Gloss Mountains State Park Resource Management Plan 2013

Major County, Oklahoma

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Acknowlegdements

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Assistance was also provided by Deby Snodgrass, 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.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADAAG .................................................... Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines
CCC .......................................................... Civilian Conservation Corps
CDC .......................................................... Centers for Disease Control
CLEET ................................................... Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training
CPSC ...................................................... Consumer Product Safety Commission
GIS .......................................................... Geographic Information Systems
GPS .......................................................... Global Positioning System
EPA .......................................................... Environmental Protection Agency
mcf ................................................................ million cubic feet
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
T ............................................................... Township
USACE .................................................... United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS ................................................... United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS ....................................................... United States Geological Survey
WBDO ..................................................... Waterborne Disease Outbreak
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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, Gloss Mountains State Park. As a guiding plan, the RMP seeks to propose long-term policies that limit 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 is to provide background information, identify the policies and goals governing the management of Gloss Mountains 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 Gloss Mountains State Park. With regard to Gloss Mountains 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 Gloss Mountains 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, comments 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 Gloss Mountains 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.

Representatives from OSU compiled and analyzed the data using several public involvement methods to gain insight into the concerns of the public and governmental agencies potentially affected by provisions of the Gloss Mountains State Park RMP. 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 has been renewed annually since 2006. The current agreement specified Gloss Mountains State Park during 2012 – 2013, 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, 2012 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 Gloss Mountains State Park in June 2013.

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 – The Gloss Mountains
Photo credit: Lisha Newman
Figure 1.2 – Gloss Mountain landscape

Photo credit Lisha Newman
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About Gloss Mountains State 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 Gloss Mountains 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 in 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 Gloss Mountains State Park did not exist. As a result, it was necessary that one be developed. Research staff from OSU worked with OTRD staff and Fairview citizens, representing Gloss Mountains State Park and the broader agency, to develop a draft purpose statement. During that process staff created the following statement.

The purpose of Gloss Mountains State Park is to provide for the protection, public enjoyment, and increased understanding of the natural, scenic, historical, geological, and ecological values and resources within the park property and extending to the surrounding region. The Gloss Mountains and their geology...
define the principal attraction for park visitors and must be conserved and managed for the enjoyment of the visiting public.

Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel and Fairview citizens, in cooperation with the research staff, developed a statement of significance for Gloss Mountains State Park. That statement follows:

Gloss Mountains State Park is significant because it protects, manages, and provides public access to unique gypsum mesas and buttes in western Oklahoma on state-owned land. Gloss Mountains State Park provides and protects the historical, geological and recreational resources present on the property and conserves these resources for future generations. The Gloss Mountains are an important tourism attraction in western Oklahoma, drawing national and international visitors to the area.

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 must be consistent with the mission of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.
Geographic Location of Gloss Mountains State Park

Gloss Mountains State Park is located in northwestern Oklahoma in Major County. The park is located in the extreme northern edge of Major County adjacent to the Cimarron River and on the south side of that river.

Figure 2.3 – Major County, Oklahoma
Source: Google Maps

Figure 2.4 – Gloss Mountains State Park
Gloss Mountains State Park is located on federal highway 412 along the north side of the highway, approximately 5.5 miles west of Orienta, Oklahoma, and 12 miles northwest of Fairview, Oklahoma. A map with various insets (Figure 2.4) of Gloss Mountains State Park shows its location in the rural environment of Major County in the northwestern quadrant of the state.

Major County is bordered on the north by Woods County and Alfalfa County; on the east by Garfield County; on the south by a small portion of Kingfisher County, Blaine County, and Dewey County; and on the west by Woodward County. The Cimarron River flows diagonally northwest to southeast, forming a portion of the northern boundary of Major County and then bisecting the county diagonally.

Fairview is the county seat of Major County, with a population of 2,733. There are numerous other small communities distributed throughout Major County. Meno and Ringwood are slightly east of Orienta along Highway 412. Cleo Springs is just north of Orienta on Highway 8. Chester, Orion, Bado, Dane, and Cedar Springs dot the length of Highway 60 across the southern portion of the county. Isabella and Ames are located in the southeastern section of Major County.

Travel to and from Gloss Mountains State Park requires access along federal Highway 412 extending east and west across the county. Highway 60 and Highway 412 extend westward from Enid in the same designated route, but Highway 60 then veers south at Orienta. To the west of Gloss Mountains State Park, Highway 412 links with Highway 281 which extends north and south and connects with numerous other highway routes.

**Community and Regional Context**

**Brief History of Major County**

The following history of Major County was written by Ross Peterson-Veatch for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/M/MA006.html).

"Located in northwestern Oklahoma, Major County was established from the southern part of the territorial Woods County at 1907 statehood. Bounded by Woods and Alfalfa Counties on the north, Garfield County on the east, Kingfisher, Blaine and Dewey on the south, and Woodward on the west, Major County has 957.87 square miles of land and water. It is drained by the North Canadian and Cimarron rivers and the Eagle Chief, Grieve, and Sand creeks. Major County was part of the Cherokee Outlet and opened to non-Indian settlers on September 16, 1893. The eastern half of the county lies in the Red Bed Plains (subregion of the Osage Plains) and the western half in the Gypsum Hills. Major County is home to two noted geological formations: the Glass (Gloss) Mountains, an outcropping of buttes that is part of the Blaine Escarpment, a large gypsum formation extending across much of western Oklahoma, and the Ames Structure, which is buried under 3,000 meters of sand and soil and is possibly the result of a meteorite impact. The county seat is Fairview, so named for its beautiful view of the Glass Mountains to the west and the Cimarron River to the east. At the turn of the twenty-first century other incorporated communities included Ames, Cleo Springs, Meno, and Ringwood."
The area’s prehistory has been little investigated. However, according to a 1981 archaeological survey report, Major County had thirteen known archaeological sites. Representative of these are the Barnum site, a well-preserved camp probably from the Archaic period (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1) and the Davis site, possibly a village site of the Plains Village period (A.D. 1000 to 1500). The Osage, Kiowa, Comanche, and other Plains Indians utilized the area as hunting grounds. One of the first traders and explorers in the area was Thomas James. In 1821 James, who wanted to establish trade in Santa Fe, traversed westward along the Cimarron River. Also, in 1843 explorer Nathan Boone may have passed along the western boundary of the future Major County.

The county was named for John Charles Major, county resident and representative to the state’s 1906 Constitutional Convention. Although the 1893 land opening attracted settlers from many states and foreign countries, the largest concentration to settle in present Major County came from Kansas, including large groups of Mennonite Brethren from that state. The Mennonites settled in various communities and started the first organized churches in the area. In fact, the town of Meno received its name from Dutch Anabaptist Menno Simons (1496-1561), early leader of what became known as the Mennonite movement. Settlers established quickly churches, which became the focal point of the area's social life. By 1900 organized churches included Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian, and Christian, and by 1907 statehood many churches in Ames, Cleo Springs, Fairview, Meno, and Ringwood had full-time pastors.

As railroads came through the area in the early twentieth century, small communities swelled, sometimes doubling their populations in a few months. However, this rapid growth did not translate into the long-term establishment of industries or other economic activities that could sustain the newly transplanted settlers. At 1907 statehood the census stood at 14,307. In 1910 the population peaked at 15,248. The county had a sharp decline in population to 12,426 in 1920. Since that time the county has experienced a steady drop in population to 7,529 reported in 1970. Numbers rebounded to 8,772 in 1980, but fell to 7,545 in 2000. At the turn of the twenty-first century the population was approximately 94 percent white, 4 percent Hispanic, and 2 percent American Indian. The incorporated towns have not shown the same trend, however, and census figures show the populations in these locales to have waxed and waned significantly over the course of the last one hundred years. For example, Meno, the population of which was 69 in 1910, rose to 96 in 1930, reached its second highest point of 180 in 1940, plummeted to 76 by 1950, and has grown steadily since to a high of 195 in 2000.

Railroads, wheat production, cattle ranching, poultry processing, and oil and gas exploration have played a role in Major County’s economic fortunes. Mike Hallren founded the Hallren Poultry and Creamery in Fairview in 1936, and by the late 1950s it was the county’s largest employer. In the 1930s a cotton gin, a flour mill, two creameries, and several grain elevators supported the local farmers. The Ames Structure and the Ringwood oil field have been sites of significant oil and gas production. The Ames Structure area, at one time, had sixty-five wells in production, and in 1952 Warren Petroleum Corporation opened a refinery in Ringwood that produced both gasoline and liquefied petroleum gas products. At the time, that facility was Major County's second largest employer. In the early 1960s civic leaders hoped to develop a distribution center for various goods in the county to help secure its economic future.

Principal crops have included corn, wheat, Kaffir corn, and alfalfa. At 1907 statehood farmers planted 61,446 acres of corn, 34,510 acres of winter wheat, 16,554 of Kaffir corn, and 13,987 of broomcorn. In 1930 Major County reported livestock numbering 21,448 cattle, 4,351 sheep and goats, 4,323 horses, 2,489 swine, and 1,280 mules. The county had 2,093 farms, averaging 268
acres. Forty-six percent of those farms were operated by tenants. By 1963 there were 125,500 acres planted in wheat, 23,500 acres in sorghums, 14,800 acres in barley, and 14,000 acres in oats. Livestock numbered 53,000 cattle, 4,600 hogs, 4,500 milk cows, and 1,900 sheep and lambs. At the turn of the twenty-first century Major County had 877 farms, averaging almost 560 acres.

Early transportation routes followed the waterways and the American Indian trails. At the turn of the twentieth century several railroads constructed lines through Major County. Between 1901 and 1902 the Enid and Anadarko Railway (later the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway, CRI&P) built a line from Enid (Garfield County) to Greenfield (Blaine County) that passed through Meno and Ringwood. The Choctaw Northern Railroad (later the CRI&P) connected Cleo Springs with outside markets in 1902. In 1903 the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railway (later the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway) constructed a line from the Kansas-Oklahoma border to Cleo Springs and Fairview. Modern motorists used State Highways 8 and 58 and U.S. Highways 60, 281, and 412. A municipal airport was located at Fairview.

Although Major County did not experience the lawlessness of other frontier areas, outlaws Dick Yeager and Ike Black used caves in the Glass Mountains as their hideout during the county’s early history. County residents continue to tell the story of the outlaws’ demise at the hands of a large posse of farmers in the summer 1894. Other prominent events in the county’s history include repeated floods caused by the Cimarron River and the “Black Sunday” dust storm of April 14, 1935. The Major County Historical Society Museum in Fairview offered exhibits relating to local history. Outdoor enthusiasts enjoyed Glass Mountain State Park. Major County courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NR 84003153).”

For consistency in naming of the dominant geological features, this Resource Management Plan refers to the Glass Mountains as Gloss Mountains.

