to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL) Gene F. Turney, Notary Public

EXHIBIT "A"

Attached to Stipulation and Declaration of Interest dated December 13, 1960 and identifying leases therein mentioned.

\*

19. Lease dated July 23, 1958, from Herbert Z. Ward, a single man, lessor, to C. E. Branan, lessee, recorded in Book 355, page 331 and covering E/2 and E/2 W/2 of Section 20, 5N., 26E.

(With other leasehold interests not under examination herein)

FILED FOR RECORD December 23, 1960 at 10:00 A.M.
RECORDED IN BOOK 376 at page 165 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma
CONVEYANCE, ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER

THIS CONVEYANCE, ASSIGNMENT AND TRANSFER, dated this 28th day of December, 1961, from REPUBLIC NATURAL GAS COMPANY, a Delaware corporation (hereinafter called "Grantor"), to SOCONY MOBIL OIL COMPANY, INC., a New York corporation (hereinafter called "Grantee"), WITNESSETH:

That the Grantor, for a valuable consideration to it in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby GRANT, CONVEY, BARGAIN, SELL, TRANSFER, ASSIGN, SET OVER, AND DELIVER to Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc., its successors and assigns, subject to the exceptions hereinafter set out, all of the assets, properties and rights of Grantor situated in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, including, but not by way of limitation, the following:

A. All oil and gas leases, oil, gas and mineral leases, and leasehold, fee, mineral, royalty, and overriding royalty interests and other interests which are specifically described in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and hereby made a part hereof (hereinafter called "Exhibit A"); subject however, to the restrictions, exceptions, reservations, conditions, limitations, interests and other matters, if any, set forth in the specific descriptions of said properties and interests in Exhibit "A" (including all presently existing and valid royalties, overriding royalties, payments out of production, oil and gas sales, purchase, exchange and processing contracts and agreements, and all other contracts, agreements and other instruments and matters, referred to in Exhibit "A");

B. All of Grantor's right, title and interest in, to and under, or derived from, all presently existing and valid unitization and pooling agreements and units created thereby (including all units formed under orders, regulations, rules or other official acts of any Federal, State or other governmental agency having jurisdiction), which are described in Exhibit "A" or which relate to any of the properties and interests specifically described in Exhibit "A";

C. All of Grantor's right, title and interest in, to and under, or derived from, all presently existing and valid oil and gas sales, purchase, exchange and processing contracts and agreements, and all other contracts, agreements and instruments, which are described in Exhibit "A" or which relate to any of the properties and interests specifically described in Exhibit "A";

D. Without limiting the foregoing, all of Grantor's right, title and interest (whether now owned or hereafter acquired by operation of law or otherwise) in and to the lands specifically described in Exhibit "A", even though Grantor's interests in said lands be incorrectly described in, or a description of such interests be omitted from, Exhibit "A"; and all of Grantor's right, title and interest (whether now owned or hereafter acquired by operation of law or otherwise) in, to and under, or derived from, all oil and gas leases, oil, gas and mineral leases, and

(See next page)
leasehold, fee, mineral, royalty and overriding royalty interests, and all other interests of whatsoever character, insofar as the same cover or relate to said lands, even though said oil and gas leases, oil, gas and mineral leases and said leasehold, fee, mineral, royalty and overriding royalty interests, and other interests, be incorrectly described in, or a description thereof be omitted from, Exhibit "A";

E. All of Grantor’s right, title and interest in and to all personal property, improvements, easements, permits, licenses, servitudes and rights of way situated upon or used or useful or held for future use in connection with the exploration, development or operation of the lands or interests bargained, sold, assigned, transferred, set over and delivered by this Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer, or the production, treating, storing or transportation of oil, gas, other hydrocarbons or other minerals, including, but not by way of limitation, wells, tanks, boilers, buildings, fixtures, machinery and other equipment, pipe lines, power lines, telephone and telegraph lines, roads and other appurtenances situated upon or used or useful or held for future use in connection with the exploration, development or operation of the lands or interests conveyed, assigned and transferred by this Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer, or the production, treating, storing or transportation of oil, gas, other hydrocarbons or other minerals, including, but not by way of limitation, all rights of way, easements, licenses and other interests described in Exhibit "A" hereto.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the properties, assets and rights hereby conveyed, assigned or transferred unto Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc., its successors and assigns forever.

This Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer is made without recourse against Grantor or warranty of title by the Grantor, express or implied not even for the return of the purchase price of any part thereof, but with full substitution and subrogation of Socony Mobil Oil Company, Inc., in and to all covenants and warranties by others heretofore given or made in respect to assets, properties and rights herein conveyed, assigned or transferred to it.

This Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer may be executed in any number of counterparts and each of such counterparts shall for all purposes be deemed to be an original, and all such counterparts, shall together constitute but one and the same Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Republic Natural Gas Company has caused this Conveyance, Assignment and Transfer to be duly executed in multiple original by its officers hereunto duly authorized as of the day hereinabove first mentioned.

ATTEST:
L. A. Finley,
Assistant Secretary

REPUBLIC NATURAL GAS COMPANY
By R. W. Scott, Vice President

(See next page)
THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF DALLAS  

BEFORE me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said State, on this 28th day of December, 1961, personally appeared R. W. Scott, to me known to be the identical person who subscribed the name of Republic Natural Gas Company thereof to the foregoing instrument as its Vice President, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, and as the free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.  

Given under my hand and seal the day and year last above written.  

(SEAL)  

Elizabeth A. Hudson  
Notary Public, Dallas County  
Texas  

My commission expires  
June 1, 1963  

EXHIBIT "A"  

A Schedule of Oil and Gas leases, oil, gas and mineral leases and leaseholds together with the instruments and agreements affecting the same or relating thereto.  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RNG NO.</th>
<th>LESSOR &amp; DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DATED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7614</td>
<td>Herbert Z. Ward, a single man E/2; E/2 W/2 Section 20-5N-26E</td>
<td>7-23-53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RECORDED  

Book    Page  
355     331  

RNG'S INTEREST  

100%  

(With other leasehold interests not under examination herein)  

FILED FOR RECORD January 8th, 1962 at 8:00 A.M.  
RECORDED IN BOOK 396 at page 3 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma
H. Z. Ward and Jane Williamson
Ward, husband and wife

- to -

Transwestern Video, Inc., an
Oklahoma Corporation

CONSIDERATION: One Dollar and other good, valuable and
sufficient considerations....

GRANTING CLAUSE: Lease, let, grant and demise...an easement
and right of way for the purpose of
running a television cable along and over a strip of land located in
Section 20, Township 5 North and Range 26 East in LeFlore County,
Oklahoma, more particularly described, as follows:

DESCRIPTION: Beginning at the top of the bluff of
Poteau Mountain, thence in a Westerly
direction down said Mountain to the North end of a pond located at the
base of such Mountain; thence in a Southwesterly direction to what is
called the "old Lindsey place" where there is located CG&E poles and
lines, thence along the route of said CG&E poles and lines in a
Westerly direction into the town of Heavener, Oklahoma. The lessors
also grant to the lessee the right to maintain a tower or towers and
other structures related thereto along the strip of land described
above, for the operation of a television cable serving the town of
Heavener, Oklahoma.

TERM: The term of this lease will be for so
long as the cable television system is
operated in the town of Heavener

RENTAL: Ten Dollars per month and two connections
or hookups at the home of lessor and
one connection to mother of lessor, so long as they reside in Heavener,
free of any charge whatsoever.

SIGNED: H. Z. Ward
Jane Williamson Ward

(SEAL)
ATTEST: R. L. Thompson
Secretary

LESSORS

TRANSWESTERN VIDIO, INC., an Oklahoma
Corporation

BY Joe D. Davis, President

(see next page)
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 9th day of July, 1964, personally appeared H.Z. Ward and Jane Williamson Ward, husband and wife, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year above written.