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**Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact**

The U.S. Bureau of Census provides summary data related to the demographic profile of the residents of Major County. The 2010 Census provided the statistical basis for the detail related to the population of Major County in 2012.

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during June 2013 from [http://factfinder2.census.gov](http://factfinder2.census.gov).

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<td>Major County</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The population of Major County has decreased by 18 residents, a rate of 0.28% over the past ten years, essentially remaining stable in population. However, this contrasts with the growth of the population of Oklahoma during that same period. More than one-third of the population of Major County lives in Fairview.
Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Major County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>3,697 (49.1%)</td>
<td>1,816,749 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>3,830 (50.9%)</td>
<td>1,858,590 (50.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>36.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 19 years of age</td>
<td>1,913 (25.3%)</td>
<td>911,484 (24.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19 years of age and over</td>
<td>5,614 (74.7%)</td>
<td>2,762,318 (75.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td>1,448 (19.3%)</td>
<td>491,422 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>6,846 (91.0%)</td>
<td>2,720,135 (72.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>33 (0.4%)</td>
<td>267,179 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>149 (2.0%)</td>
<td>259,809 (8.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>26 (0.3%)</td>
<td>61,581 (1.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td>3 (0.0%)</td>
<td>3,967 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>189 (2.5%)</td>
<td>263,896 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>Of any race</td>
<td>565 (7.5%)</td>
<td>302,167 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In contrast to some of the surrounding counties, Major County reports a population in which females outnumber males, a possible reflection of the rural employment opportunities present in the surrounding counties. In addition, Major County shows a population with little diversity documented with 91% of the population reported as White. The Hispanic/Latino community in Major County is growing, having doubled in a ten-year period.

Table 2.3 on the following page provides detail on the household characteristics of the population of Major County. Of particular note is the much higher percentage of households, more than triple, in Major County with one or more members over the age of 65 than is true in the state of Oklahoma. This is reflected in the percentage of owner occupied households as well. On all other measures related to household characteristics, Major County is similar to the household characteristics represented across Oklahoma.
Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Major County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Major County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>3,109</td>
<td>1,421,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>7,450 (9.0%)</td>
<td>3,563,497 (96.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>912 (29.3%)</td>
<td>425,149 (29.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>972 (31.3%)</td>
<td>140,851 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>3,109 (84.7%)</td>
<td>1,421,705 (86.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>562 (15.3%)</td>
<td>222,523 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>2,480 (79.8%)</td>
<td>969,959 (68.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>629 (20.2%)</td>
<td>451,746 (31.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One characteristic on which the population of Major County differs from that across Oklahoma is household income. The median household income in Major County is above that for the state. Median household income as reported by the U.S. Bureau of Census may be somewhat misleading: by definition 50% of the population in the county is above the median income level and 50% is below that number. The mean income in Major County is $62,890, well above the median. Major County residents have benefited from the rural economy within the county, but that may be concentrated in a smaller number of households at the upper economic levels.

It is equally important to recognize that about 10% of the population of Major County is identified as being below federal poverty guidelines. However, the percentage of households below poverty levels and the percentage of individuals in those households are below the comparable statistics for the state of Oklahoma. It can be concluded that the residents of Major County are similar to the comparable financial characteristics for Oklahoma.

Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Major County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Major County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$48,012</td>
<td>$42,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residents of Major County also present education characteristics that are associated with the financial status of the county. In Major County, the greatest variation from the statewide
educational pattern is in the percentage of individuals with college degrees. Through high school and “some college, no degree,” residents of Major County are similar to Oklahomans statewide. However, representative percentages beyond that level in Major County are well below comparable percentages in Oklahoma. Education levels have been shown to be highly correlated with other economic measures and may affect the local work force.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Major County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>352 (6.7%)</td>
<td>115,248 (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>409 (7.8%)</td>
<td>232,987 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>2,263 (42.9%)</td>
<td>775,478 (32.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>1,239 (23.5%)</td>
<td>559,367 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>164 (3.1%)</td>
<td>159,557 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>603 (11.4%)</td>
<td>362,043 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>239 (4.5%)</td>
<td>176,139 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another demographic factor that is highly correlated with financial characteristics and educational characteristics is employment. The employment figures for Major County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2010, Major County reported unemployment to be approximately 2.5% as compared with a statewide 7.7%. Both of these numbers place Oklahoma and Major County in better employment condition than was true of the United States at this same time.

**Table 2.6 – Employment Characteristics in Major County**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Major County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in the labor force (16 years and over)</td>
<td>3,763 (63.1%)</td>
<td>1,806,858 (63.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>3,671 (97.5%)</td>
<td>1,674,765 (92.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>2,587 (70.5%)</td>
<td>1,260,965 (75.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>675 (18.4%)</td>
<td>285,562 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>364 (9.9%)</td>
<td>124,013 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>45 (1.2%)</td>
<td>4,225 (0.3%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Another demographic factor that assists in understanding the local population is related to persons with disabilities. The 2010 census reported that among those persons in Major County between the age of five and nineteen, there are 139 individuals (7.3%) of the population with a disability. This percentage increases in the population from ages 21 to 64 years to 13.7% or 571 individuals. Among those persons aged 65 years or more, 46.7% or 676 individuals have one or more disabilities. These numbers are similar to those for the state of Oklahoma.

In summary, Major County comprises a rural area with approximately 7.9 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. Fairview is the only population of significance in a “city” environment. That population shows an average household income higher than the statewide average; in addition, a smaller percentage of Major County residents are below the poverty level than is true statewide. The residents of the county have achieved educational levels through high school diplomas comparable to the remainder of the state, but under-achieved at higher education levels.

Competing and Complementary Recreational Opportunities

North-central Oklahoma and the adjoining areas in Kansas are dominated by a prairie ecosystem interspersed with hardwood forest along creeks and rivers. The Cimarron River valley and the North Canadian River valley are the major watersheds throughout this area as all surface waters in Major County ultimately flow into one of those rivers.

The primary recreation activities at Gloss Mountains State Park include sightseeing and hiking. As a result, there are several other locations with greater levels of development in surrounding areas. Gloss Mountains State Park is complemented with such outdoor recreation spaces as Roman Nose State Park (35 miles south); Little Sahara State Park (28 miles northwest); Alabaster Caverns State Park (53 miles northwest), and Boiling Springs State Park (40 miles west).

The visual experience in each of these locations varies from that at Gloss Mountains State Park. However, hiking is possible at each of these state parks and at other locations in cities and on private land.

Regional and Park History

As indicated in the prior discussion of regional history and context for this area in Major County, the property that is now Gloss Mountains State Park probably included ancient cultures and Native American encampments and activity prior to the Louisiana Purchase. General Phil Sheridan established a camp in southwestern Major County by 1870. Twenty five years earlier, Nathan Boone described his journey through this area.

With various treaties, differing tribes were granted rights to the area, finally settling on assignment to the Cherokee nation. The Cherokee Outlet Opening on September 16, 1893, was the fourth and largest land run in Oklahoma. This run attracted thousands of people seeking land and brought early settlers into what would eventually become Major County. Numerous towns sprang up in Major County as in many of the surrounding counties and died in the difficult economic times in the months that followed.

The following history of the Glass (Gloss) Mountains was written by Melanie L. McPhail and Richard A. Marston for the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the
The Glass (also known as Gloss) Mountains rise 150 to 200 feet above the flat surface of Major County in northwestern Oklahoma, six miles west of Orienta on U.S. Highway 412. Not really mountains, these features are mesas and buttes, part of the Blaine Escarpment that traverses northwestern Oklahoma. The highest elevation approaches 1,600 feet above sea level. An epeiric sea that once covered the region left behind layers of shale and siltstone, capped with a layer of gypsum. Selenite in the gypsum is glossy, giving a glass-like reflection of sunlight, thus inspiring the name. Geomorphically, the region is active with flooding and river channel downcutting, creating a mesa-covered landscape. The uplands are generally wooded.

Spanish explorers were the first to come through the area. In 1821 the first Americans are known to have explored “the Shining Mountains” as they called them. Later the region was part of the Cherokee Outlet, popularly known as the “Cherokee Strip,” opened to settlement in 1892. Beginning in 1891 an early botanical explorer, George Walter Stevens, started collecting specimens in the Glass Mountains domain for his dissertation. The Bebb Herbarium of the University of Oklahoma holds 4,500 samples that Stevens collected statewide. Two cacti he may have collected in the Glass Mountains area are *Echinocereus caespitosus* and *Opuntia phaeantha*.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century the Glass Mountains remained part of Glass (Gloss) Mountain State Park, a conservation area of approximately 640 acres with a parking/picnic facility and informational kiosk. While there are no trails, hiking is popular in the area.”

As an update to the material presented by the Oklahoma Historical Society, trails have been developed and maintained within Gloss Mountains State Park. In addition, for consistency, this Resource Management Plan refers to the geological features as the Gloss Mountains.
Bill Burchardt (1970) described the naming of the Gloss Mountains from anecdotes rather than from history.

“Who named the Glass Mountains? Nobody knows. The name first appeared on a map issued by the federal land office in 1873. Two years later a map from this same source called them the Gloss Mountains, precipitating a conflict, which continues to this day. And it inspired a probably legend.

The 1873 map resulted from a survey led by an engineer named T.H. Barrett. Historiographer James Cloud is of the opinion that the draftsman who copied the 1873 map misread the “a” and thought it was an “o”. There is a persistent legend that a member of that first exploring party was British, or Bostonian.

This Britisher (or Bostonian) awakening early one morning in the survey camp east of the mesas saw the sun glinting on the selenite. He exclaimed in his long eastern patois, “Why, they look just like glaws!”

The actual history of Gloss Mountains State Park as an Oklahoma state park began in 1977 with the purchase of 640 acres by the state of Oklahoma. Details of property transactions are included in the appendix.

Conceptual plans were developed into the 1990s to include camping and hiking within the newly designated state park. These conceptual plans (Figure 2.6) remain on display at the Major County Economic Development Authority office in Fairview. The initial conceptual plan was modified to include a visitor center and proposed astronomical observatory as shown in Figure 2.6. While these developments have not been implemented, the concepts indicate the quality and value of the resources associated with Gloss Mountains State Park. A model of the proposed observatory, also at the offices in Fairview, is shown in Figure 2.7 on the following page.

Figure 2.6 – Conceptual plans for Gloss Mountains
Displayed at the Major County Economic Development Authority, Fairview, OK.
Natural Resources in the Park

Climate and Air Quality

Major County is part of the Central Great Plains and reflects climate common to this area. Average annual precipitation is 29.41 inches, although the wettest year occurred in 1957 with over 54 inches of precipitation and the driest year occurred in 1956 with less than 12 inches. May and October are the wettest months on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall for successful vegetative growth. Average snowfall is about 11.5 inches annually, providing snow cover on the ground for about seven days each year.

Temperatures average 59 degrees, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 95 degrees in July and August to an average low of 31 degrees in January. The county’s average growing season is 201 days, and plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional two to five weeks. The highest recorded temperature was 114 degrees in Fairview on September 3, 1947, while the lowest recorded temperature was -25 degrees in Cleo on February 13, 1905.

Winds from the south to southeast are quite dominant, averaging ten miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, is 65% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in May and June and lowest in August. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 55% in winter to nearly 80% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 50 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 – 2003, Major County recorded 35 tornadoes. The most recent significant tornado (F2 intensity or greater) in Major County occurred on April 17, 2002. The most extreme tornado, an F5, occurred April 14, 1939 with a path of 80 miles across Dewey, Woodward, Major, Woods, Alfalfa counties in Oklahoma and on into Barber County in Kansas. This event caused seven deaths and 33 injuries. Major County typically has about three events each year of hail exceeding one inch in diameter. As information collection has improved, both the number of reported tornadoes and the number of severe hail events have increased (OK Climatological Survey).
The Pollution Information Site (Scorecard) reports that 84% of all days in Major County show good air quality, with the primary pollutants being particulate matter (PM-2.5 and PM-10). Having said that, according to the Clean Air Task Force website, Major County is at the 80th percentile for PM-2.5 and 90th percentile for PM-10 emissions, placing it among the “dirtiest counties in the United States” (Clean Air Task Force).

**Archeology of Gloss Mountains State Park**

While archaeological evidence was reported in the history of Major County, an archeological survey of Gloss Mountains State Park has not been completed. The Oklahoma Archeological Survey does not report any sites within Major County on their current website. According to a 1981 archaeological survey report, Major County had thirteen known archaeological sites, although they are not presently documented on the web information. Representative of these are the Barnum site, a well-preserved camp probably from the Archaic period (6000 B.C. to A.D. 1) and the Davis site, possibly a village site of the Plains Village period (A.D. 1000 to 1500). It is possible that additional archaeological sites are located in Major County and similarly, within Gloss Mountain State Park. However, artifact hunters have removed selenite, wood, and probably other items from within the park area.

**Topography**

Gloss Mountains State Park is situated in the Central Great Plains, a region that dominates Oklahoma from the I-35 corridor west. This ecoregion extends from Oklahoma's northern border to southern border covering most of west-central Oklahoma.

The highest point in Major County is listed as 1,920 feet above sea level. The Gloss Mountains are 1,585 feet above sea level (Figure 2.8). Whether identified as mountains or hills, the Gloss Mountains are a series of mesas and buttes within the Blaine Escarpment. Slightly to the east, Major County also includes the Ames Structure, thought by some to be a product of meteor impact.
**Geology**

Northern Major County and Gloss Mountains State Park are situated in the Cherokee Platform Province. According to Charpentier (2010) the Cherokee Platform Province extends from southeastern Kansas and part of southwestern Missouri to northeastern Oklahoma. The province is 235 miles long (north-south) by 210 miles wide (east-west) and encompasses an area of 26,500 square miles. Oil and gas exploration has occurred in this area for the past 100 years. The thickest coal seams in the Cherokee Platform are part of the Middle Pennsylvanian (Desmoinesian) Cherokee Group, which varies in thickness from 300 to 500 feet. The Cherokee Group consists mostly of black shales, with lesser amounts of limestone, sandstone, and coal. The main coalbeds in the basin, in ascending order, are Riverton, Rowe, Weir-Pittsburg, Mineral, Fleming, Croweburg, Bevier, and Mulky. The Riverton, Weir-Pittsburg, Bevier, and Mulky are the thickest, and the Weir-Pittsburg seam can be as much as 5 feet thick. Net thickness of the coals in the Cherokee Group is greater than 15 feet. The underlying bedrock aquifer is in the Vamoosa Formation and Ada Group (Johnson, 1998).

**Figure 2.9 – Geological regions in Oklahoma**

Source: Charpentier (2010)

According to Suneson (2000), escarpments that occur in this area are east-facing and all the rocks are Pennsylvanian (323-290 million years old) or Permian (290-245 million years old); they consist of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The escarpments are considered part of the Eastern Sandstone Cuesta Plains, which are rugged and typically covered with oak trees. A cuesta is a hill or ridge with a gentle slope on one side and a steep slope on the other side. Folds and pockets are found in the underlying structures, which makes a suitable ‘habitat’ for oil and gas. Fossils of ancient marine animals are found in the various geological strata.
Soil

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) gathers data and prepares custom soil resource reports for specific areas. In each report they define various terms related to soils and the related capacities. Soils that have profiles that are almost alike make up a soil series. Except for differences in texture of the surface layer, all the soils of a series have major horizons that are similar in composition, thickness, and arrangement.

Soils of one series can differ in texture of the surface layer, slope, stoniness, salinity, degree of erosion, and other characteristics that affect their use. On the basis of such differences, a soil series is divided into soil phases. Most of the areas shown on the detailed soil maps are phases of soil series. The name of a soil phase commonly indicates a feature that affects use or management. For example, Alpha silt loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is a phase of the Alpha series. Some map units are made up of two or more major soils or miscellaneous areas. These map units are complexes, associations, or undifferentiated groups.

A complex consists of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas in such an intricate pattern or in such small areas that they cannot be shown separately on the maps. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar in all areas. Alpha-Beta complex, 0 to 6 percent slopes, is an example.

An association is made up of two or more geographically associated soils or miscellaneous areas that are shown as one unit on the maps. Because of present or anticipated uses of the map units in the survey area, it was not considered practical or necessary to map the soils or miscellaneous areas separately. The pattern and relative proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas are somewhat similar. Alpha-Beta association, 0 to 2 percent slopes, is an example.

An undifferentiated group is made up of two or more soils or miscellaneous areas that could be mapped individually but are mapped as one unit because similar interpretations can be made for use and management. The pattern and proportion of the soils or miscellaneous areas in a mapped area are not uniform. An area can be made up of only one of the major soils or miscellaneous areas, or it can be made up of all of them. Alpha and Beta soils, 0 to 2 percent slopes, are an example.

Some surveys include miscellaneous areas. Such areas have little or no soil material and support little or no vegetation. Rock outcrop is an example of a miscellaneous area (NRCS, 2010).

Information about soils in the study area provides background about suitability for recreational development.

There are three primary soil complexes within Gloss Mountain State Park. Almost 84% of the property is Knoco-Badland complex with 1 to 3% slopes. The uplands and rock outcroppings are Knoco-Rock complex ranging from 20 to 40% slopes. The Knoco-Rock complex comprises about 14% of the property. The balance of the property is Burford-Vernon complex with 5 to 12% slopes.

For recreational development, the Knoco-Rock outcrops and the Knoco-Badland complex are considered to be very limited for use as campgrounds. Burford Vernon is somewhat limited. As a result, Gloss Mountains State Park is somewhat to very limited for campground development because of slope, depth to bedrock, and slow water movement through the soils.
These soils are also somewhat to very limited for use as picnic grounds or for playgroups. The most appropriate recreational use for these soils is for paths and trails. These soils are also limited if considered for installation of sewage systems including septic systems and lagoons.

Figure 2.10 – Soil map of Gloss Mountains State Park

Source: Natural Resource Conservation Service

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map Unit Symbol</th>
<th>Map Unit Name</th>
<th>Acres in AOI</th>
<th>Percent of AOI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ro</td>
<td>Knoco-Rock outcrop complex, 20 to 40 percent slopes</td>
<td>79.0</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VnB</td>
<td>Knoco-Badland complex, 1 to 3 percent slopes</td>
<td>469.0</td>
<td>83.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HvE</td>
<td>Burford-Vernon complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>2.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Totals for Area of Interest**

|                                      | 559.2 | 100.0% |

These soils are also somewhat to very limited for use as picnic grounds or for playgroups. The most appropriate recreational use for these soils is for paths and trails. These soils are also limited if considered for installation of sewage systems including septic systems and lagoons.
Hydrology

Major County straddles portions of three watersheds, one of which crosses the state border between Oklahoma and Kansas. The watersheds include the following:

- 11050001: Lower Cimarron-Eagle Chief (Kansas and Oklahoma)
- 11050002: Lower Cimarron-Skeleton (Oklahoma)
- 11100301: Middle North Canadian (Oklahoma)

Gloss Mountains State Park is entirely within the Lower Cimarron-Eagle Chief watershed. This is the same watershed that drains Alabaster Caverns State Park and Little Sahara State Park. The watershed includes portions of Comanche, Alfalfa, Harper, Major, Woods, and Woodward counties. There are no federal estuary programs within this watershed.

Rivers and streams in the Lower Cimarron-Eagle Chief watershed are impaired for enterococcus bacteria, Escherichia coli (E. coli), sulfates, thallium, chloride, fecal coliform, as well as turbidity, lack of dissolved oxygen, sedimentation/siltation, and total dissolved solids. While these waters are outside of the boundaries of Gloss Mountains State Park, it is important to consider the runoff from within the park.

Slightly west of Gloss Mountains State Park along Highway 412 is the Lone Mountain Landfill. This facility is a Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permitted landfill with full rail capabilities. The facility handles bulk and containerized solids and also solidified waste liquid. While a full inventory of waste disposal on site is not available, Lone Mountain Landfill includes polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) bulk product waste, PCB contaminated soil and debris, and wastewater treatment for bulk aqueous wastes. Operations of this landfill require routine monitoring of the watershed.

Vegetative Cover

Gloss Mountains State Park has been modified from its original prairie and Cross Timbers environment. In its location in northern Major County, the Gloss Mountains are on the northwestern extremity of the Cross Timbers. The area today has relatively few trees, although Burchardt (1970) reported that “Great stands of cedar timber once grew here. . . A pioneer settler recalls seeing a mile long column of wagons laden with cedar logs emerging from the Gyp Hills.” Cedar from this area was cut and sold for fence posts, firewood, and beams for roofs including those for sod houses.

In general, the Cross Timbers represent the largest single ecosystem type in the state of Oklahoma. Ecologically distinct lines do not exist between the Cross Timbers region and the adjacent Mixed-grass Prairie and Tallgrass Prairie regions. Therefore, areas of overlap occur where patches of mixed-grass prairie habitat are embedded within oak woodlands and patches of oak woodland or shrubland are embedded within mixed-grass and tallgrass prairie habitats.
Tallgrass prairies occur throughout the region and comprise most of the region’s historic grassland acres (ODWC, 2005).

The dominant tree species in this habitat are the Post Oak (*Quercus stellata*) and Blackjack Oak (*Quercus marilandica*) and these two oaks may comprise as much as 90 percent of the canopy cover. Other common trees include Black Hickory (*Carya texana*), Black Oak (*Quercus velutina*) and Eastern Red cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). Black Hickory and Black Oak are more common in the more mesic sites in the eastern part of the Region.