(SEAL)
My commission expires 1/22/66

Violet Ruth Anderson
Notary Public

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 9th day of July, 1964, personally appeared Joe D. Davis to me known to be the identical person who subscribed the name of the maker thereof to the foregoing instrument as its President and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, and as the free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and official seal the day and year last above written.

(SEAL)
My commission expires 4-20-68

Janice Plummer
Notary Public

FILED FOR RECORD September 1, 1964 at 11:00 A.M.
RECORDED IN BOOK 432 at page 559 in the office of the County Clerk, LeFlore County, Oklahoma
WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, That Herbert Z. Ward and Jane E. Ward, his wife,

parties of the first part, of LeFlore County, Oklahoma, in consideration of the sum of Ten ($10.00) DOLLARS and other good, valuable and sufficient considerations,

in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, do hereby grant,

The State of Oklahoma for the use, control and management of the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, part of the second part, of the State of Oklahoma, the following described real property and premises, situate in LeFlore County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 17, AND
Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section 20, ALL IN TOWNSHIP 5 NORTH AND RANGE 26 EAST IN LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, less and except and reserving unto the grantors herein, all of the oil, gas, lead, zinc, coal, asphalt and all other minerals of whatsoever kind, character, and nature,

RECITAL: The grantee above, the State of Oklahoma for the use, control and management of the Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, to have and to hold the above and foregoing properties for so long as the same shall be used and maintained as a public park or historical site, and should said grantee or its successors or assigns abandon said properties or fail to maintain them as a public park or historical site, all right, title and interest to said property shall revert to the grantor above Herbert Z. Ward, his heirs, successors or assigns,

Together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party or parties of the second part, his heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and encumbrances of whatsoever nature, except the reservation noted above, and the right of reversion, as hereinafore set out.

Signed and delivered this 3rd day of August, 1965.

Herbert Z. Ward

Jane E. Ward

(see next page)
State of Oklahoma, County of LeFlore, ss:

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this 3rd day of August, 1965, personally appeared
Herbert Z. Ward and Jane F. Ward, husband and wife,

who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as their free and voluntary act and deed for uses and purposes therein set forth.

Witness my hand and seal the day and year above written.

(SEAL)

My Commission expires ____________________________

FILED FOR RECORD August 31, 1965 at 4 PM
RECORDED IN BOOK 416 PAGE 659 IN THE OFFICE
OF THE COUNTY CLERK, LEFLORE COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA LAND TITLE ASSOCIATION UNIFORM CERTIFICATE

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF LEFLORE SS

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

1. There is shown herein a true and correct abstract of all instruments filed for record or recorded in the office of the County Clerk of said County during the period covered by this certificate (except instruments filed only under the Uniform Commercial Code), affecting the title to the following described real estate in said County and State:

   Land described in the caption hereof.

2. The Acknowledgments of all such instruments filed or recorded for a period of less than ten years are statutory except as is otherwise shown in this abstract.

   There are no unacknowledged notices of Federal Tax Lien filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parcels of real estate described in paragraph 2 above, except as shown in this abstract.

3. The records of the Office of the County Treasurer of said County disclose:

   This certificate does not cover tax on intangible property.
   This certificate does not cover inheritance tax.

   There are no unpaid Special Assessments certified to the office of the County Treasurer due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof
   unredeemed nor tax deed given thereon, except as shown in this abstract.

   The undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully bonded abstracter, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Land Title
   Association, and of the American Land Title Association, whose bond is in force at the date of this certificate. The undersigned has
   a complete set of indices to the records of said county, compiled from the records and not copied from the indices in the office of
   the County Clerk, and the searches covered by this certificate reflect the records of said County and are not restricted to the indices
   in the office of the County Clerk.

   This certificate covers sheet No. 1 to 4, both inclusive, and covers the period from
   Inception to September 1, 1985, at 7 A.M.

   POTEN'S ABSTRACT COMPANY, a Corporation
   By
   Abstracter.

   (This certificate void if the foregoing abstract reproduced in whole or in part without express authority of Poten's Abstract Company)