Eastern Redcedar is common throughout the region and has increased in abundance during the past century as a result of the reduction of periodic fires. Prominent understory plants include Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Chittamwood (*Bumelia lanuginosa*), Eastern Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Roughleaf Dogwood (*Cornus drummondii*), Mexican Plum (*Prunus mexicana*), and Winged Sumac (*Rhus copallina*). In the eastern portion of the region, Winged Elm (*Ulmus alata*) is a common understory tree. In sites that are drier and/or have a higher frequency of fire, the Crosstimbers has a more woodland or savannah-like structure. These areas typically have a grassy understory dominated by Little Bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), but also with Indian Grass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), Big Bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), and Small Panicgrass (*Panicum oligosanthes*). On rocky limestone soils in the Arbuckle Mountains, Texas Oak (*Quercus shumardii texana*), Chinkapin Oak (*Quercus muehlenbergii*), Ashe Juniper (*Juniperus ashei*), and Texas Ash (*Fraxinus texensis*) are common associates with Post Oak and Blackjack Oak (ODWC, 2005).
Wildlife

As is true with all Oklahoma state parks, Gloss Mountains State Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Due to its size and location, Gloss Mountains State Park serves a variety of roles for many forms of wildlife. For some, Gloss Mountains State Park is a temporary or seasonal habitat as part of the migratory movement of birds and animals through the area. For others, Gloss Mountains State Park may be the permanent habitat, providing an appropriate setting for the entire lifecycle.

The natural vegetation of the Cross Timbers provided excellent wildlife habitat, particularly due to its diversity, isolation, and proximity to the Cimarron River. In the mid-1800s the native fauna of the Cross Timbers area included buffalo, elk, deer, black bear, gray wolf, coyote, fox, cougar, bobcat or ocelot, skunk, prairie dogs, jack rabbit, skunk, raccoon, opossum, turkey, greater prairie chicken, wood duck, white pelican, Bonaparts gull, Carolina rail, and many other birds, small mammals, and reptiles.

The Cross Timbers forests also offer excellent wildlife habitat and are especially important to many species of birds, including the bald eagle and other birds of prey and threatened species, such as the Peregrine falcon, barn owl and grasshopper sparrow. Many areas of the forests, or adjacent to the forests, are stopovers for waterfowl migrating along the Central Flyway of North America. Fly catchers, hummingbirds, meadowlark, ospreys, bald eagles, gold finches, tanagers, cooper’s hawks, various gulls, great blue herons, great egrets, northern bobwhite, great horned owls, yellow-billed cuckoos, and orioles have also been spotted.

Nuisance Species

The eastern red cedar (Juniperus Virginiana Sarg.) is an invasive plant found within Gloss Mountains State Park, although it is also native to the plains. What makes eastern red cedar invasive is its propensity to invade stands of hardwoods or prairie grasses. Adverse effects of eastern red cedar include its high demand for ground water and its potential fuel load in wildfire. Conversely, red cedar and other junipers are important food and habitat for numerous forms of wildlife.

Feral hogs are also present in Major County although they are somewhat unlikely to be present in Gloss Mountains State Park. Two herds of feral hogs were reported for Major County: one is located along the Cimarron River and the other on the southern sides of the Gloss Mountains. Densities of fewer than 13 feral hogs per square mile were reported for that portion of Major County adjoining the Cimarron River (Stevens, 2007), with higher densities reported for the second herd south of Gloss Mountains State Park.

Endangered or Threatened Species

At present there are no state-listed threatened or endangered species listed for Major County. However, federally listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in Major County include: Whooping Crane (Grus americana), Interior Least
Tern (*Sternula antillarum*), and Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*). The Whooping Crane and Interior Least Tern are listed as endangered, whereas the Piping Plover is listed as threatened. All three of these birds are adapted for river or stream environments and are more likely to occur in those portions of Major County that border the Cimarron River.

Rattlesnakes are among the wildlife that present some concern for visitors to Gloss Mountains. Signs for visitors entering the trails in Gloss Mountains State Park warn of the presence of rattlesnakes. There are two possible species of rattlesnakes that may be encountered within the park (Figure 2.14). The western massasauga (*sistrurus catenatus tergeminus*) and the western diamondback (*crotalus atrox*) are resident to this area.

![Figure 2.14 – Rattlesnakes that may be present](source)

Source: OKsnakes.com
Left: western massasauga
Right: Western diamondback

**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 well 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. That is the situation at Gloss Mountains State Park.

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 Gloss Mountains 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 2.15. 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 Gloss Mountains State Park 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 hard surface campsites, installed walkways, and made other efforts to improve accessibility. However, the number of designated accessible campsites and parking spaces in several locations are inadequate. In other settings, the restrooms are not accessible. 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.

Throughout Gloss Mountains State Park, it will be necessary to complete a thorough review of accessibility in light of continuous updating, new rule-making, and interpretation of rules. Ongoing vigilance related to accessibility is required.

An example of this rule-making and interpretation took effect March 15, 2011 under the Department of Justice ruling that specified “other power-driven mobility devices” (OPDMD) that could be used on trails by individuals with mobility limitations. At present, the expectation is that the operating entity (OTRD) shall “make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures to permit the use of other power-driven mobility devices by individuals with mobility disabilities, unless the public entity can demonstrate that the class of OPDMD cannot be operated in accordance with legitimate safety requirements that the public entity has adopted based on actual risks” (American Trails, 2011).

**Great Plains Trail of Oklahoma**

The Great Plains Trail of Oklahoma is a highway driving trail with multiple loops across western Oklahoma. Multiple partners including the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, the Playa Lakes Joint Venture, the Oklahoma Economic Development Corporations, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, and others participate in the marketing and enjoyment of the trail. The Gloss Mountains loop incorporates Gloss Mountain State Park with numerous other area features for the enjoyment of visitors.

For many visitors to Gloss Mountains State Park, the on-site visit is one stop on a longer driving tour. The Great Plains Trail encourages visitors to gain a better understanding of the surrounding area.
Figure 2.17 – Gloss Mountain landscape

Above: Oklahoma’s Painted Desert, southwest of Gloss Mountains State Park
Below: Moon over Gloss Mountains
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

As a state park in Oklahoma, Gloss Mountains State Park is a cultural, educational, natural, and recreational resource. The development of the natural and aesthetic qualities that make the Gloss Mountains has been occurring for thousands of years. However, the designation as a recreational property in Oklahoma began in 1977 with the purchase of 640 acres from Eldred and Rose Smith. Since that time, the property has been managed under various names before being designated as Gloss Mountains State Park. The property is managed under a contract between the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and Gloss Mountain Conservancy, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation.

The map on the following page, Figure 3.2, provides an overview of the features of Gloss Mountains State Park. The park boundaries include 640 acres of land, one section, and encompass a parking lot, trail heads, trails, and the natural features of the Gloss Mountains. These facilities and those along Highway 412 are detailed in the following discussion. For ease of presentation, the discussion and presentation begins at the entrance to Gloss Mountains State Park from Highway 412 and proceeds into the property.

For all visitors entering Gloss Mountains State Park by automobile, the only highway access route is along U.S. Highway 412 bordering the southern part of the park. The entrance includes a substantial pipe gate that may be closed as needed (Figure 3.1).
Figure 3.2 – Map of Gloss Mountains State Park
Source: Top from Google Maps, below from Oklahoma State Park Viewer
As shown in Figure 3.2, the entry road from the south off Highway 412 extends slightly north-northeast into a parking lot. Immediately outside the entry gate, the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) has a wayside rest. The ODOT property is outside the fenced boundary for the conservancy that is Gloss Mountains State Park.

**Entry Environ**

The ODOT rest area is worthy of comment in its own right. As shown in Figure 3.3, there is a two lane turn-out on the north side of Highway 412. This turn-out can be accessed either from the west or east entrance. On the inner portion of the paved turn-out, ODOT has placed a traditional picnic table under a shade shelter. This area is also supported with waste disposal barrels.

The area and amenities to the east of the turn-out are of greater interest for the average visitor. This area is also shown in Figure 3.3 as the interpretive kiosk. Three panels provide information related to Gloss Mountains State Park, encouraging visitors to enter through the gate to the right of the kiosk. These panels also provide general information on the Gloss Mountains, their geology, wildlife, and brief history. Additional information at this kiosk includes brochures and guides for visitors. The kiosk is on state park property and was installed by OTRD.

The entire wayside has been well maintained throughout the preparation of the RMP. Volunteer personnel from Fairview are responsible for the area and take their responsibility seriously.

On numerous stops at the wayside rest throughout preparation of the RMP, research staff observed frequent visitors utilizing the amenities provided.

*Figure 3.3 – ODOT wayside rest*

Above: picnic shelter  
Right: interpretive kiosk  
Note topography of Hwy 412
Entry Drive and Signage

Although the entry drive into Gloss Mountains State Park is quite short, important information is communicated to the visitor along that short drive. Immediately the visitor is informed of entry into an Oklahoma State Park, although the sign (Figure 3.4) is unique to this property. Dawn to dusk operation of the property is also noted on the entry sign, as is the fact that the gate may be closed and the entry roadway should not be blocked.

![Figure 3.4 – Entry drive and signs for visitors](image)

Just beyond the entry sign, a second signpost (shown in Figure 3.4) provides information regarding the principal amenities available in Gloss Mountains State Park. This includes the restroom and the trails. Additionally, the visitor is informed of the support provided for trail development through the National Recreational Trails Fund Act.

Additional signs (Figure 3.5) provide further information for the visitor. These signs are essential since it is unlikely that a visitor will encounter a representative of park management while on-site. The information regarding locking of the entrance gate is important, especially for summer visitors who

![Figure 3.5 – Park information for visitors](image)
may be walking the trails. The information regarding Fairview is best viewed as a visitor exits the park. However, this information is quite appropriate as it further develops the relationship between Gloss Mountains State Park and Fairview.

The third sign in this grouping is also important. In an effort to reduce scavenger hunting for selenite gypsum, a small box is supplied regularly with donated samples. Comments of appreciation regarding this consideration have been posted on blogs by visitors to the park.

**Parking Lot and Associated Amenities**

The parking lot is adequate to accommodate about two dozen vehicles, depending upon size and configuration. The parking lot, composed of packed aggregate, is not marked. As a result, visitors choose to park in the most convenient space to meet their respective needs. A new, accessible comfort station (rest room) is located on the southwestern corner of the parking lot with a new water hydrant. A trail leads eastward from the parking lot toward a flag pole and monument. A shelter and trailhead are located at the northeast corner of the parking lot, and a second shelter on the southeast corner. The west side of the parking lot is dominated by the entrance and exit road. As a result of these surrounding amenities, visitors tend to distribute around the parking area.

As shown in Figure 3.6, the parking lot is compacted aggregate with timbers to define its boundaries. The comfort station replaced two portable vault toilets within a metal frame shelter. That shelter is now available for other uses.

Signs on the structure and at trailheads remind visitors of the possible encounters with rattlesnakes in Gloss Mountains State Park.

A natural-surface trail leads to the east from the parking lot, providing access to a granite monument and flag display as shown in Figure 3.7. The monument is shown in detail in

**Figure 3.6 – Comfort station and shelters**

**Figure 3.7 – Flag and monument display**
In February 1873, the name Glass Mountains appeared on a map issued by the federal General Land Office. Two years later, the same office issued another map calling them the Gloss Mountains, thus precipitating a conflict that continues to this day.

The 1875 map resulted from a survey led by an engineer named T.H. Barrett, historian and cartographer. James Cloud, in the opinion of a draftsman, copied this map and misread the "a" for an "o." A persistent legend exists that a member of that first exploring party was British or Bostonian.

This member awakened early one morning in the survey camp on the knoll located east of this point and saw the sun on the glittering clear crystals of selenite. In his long eastern dialect, he exclaimed, "Why, they look just like claws."

The party's cartographer simply recorded what he thought he had heard. Indeed, a passing error.

Glass Mountain Conservancy, Inc.

The sidewalk you are standing on was built on the original highway grade referred to as a "throughfare" in 1924. State Highway 47 in 1927, and State Highway 16 in 1930.

Since horse-powered equipment could not penetrate the mountain where the current highway travels, it necessitated taking the route of least resistance. Hence, the gap between the mountains where this sidewalk traverses was chosen for the route as well as the gap at the park entrance.

This area was known as "Horseshoe Bend." It arched in the form of a horseshoe from the park entrance gate through this area and then back around a deep water hole to align with the highway to Oregon.

Conveniently, the waterhole provided a watering point for teams of horses and fishing entertainment for travelers during the days of the Model-T. It was a good source of radiator water after pulling the steep grade.

Many card games occurred during watering sessions. Needless to say, numerous wagon loads of wheat were gambled away.

The walkway leading from the parking lot to the monument follows the lay of the land, slightly downhill. The surrounding soils are highly susceptible to erosion, leading to an ongoing deepening of ruts along the walkway (Figure 3.9 on the following page). Erosion is also occurring along most of the hillsides and along the highway right-of-way. That erosion has undercut the fence line, leaving fence posts dangling.
The waterhole further to the east is located near the eastern boundary of Gloss Mountains State Park. This waterhole is known locally as “Rattlesnake Lake,” although no markers or maps bear this name. The waterhole was impounded by the former Soil Conservation Service (now Natural Resource Conservation Service) and has been dredged recently. Eroding silt flows into the waterhole from the parking lot and walkway areas.

**Figure 3.9 – Erosion**

Below: parallel to walkway  
Right: along adjacent hillside

**Figure 3.10 – Waterhole at Gloss Mountains State Park**

Note: tank battery in left center; the eastern park boundary is to the right
### Table 3.1 – Amenities at Gloss Mountains State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Gloss Mountains State Park</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Picnic shelter</td>
<td>Two within the park; one outside the park through ODOT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comfort station</td>
<td>2013 installation of a CXT, accessible vault restroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpretive displays</td>
<td>One within the park addressing naming of Gloss Mountains;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One outside the park through OTRD with broad themes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trails</td>
<td>Two loop trails and one linear walkway</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Hiking/Walking/Riding Trails

The trails in Gloss Mountains State Park are the principal attractions for recreational visitors. Three trails radiate from the parking lot. The first trail is the short walk to the flag display and monument on the east side of the parking lot. The more lengthy trails extend from the northeast and northwest sides of the parking lot into the buttes and canyons to the north and west.

As shown in Figure 3.11, these trails are natural surface treads with additional enhancements of bridges and ladders. The ascent of the buttes requires significant effort, aided by the switchback design of the walkways and rest stops on route.

These trails are not designed to be accessible and the terrain would not allow for accessible design without significant adverse environmental impact. These trails were funded in part through National Recreation Trails grants as noted on signs at the entrance to the park. These trails are important enhancements to the property which permit visitors of various age groups to enjoy the hiking opportunities within Gloss Mountains State Park.
Various local names have been attributed to the two major trails, but Cathedral Mountain Trail is the only documented name. Cathedral Mountain Trail leads to the north and is approximately 1.2 miles in length permitting access to the top of the mesa with 360° views, including a view of Lone Peak to the north. The trail leading to the west is approximately one-half mile in length leading to a promontory point before looping back to the parking lot.

Figure 3.12 shows some of the dramatic views available to a hiker from the top of the mesas within Gloss Mountains State Park. The upper photograph in Figure 3.10 shows the view back to the south across the parking lot and entry drive linking to Highway 412. This mesa extends northwest to southeast and provides opportunities for numerous panoramic views.

The promontory in the upper right of this photograph can be accessed by the trail leading west out of the parking lot. This promontory is much smaller in top surface, but also provides excellent views. Both trails also require elevation change that can be quite challenging.

There is limited shade for hikers on either trail. As a result, summer heat, direct sunlight, wind, and thirst are common experiences for hikers in Gloss Mountains State Park.

Figure 3.12 – Views at Gloss Mountains State Park
The lesser utilized northern portion of Gloss Mountains State Parks includes several rough oil field roads and foot paths. There are several tank batteries distributed about the property associated with operating wells and a few abandoned wells. The oil field roads access the property from the northwest and the northeast. There are gates at these locations, but the roadbeds limit travel to all but off-road travel.

**Property Summary for Gloss Mountains State Park**

The state of Oklahoma owns the 640 acres that comprise Gloss Mountains State Park. Documents related to the property are included in the appendix to this RMP. These 640 acres were purchased in 1977 from Eldred and Rose Smith. Since 1998, Gloss Mountains State Park has been operated under a management agreement with Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. and an agreement with the City of Fairview. Other agreements that affect the property have included (1) a surface water agreement with Kirkpatrick Oil & Gas in 1989, (2) several grazing leases during the early 1990’s, and (3) an agreement for a rural water connection with District No. 1, Major County. A summary of documents provided in the appendix includes:

- 1997 warranty deed from Eldred and Rose Smith
- 1998 management contract with Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc.
- 2008 intergovernmental agreement between the City of Fairview and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission and Department.

**Public Access and Entry Aesthetics**

Public access to Gloss Mountains State Park was discussed earlier. All vehicular access is from federal Highway 412 on the southern border of the park. Highway 412 is a mixture of four-lane and two-lane design for the distance from Enid on the east to Woodward on the west. That portion closest to Gloss Mountains State Park is two-lane highway in good condition through open, rural landscapes.

During preparation of the RMP, discussion of future Federal Highway Administration and ODOT development of Highway 412 as a four-lane expressway raised concerns. Those plans, at present, would place two east bound lanes and two west bound lanes within the current right-of-way. However, the east bound and west bound lanes would be separated by a concrete divider. As a result, east bound traffic would not be able to turn into the park.

The area near the entrance to Gloss Mountains State Park is rugged terrain, fitting for the prairie, butte, and mesa environment. The closest services for visitors are in Orienta to the east or at Bouse Junction, the intersection of Highway 412 and Highway 281 to the west.

Signs for Gloss Mountains State Park are limited to those at the immediate entrance to the park and two ODOT signs east and west of the park along Highway 412.

**Park Visitation**

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 Gloss Mountains State Park a certain percentage of the visitors entering the park would include volunteers, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park to utilize the restroom or for other purposes. At
present there is not a magnetic or pneumatic counter in place to count vehicles entering the park. As a result, discussion of numbers of park visitors is truly an estimate.

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Visitation for Gloss Mountains State Park is dependent upon volume of traffic on Highway 412. Rarely would Gloss Mountains State Park be the primary destination for a visitor. Other locations are likely to be visited on the same trip as ones on which a visitor would stop at Gloss Mountains State Park.

As indicated, there are presently no means to actually count visitors at Gloss Mountains State Park or to monitor types of recreational activity. During numerous visits to the property in preparation of the RMP, visitors were routinely observed to be hiking and picnicking on the property. On every good weather day, there were people using the park facilities.

Photography is also significant recreational activity for visitors to Gloss Mountains State Park. As a result of these visits and photographs, recollection of past visits serve as a reminder of enjoyment on site and anticipation for return visits.

Public Perception of Gloss Mountains State Park

At the time of preparation of this Resource Management Plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to Gloss Mountains State Park, which were provided by private sources. Further, private citizens and visitors to Gloss Mountains State Park maintain personal “blogs” and social networking sites that address their experiences and visits to the park. These blogs often were associated with activities such as hiking the various trails, photography, astronomy, sightseeing, or motorcycle touring, but addressed Gloss Mountains State Park in some manner.

- Great views from the top of mesa. A lot of turkey vultures flying over and perched at the top
- You are driving along US 412 and there is pretty much nothing to look at and then all of sudden you enter about a 25 miles stretch of desert looking plateaus. Once you get on U.S. 412 in Orienta, right in front of you will be the Gloss Mountains. The Gloss Mountains got that name because of selenite content and sparkle of gypsum that makes them appear as if they are covered with a layer of glass. The view is nice there from the road. As you top the first big hill be ready for the park/picnic area on your right. When you stop at the park/picnic area, be sure and climb to the top of the plateau at the parking area there. There is a makeshift stairway and the view from up there is simply GREAT! The plateau is about a mile long. My son and I walked all the way the other end. We loved it!!! Also at the park is an information kiosk that covers the history and features of this highly unique patch of Oklahoma territory. During this ride, you almost feel like you are in the bottom of an ancient lake or ocean ... be sure and take a camera.
- This is arid country where hawks glide overhead during the day, and coyotes prowl at night. Almost anytime, the rattle or scurry in the brush is a rattlesnake. Except for the small state park next to the highway, the deep arroyos are devoid of humanity even today except for an occasional cattleman or gas and oil field worker. The solitude of the mesas made them ideal hideouts for outlaws that stole horses and hijacked travelers and wagons
• The Glass Mountains are made up largely of gypsum, which is highly soluble. Thus, they are laced with hollow spots, or maybe even caverns. In any case, walking on top of these mesas is an unusual, and sometimes unsettling, experience, given that each step resonates like a drum. From on top, the view and the wind combined for a memorable experience.
• Gloss Mountain is certainly different, the abundance of Selenite in the formation gives it that “glossy” look, like walking on many tiny mirrors. Spectacular 360 view from the top of the mesa makes the climb well worth the effort.
• Beautiful mesas overlooking the Cimarron River Valley. Be prepared to climb. Very nice vista once on the mesa top. Good nature hike.
• This place is awesome! I love the view from the top of the mesa. Like another reviewer said, it is worth the climb! My son loves when we go there so he can play in the dirt. Just a suggestion, DO NOT go after a rain. The dirt turns to an awful red stain!!

**Park Management**

Over the years of operation, the management structure for Gloss Mountains State Park has changed at the direction of leadership within OTRD from Oklahoma City. Since 1998, Gloss Mountains State Park has been managed under contract by the Gloss Mountains Conservancy. A further intergovernmental agreement in 2008 incorporated participation from the City of Fairview in that management.

Gloss Mountains State Park is currently included in the Western Region 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 for Gloss Mountains State Park has been stable over the past four years, with one part-time gatekeeper employed through the Gloss Mountains Conservancy and City of Fairview. Additional volunteer hours have been invested in the property, but have not been documented for total time or numbers of people. Table 3.2 documents the staffing pattern for Gloss Mountains State Park in recent years.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal staff Park</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
<td>1 part-time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Revenue and Expenses

Data related to revenue and expense at Gloss Mountains State Park is somewhat unusual in the Oklahoma State Park system. There are no direct revenue sources for Gloss Mountains State Park, although rental of the picnic pavilion would be possible within the practice at other state park properties. Under the current agreement, Oklahoma State Parks, as a part of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, pays the City of Fairview $12,000 annually for “all work associated with the operation and maintenance at Gloss Mountains State Park.” These payments are made in quarterly installments of $3,000 each. Table 3.3 reports this revenue and expense data for the past four years.

Table 3.3 – Expense and Revenue at Gloss Mountains State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Difference Revenue - expense</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>($12,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Total</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>($12,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>($12,000)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>$12,000</td>
<td>($12,000)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As a result, the difference between revenue and expense for operation of Gloss Mountains State Park has been $12,000 annually. Additional investment through grants, volunteer hours, and other donations have also been utilized by the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. and the City of Fairview.

Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational

Any recreational activity includes 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, Gloss Mountains 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 Gloss Mountains State Park include the steep terrain, flora and fauna, as well as a number of other natural conditions or events. In addition, 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 not uncommon. Quite commonly, the visitor is not informed of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their
interactions. The major natural hazards for visitors to Gloss Mountains State Park are associated with choices and activities made by those visitors.

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 several years. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes, snow, ice, excessive heat, and drought. 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 Gloss Mountains State Park. The park encompasses an environment suitable for venomous snakes including two types of rattlesnakes as mentioned earlier in the RMP. Research staff observed snakes during their hikes in preparation of the RMP and visitors reported 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 animals include armadillos and the possibility of bobcats and mountain lions, although these are less likely during daylight hours when visitors are present.

The butte and mesa environment in and around Gloss Mountains State Park 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 Major 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. Some people have adverse responses to bee stings and there are numerous bees, wasps, hornets, and other stinging insects throughout the park.

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. Horses are not presently
allowed on the trails, but there are numerous horses in the surrounding environment. As a result, encounter with an infected mosquito is a possibility for a susceptible visitor.

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 Gloss Mountains State Park.

Another potential natural hazard in a recreation environment is waterborne disease. As stated in the 2002 Statewide Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for Oklahoma (Caneday, 2002):

Since 1971, Federal agencies (CDC and EPA) have maintained a collaborative surveillance system for collecting and reporting data related to occurrences and causes of waterborne-disease outbreaks (WBDOs). As an environmental hazard, waterborne diseases have always been present in the United States; however, outbreaks linked to drinking water have steadily declined since 1989. By contrast, the number of outbreaks linked to recreation activity has increased (Center for Disease Control). It is not clear whether this is due to increased outdoor recreation activity, larger numbers of people involved in outdoor recreation, or greater hazard present in the water environment. CDC reports for 1995 – 1996 have shown that the exposure to the disease occurred in lakes in 59% of waterborne-disease outbreaks of gastroenteritis associated with recreational water. Equal percentages (27%) of *Cryptosporidium parvum* and *Escherichia coli* as the etiologic agent were reported during that period.

Waterborne-disease through potable water is no greater an issue at Gloss Mountain State Park than in any other area served by the rural water district. Ephemeral surface waters are present following precipitation events and may provide settings for various waterborne-diseases.

**Operational Hazards**

Operational hazards include those vulnerabilities to volunteers, the park system, the City of Fairview 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 service and other emergency services are provided by the City of Fairview and Major County. Emergency response time is estimated to be 15 minutes. Emergency medical service is available in Fairview or Woodward.

Records were not available related to specific frequency or severity of accidents or injuries occurring within the park. Anecdotal evidence revealed that, in recent years, at least one park visitor required rescue following a heart attack while on the trails.

**Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement for Gloss Mountains State Park is provided by the Major County Sheriff’s Office and occasionally the Oklahoma Highway Patrol. No records were provided regarding law enforcement activities on the property, although anecdotal evidence indicated there have been events that required law enforcement personnel. One such event led to arrest of an individual off
park property. However, several instances of vandalism have presented problems for the Gloss Mountains Conservancy in using donation boxes or visitor counting mechanisms.

**Policy-Related Exposures**

Some aspects of management of hazard risk are incorporated into law enforcement. Most Oklahoma State Parks have park rangers authorized to enforce laws within the parks. Since Gloss Mountains State Park is operated under a contract, there are no state personnel assigned to the property. However, state park rangers, including the Regional Manager, would have authority on the property.

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, while a formal management plan does not exist for Gloss Mountains State Park, the park operates under the same agreement between Oklahoma State Parks and the Oklahoma Division of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) that all state parks are game refuges. 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 Gloss Mountains 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.

**Waste Management**

The relatively small and concentrated area of development at Gloss Mountains State Park allows waste management to be quite simple. There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste.
Solid waste is transported off-site by the City of Fairview. Trashcans are provided at the ODOT turn-out on Highway 412 and adjacent to the parking lot. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these trashcans.

Liquid waste is managed on-site through the former portable vault toilets, now replaced with the CXT vault comfort station, in Gloss Mountains State Park. These vaults are serviced by personnel from the City of Fairview. The capacity of the vaults is such that routine removal of waste is not anticipated. Maintenance and cleaning are the on-going commitments related to the comfort station.

Park management did not express any concerns or problems with waste management at Gloss Mountains 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 3.13 – Water hydrants at Gloss Mountains State Park
Figure 3.14 – Gloss Mountains region

Photo credit above: Gloss Mountains Outfitters

Photo credit below: Newton Ranch
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary
In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Gloss Mountains 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 each of the properties being reviewed during the Resource Management Plan project is qualification and branding as a state park. That question must be addressed for Gloss Mountains State Park as it is truly unusual within the Oklahoma State Park system. Management of the property under a contract sets Gloss Mountains State Park apart from all other properties in the system.

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 Gloss Mountains State Park, it could be concluded that:

1. Gloss Mountains State Park offers geographic, topographic, geological, and environmental resources of statewide significance, with additional drawing power beyond the state. Gloss Mountains State Park is in an under-served portion of the state and offers a specific recreational activity, hiking in a dramatic setting, which is important to the state of Oklahoma.
2. Gloss Mountains State Park is feasible to manage within the agency, under contract to willing partners, and fits within the mission of Oklahoma State Parks. In many ways, Gloss Mountains State Park and its operation is a model for other possible management agreements for smaller properties with specific focus. Contracted management of state properties is increasingly common around the nation, and contracted management under the National Park Service is also increasing in popularity. The Oklahoma City National Memorial is one such example under the National Park Service. Gloss Mountains State Park is truly a valuable property that can be managed by OTRD.
3. Gloss Mountains State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD and the park’s stated purpose “to provide for the protection, public enjoyment, and increased understanding of the natural, scenic, historical, geological, and ecological values and resources that exist within the park property extending to the surrounding region” matches well with Oklahoma State Parks.

As a result, the research team recognizes the value of Gloss Mountains State Park as a state park.

Alternatives

A. Seek to sell the property at Gloss Mountains State Park;
B. Seek to transfer Gloss Mountains State Park to some other management agency;
C. Retain Gloss Mountains State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – continue management as it is. Retain Gloss Mountains State Park as a property in the Oklahoma State Park system.
Issue Statement 2: Management agreement for the property

As has been indicated, the management contract between OTRD, the City of Fairview, and the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. is unique within the Oklahoma State Park system. The present agreement went into effect April 1, 2008. That agreement specifies that the state will pay the City of Fairview an annual total of $12,000 for operation and maintenance of the park. It also specifies that OTRD will include Gloss Mountains State Park in the Department’s consolidated request for funding for capital improvements. The agreement also calls for automatic renewal for additional years. Specific provisions of this agreement may be modified or amended by mutual agreement between the Department and the City of Fairview.

One such provision that will probably need to be addressed is the specified payment for operation and maintenance. It is somewhat unclear at present as to what actual operational expenses are for Gloss Mountains State Park. However, it is likely that this annual total payment will need to be adjusted.

There are capital improvements that have been occurring and additional improvements must continue to occur. A clearer and better documentation of operational expenses from the City of Fairview to the Department would provide an improved understanding of day-to-day operations.

Alternatives

A. Terminate the operating agreement between the City of Fairview and Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;
B. Modify the operating agreement between the City of Fairview and Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

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

Issue Statement 3: Potential observatory and dark sky protection

Entry corridors and visual panoramas are important factors in perceptions of visitors and guests to Gloss Mountains State Park, as they are in most park settings. At present the entry corridors are rural environments with limited development and few visual intrusions. The major visual pollution along the entry corridors and within the park is the result of overhead power lines and telephone lines.

Personnel from Fairview reported that astronomy clubs and classes have an established, long-standing practice of visiting Gloss Mountains State Park for observation of the night sky. Other parks in the Oklahoma State Park system have been adversely impacted by light pollution from surrounding cities or other sources. Such light pollution should be prevented at Gloss Mountains State Park.

Gloss Mountains State Park is bordered by private property presently utilized for extraction of oil and gas and as grazing for cattle. There are few light sources to interfere with clarity of the night sky, and maintaining that condition has value for the property and visitors.
Acquisition of property surrounding Gloss Mountains State Park is a possible alternative, but unlikely in the present economy. However, there are other legal tools for management of visual and aesthetics aspects of property. Among these are visual or scenic easements and designation of a property as a “dark-sky preserve.” Such designation would be a first for the state of Oklahoma. The International Dark-Sky Association (www.darksky.org/) provides assistance with such designation and has model language for agreements.

An observatory was included in the long-range plans for Gloss Mountains State Park. That may be truly a long-range project. However, individual and group enjoyment of the night sky can be achieved with minimal amenities. Gloss Mountains State Park offers that setting.

Alternatives

A. Consider designation of Gloss Mountains State Park as a “dark-sky preserve;”
B. Seek to reduce additional visual pollution along rights-of-way and throughout the park using appropriate legal means;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternatives A and B: Consider designation of Gloss Mountains State Park as a “dark-sky preserve;” and seek to reduce additional visual pollution along rights-of-way and throughout the park using appropriate legal means.

Issue Statement 4: Interpretive services at Gloss Mountains State Park

Gloss Mountains State Park has a story to tell in many locations. That story cannot simply be told by signs and brochures. However, a visitor center is also a long-range consideration at Gloss Mountains 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 firsthand 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.”

Gloss Mountains State Park offers several resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The story includes the place, the interaction of people with the place, the geology, the astronomy, the habitat, the wildlife, and much more.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Gloss Mountains State Park and the state park system more broadly. This would require personnel for delivery or creative use of technology. And both are possible at Gloss Mountains State Park.

There are well-informed individuals within the region who can provide interpretive programs. This may include knowledgeable volunteers from Fairview or any of the surrounding communities. This may include scholars from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. The role of the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. could be that of coordination of these special interpretive programs.

On a less personal note of connection with visitors, new technology has opened exciting avenues for interpreters. QR codes and other electronic media allow visitors to access the world-wide-web and immense data bases while on the park property. Such technology should be considered for Gloss Mountains State Park.

Alternatives

A. Expand the interpretive programming within the park through coordination of special interpretive events;
B. Continue planning for and installation of interpretive media utilizing cutting-edge technology;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A and B: Expand the interpretive programming within the park through coordination of special interpretive events; and continue planning for and installation of interpretive media utilizing cutting-edge technology.

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, the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. is 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.

Gloss Mountains State Park can have a significant role in modeling and educating other managers and guests regarding best management practices. One state park in Oklahoma, Keystone State Park, has been eco-certified. Gloss Mountains State Park should be a leader in this effort as well.

Alternatives
A. Seek to change state accounting regulations to permit operation of the recycling program by park staff;
B. The Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. should evaluate, create, and implement a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative B: The Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. should evaluate, create, and implement a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park.

**Issue Statement 6: Future of Highway 412, signs, and access to property**

As discussed in the RMP, the Federal Highway Administration and the Oklahoma Department of Transportation anticipate future expansion of Highway 412 into a four-lane expressway. That planning projects the footprint of a four-lane highway on the existing right-of-way. However, the east-bound lanes are projected to be separated from the west-bound lanes by a concrete barrier. If such development were to occur, east-bound traffic would no long be able to turn into Gloss Mountains State Park.

Various design alternatives are possible, although most would require a means for east-bound traffic to crossover to the west-bound lanes. That could occur at a point east of the property and possibly as far east as Orienta. It will be important to remain involved in planning efforts related to changes in traffic flow on Highway 412.

In the interim, placement of signs along Highway 412 will also require serious consideration. At present, drivers from either direction have relatively short distances from directional signs to the park entrance. The park entry sign is most easily visible for persons after turning into the park entrance.

At the time of preparation of the RMP, new signage was being installed at other state parks. Similar signage was being planned for Gloss Mountains State Park. Ideally, traditional ODOT distance and direction signs (green and reflective white) should be placed east and west of the
Park entrance. At the entrance to Gloss Mountains State Park, a traditional OTRD-branded sign should clearly mark this property as a state park.

Alternatives

A. OTRD, city of Fairview leadership, and members of the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. should remain involved in planning related to Highway 412;
B. Install OTRD-branded signs and ODOT signs to aid travelers along Highway 412 in accessing Gloss Mountains State Park;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A & B: OTRD, city of Fairview leadership, and members of the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. should remain involved in planning related to Highway 412; and install OTRD-branded signs and ODOT signs to aid travelers along Highway 412 in accessing Gloss Mountains State Park.

**Recommendations beyond the Issues**

**Recommendation 1: Erosion control**

The soils in Gloss Mountains State Park are subject to erosion. Such erosion is documented on pages 44 and 45 along the walkway to the flag and monument, along the hillside adjacent to Highway 412, and along slopes near the parking lot. There is also erosion undercutting the stairways and handrails along the trails. Erosion from these locations flows into Rattlesnake Lake, presenting additional problems and shortening the life of that impoundment.

It will take informed consultation to devise a plan to reduce erosion. However, such consultation is essential to prevent further damage to Gloss Mountains State Park and amenities that are essential to visitors. Representatives from the Natural Resource Conservation Service may provide insight into effective techniques that can be implemented at a reasonable cost.

**Recommendation 2: Reclamation of wells upon abandonment**

The 640-acres of Gloss Mountains State Park include several oil and gas wells. A number of these wells are active, but it is likely that some have been abandoned or will be abandoned shortly. In addition, there are several tank batteries around the property.

It will be necessary to work with the respective oil and gas companies and the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board (OERB) to assure environmental integrity for operating wells and those that have been abandoned. Abandoned sites should be properly reclaimed. OERB may be able to assist in this process.

**Recommendation 3: Documentation of visitation**

As indicated in the RMP, there is no current documentation of visitation at Gloss Mountains State Park. Both OTRD and the City of Fairview are interested in information related to visitors. Such information may include numbers of visitors, point of origin for visitors, length of stay for visitors, activities while on site, source of information that motivated a visit, and much more.
While several methods for collecting such data have been considered, most of those methods that involved technology on-site have been abandoned. Vandalism of counters and registration books has precluded their continued use.

As with interpretive services, there is new technology available for simple counts. Representatives from the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. indicated they were investigating various possibilities. If vending machines are installed, it is possible that a registration process may be implemented at that location under the shelter.

For many with smart phones, registration and surveys can be collected and stored off-site. Such a process eliminates the need for an on-site installation other than a sign with a QR code.

Some method of documentation of visitation and public response should be established. The information gained is valuable for marketing, for provision of desired services, and for political purposes.

**Recommendation 4: Trail maintenance**

As indicated in Recommendation 1, erosion has undercut stairways, steps, and trails in several places. Handrails have also been loosened and are in need of repair or replacement. This project was funded in part through a National Recreation Trails grant. That program includes inspections of funded projects and requirements for continued eligibility of the recipient property. There are individuals and organizations that love the trails at Gloss Mountains State Park. The Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. should coordinate volunteer assistance through Boy Scouts, hiking clubs, and other interested parties to assist with the needed repair and replacement for safety of visitors, integrity of the trails, and aesthetics within Gloss Mountains State Park.
References


Appendix A – Documents related to Property

1. 1997 Smith warranty deed
2. 1998 management contract
3. 2008 intergovernmental agreement
No.
S=231.50

Abstract of Title

TO

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
SITUATED IN
MAJOR COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SUPPLEMENTAL SINCE: September 27, 1965 at 8:00 A.M.
COVERING:

The East Half (E 1/2);
The Southwest Quarter (SW¼);
The East ¼ of Northwest ¼;
The Northwest ¼ of Northwest ¼;
Section - - - 22 - - - in
Township - - - 22 - - - N.
Range - - - 13 - - - W.
of the Indian Meridian.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Land Title Association Uniform Certificate

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, as:

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:

   The East Half (E 1/2);
   The Southwest Quarter (SW¼);
   The East ¼ of the Northwest ¼;
   The Northwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of
   Section —— 22 —— in
   Township —— 22 —— N.
   Range —— 13 —— W.
   of the Indian Meridian.

   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 unreleased Notices of Federal Tax Liens filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parties named under paragraph 3 below, except as shown in this abstract.

2. The records of the Office of the Court Clerk of said County disclose that there are no foreign exceptions, court proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County and there are no judgments or transcripts of judgments, indexed and docketed on the judgment docket against any of the following named parties affecting the title to said real estate, except as shown in this abstract:

   Albert Jester, None
   Crene Sadie Jester, None
   Eldred F. Smith, None
   Phyllis E. Jordan, None
   Rose Oren Smith, None

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

   That said real estate has been assessed for ad valorem taxes for each year covered by this certificate for which ad valorem taxes could be a lien against said real estate; and during said period of time there are no ad valorem taxes which are a lien on said property, due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereon, except as shown in this abstract.

   1964 and prior ad valorem tax show paid.
   1965 ad valorem tax, $89.18, due and payable.

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

   Personal Taxes: No Asses Tax Warrants have been issued which could be used as the basis of levy against the hereinbefore described real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

4. The undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully bonded abstractor, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Land Title Association and of the American Land Title Association, whose bond is in force at date of this certificate. The undersigned has a complete set of indexes to the records of said county, compiled from the records and not copied from the indexes 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 indexes in the office of the County Clerk.

   This certificate covers sheet No. 1 to 3, both inclusive, and covers the period from
   September 27, 1965 at 8:00 A.M. to November 24, 1965 at 11:56 A.M.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: [Signature]

[Stamp]
Abstract of Title

TO

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
SITUATED IN

MAJOR COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SUPPLEMENTAL SINCE: November 24, 1965 at 11:56 A.M.

COVERING:

The East Half (E 1/2);
The Southwest Quarter (SW¼);
The East ¼ of the Northwest ¼ and
The Northwest ¼ of Northwest ¼ of

Section -- 22 -- in
Township -- 22 -- N.
Range -- 13 -- W.
of the Indian Meridian.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, 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:

   The East Half (E\(\frac{1}{2}\));
   The Southwest Quarter (SW\(\frac{1}{4}\));
   The East \(\frac{1}{2}\) of the Northwest \(\frac{1}{4}\) and
   The Northwest \(\frac{1}{4}\) of the Northwest \(\frac{1}{4}\) of
   Section --- 22 --- in
   Township --- 22 --- N.
   Range --- 13 --- W.
   of the Indian Meridian.

INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS HAVE BEEN OMITTED BY REQUEST.

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 unrecorded Notices of Federal Tax Liens filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parties named under paragraph 2 below, except as shown in this abstract.

2. The records of the Office of the Court Clerk of said County disclose that there are no foreign executions, court proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County and there are no judgments or transcripts of judgments, indexed and docketed on the judgment docket against any of the following named parties affecting the title to said real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

Phyllis E. Jordan, None
Max G. Jordan, None
Eldred E. Smith, None
Rose Orene Smith, None

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

That said real estate has been assessed for ad valorem taxes for each year covered by this certificate for which ad valorem taxes could be a lien against said real estate; and during said period of time there are no ad valorem taxes which are a lien on said property, due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereof, except as shown in this abstract.

1976 and prior ad valorem taxes: PAID

There are no unpaid special assessments certified to the office of the County Treasurer due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereof, except as shown in this abstract.

Personal Taxes: No Alias Tax Warrants have been issued which could be used as the basis of levy against the hereinbefore described real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

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

This certificate covers sheet No. 27 to 33, both inclusive, and covers the period from Nov. 12, 1968, at 8:00 a.m. to Jan. 4, 1977, at 8:00 a.m.

Extend No. S=25596.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: One of the Firm.
Abstract of Title

TO

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
SITUATED IN
MAJOR COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SUPPLEMENTAL SINCE: January 1, 1977 @ 8:00 A.M.

COVERING:

The Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of

Section -- 22 -- in
Township -- 22 -- N.
Range -- 13 -- W.

of the Indian Meridian.

Major County, Oklahoma

INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL, GAS AND OTHER
MINERALS HAVE BEEN OMITTED BY REQUEST.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Land Title Association Uniform Certificate

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, 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:

   The Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of
   Section -- -- 22 -- -- in
   Township -- -- 22 -- -- N.
   Range -- -- 13 -- -- W.
   of the Indian Meridian.

INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS HAVE BEEN OMITTED BY REQUEST.

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 unreleased Notices of Federal Tax Liens filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parties named under paragraph 2 below, except as shown in this abstract.

2. The records of the Office of the Court Clerk of said County disclose that there are no foreign executions, court proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County and there are no judgments or transcripts of judgments, indexed and cataloged on the judgment docket against any of the following named parties affecting the title to said real estate, except as shown in this abstract: and EXCEPT proceedings not of public record.

   Eldred F. Smith, None
   Rose Orene Smith, None
   Department of Tourism and Recreation, None

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

   That said real estate has been assessed for ad valorem taxes for each year covered by this certificate for which ad valorem taxes could be a lien against said real estate; and during said period of time there are no ad valorem taxes which are a lien on said property, due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereon, except as shown in this abstract.

   1977 and prior ad valorem taxes: PAID

There are no unpaid special assessments certified to the office of the County Treasurer due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereon, except as shown in this abstract. No certification as to unmatured installments of Special Assessments.

4. The undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully bonded abstractor, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Land Title Association and of the American Land Title Association, whose bond is in force at date of this certificate. The undersigned has a complete set of indexes to the records of said county, compiled from the records and not copies from the indexes 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 indexes in the office of the County Clerk.

This certificate covers Sheet No. 1 from January 4, 1977 @ 8:00 a.m. to February 17, 1978 @ 8:00 a.m., both inclusive, and covered the period from January 4, 1977 @ 8:00 a.m. to February 17, 1978 @ 8:00 a.m.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: Matzen Lawver
Abstract of Title

No. 31064

The following described lands in Major County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

The Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of
Section —— 22 —— in
Township —— 22 —— N.
Range —— 13 —— W.
of the Indian Meridian.

INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL, GAS AND OTHER
MINERALS HAVE BEEN OMITTED BY REQUEST.

Map of Major County, Oklahoma

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
Fairview ::: ::: Oklahoma
114 E. BROADWAY
Oklahoma Land Title Association Uniform Certificate

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, 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:

   The Southwest ¼ of the Northwest ¼ of
   Section -- 22 -- in
   Township -- 22 -- N.
   Range -- 13 -- W.
   of the Indian Meridian.

   INSTRUMENTS PERTAINING TO OIL, GAS AND OTHER MINERALS HAVE BEEN OMITTED
   BY REQUEST.

   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 unreleased Notices of Federal Tax Liens filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parties named under paragraph 2 below, except as shown in this abstract.

2. The records of the Office of the Court Clerk of said County disclose that there are no foreign executions, court proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County and there are no judgments or transcripts of judgments, indexed and docketed on the judgment docket against any of the following named parties affecting the title to said real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

   Max G. Jordan, None
   Phyllis E. Jordan, None
   Eldred F. Smith, None
   Rose Orene Smith, None

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

   That said real estate has been assessed for ad valorem taxes for each year covered by this certificate for which ad valorem taxes could be a lien against said real estate; and during said period of time there are no ad valorem taxes which are a lien on said property, due and unpaid, nor tax sales the real unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereon, except as shown in this abstract.

   1976 and prior ad valorem taxes: PAID

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

   Personal Taxes: No Alias Tax Warrants have been issued which could be used as the basis of levy against the hereinbefore described real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

4. The undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully licensed abstractor, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Land Title Association and of the American Land Title Association, whose hand is to force at date of this certificate. The undersigned has a complete set of indexes to the records of said county, compiled from the records and not copied from the indexes 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 indexes in the office of the County Clerk.

   This certificate covers sheet No. ___________ to ___________ 17, both inclusive, and covers the period from Inception to Jan. 4, 1977 at 8:00 a.m.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: ____________________________
Abstract of Title

TO

The following described lands in Major County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

The East Half (E 1/2);
The Southwest Quarter (SW1/4);
The East 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of
Section --- 22 --- in
Township --- 22 --- N.
Range --- 13 --- W.
of the Indian Meridian.

Map of Major County, Oklahoma

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
Fairview :::: Oklahoma 85862
Oklahoma Title Association Uniform Certificate

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, ss:

The undersigned, THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY, does hereby certify that the foregoing sheets numbered 100 to 160, both inclusive, contain a true and correct abstract of all instruments filed for record or recorded in the office of the County Clerk (formerly Register of Deeds) of said County, including the records from the office of the Clerk of the United States Court for any recording district in which said land was located, affecting the title to the following described real estate in said County and State:

EXTENDED FROM: April 1, 1943 at 8:00 o'clock A.M.

The East Half (E½);
The Southwest Quarter (SW¼);
The East ½ of the Northwest ½ and
The Northwest ½ of the Northwest ½ of
Section 22
Township 22
of Range 13
of the Indian Meridian.

That the acknowledgements of all such instruments are statutory except as otherwise shown.

That there are no judgments, transcript of judgments, foreign executions, probate proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County, rendered, or on file against any of the following named parties, as appears from the records in the office of the Court Clerk thereof, except as shown in this abstract:

Jesse L. Brown  NONE

That according to the tax records in the office of the County Treasurer, said real estate has been assessed for each year: that there are no taxes assessed against said real estate, either general or special, due and unpaid, nor any tax sales thereof unredeemed: that no tax deeds have been given thereon: that there are no unpaid personal taxes against any of the above named parties oravatar of taxes due the United States of America filed in the office of County Clerk, which are a lien on said real estate, except as shown herein:

1951 and prior advalorem tax show PAID

That the undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully bonded abstractor, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Title Association and of the American Title Association, whose bond is in force at date of this certificate. That the undersigned has a complete set of indexes to the records of said County, compiled from the records and not compiled to the indexes in the office of the County Clerk, and that the searches covered by this certificate reflect the records of said county and are not restricted to the indexes in the office of the County Clerk, formerly Register of Deeds, thereof.

Dated at Fairview, Oklahoma, this the 28th day of March, 1952, at 8:00 o'clock A.M.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: W. J. Cine
One of the firm.
Abstract of Title

THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED REAL ESTATE
SITUATED IN
MAJOR COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

SUPPLEMENTAL SINCE: March 28th, 1952 @ 8:00 A.M.

The Northeast Quarter (NE¼) and
The Southeast Quarter (SE¼) and
The Southwest Quarter (SW¼) and
The East ¼ of the Northwest ¼ and
The Northwest ¼ of Northwest ¼ of
Section —— 22 —— in
Township —— 22 —— N.
Range —— 13 —— W.
of the Indian Meridian
Major County, Oklahoma

PROPERTY OF
PAN AMERICAN PETROLEUM CORPORATION

LEASE NO. 177423 & 177424

COST $ __________________

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY
FAIRVIEW, OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma Land Title Association Uniform Certificate

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF MAJOR, 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:

   The East Half (E 1/2);
   The Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4);
   The East 1/2 of the Northwest 1/4 and
   The Northwest 1/4 of Northwest 1/4 of
   Section - - - 22 - - - in
   Township - - - 22 - - - N.
   Range - - - 13 - - - W.
   of the Indian Meridian.

   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 unreleased Notices of Federal Tax Liens filed in the office of the County Clerk of said County against any of the parties named under paragraph 3 below, except as shown in this abstract.

2. The records of the Office of the Court Clerk of said County disclose that there are no foreign executions, court proceedings, suits pending, nor liens of any kind affecting the title to said real estate in any of the courts of record in said County and there are no judgments or transcripts of judgments, indexed and docketed on the judgment docket against any of the following named parties affecting the title to said real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

   Albert Jester, None
   Orene Sadie Jester, None

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

   That said real estate has been assessed for advalorem taxes for each year covered by this certificate for which advalorem taxes could be a lien against said real estate; and during said period of time there are no advalorem taxes which are a lien on said property, due and unpaid, nor tax sales thereof unredeemed, nor tax deeds given thereon, except as shown in this abstract.

   1964 and prior advalorem tax show paid.

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

   Personal Taxes: No Alias Tax Warrants have been issued which could be used as the basis of levy against the hereinbefore described real estate, except as shown in this abstract.

4. The undersigned is a duly qualified and lawfully bonded abstractor, a member in good standing of the Oklahoma Land Title Association and of the American Land Title Association, whose bond is in force at date of this certificate. The undersigned has a complete set of indexes to the records of said county, compiled from the records and not copied from the indexes 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 indexes in the office of the County Clerk.

This certificate covers sheet No. 43 to 116 both inclusive, and covers the period from November 12, 1957 at 8:00 A.M. to September 27, 1965 at 8:00 A.M.

THE FAIRVIEW ABSTRACT COMPANY

By: [Signature]

[Stamp: Oklahoma Land Title Association]
February 21, 1978

The abstract reflecting the purchase of the Smith property in Major County, Oklahoma, is in the office of the attorney general for title opinion purposes.

Signed [Signature]

cc: Gloss Mountain Abstract File

OKLAHOMA! STATE OF MANY COUNTRIES
WARRANTY DEED

Statutory Form—Individual

Know All Men by These Presents:

That Eldred F. Smith and Rose Orene

Smith, Husband and Wife,

of Oklahoma, County,

State of Oklahoma, part of the first part, in consideration of the sum of One Hundred Sixty Thousand and 00/100 ($160,000.00) DOLLARS in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AND RECREATION

of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Major

County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

Section Twenty-Two (22) / Township Twenty-Two (22) North, Range Thirteen (13) West of Indian Meridian, Major County, State of Oklahoma, containing 640 Acres, More or Less, However RESERVING and EXCEPTING unto the Grantors, ELDRED F. SMITH and ROSE ORENE SMITH, Husband and Wife, as joint tenants and not as tenants in common with full rights of survivorship, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns All of the oil, gas and minerals in and under the surface of said land except those interests therein previously granted, conveyed or reserved of record, which said interests are also RESERVED and EXCEPTED from this conveyance, together with the full and free right to enter upon said premises and to use so much of the surface thereof as may be reasonably necessary for operating, drilling and marketing the production 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 part y of the second part, its heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbencies of whatsoever nature, EXCEPT Easements and Rights of Way of Record.

Signed and delivered this 18th day of October, 1977.

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 18th day of October, 1977, personally appeared Eldred F. Smith and Rose Orene Smith

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 the day and year last above written.

My commission expires 7-29-78.

[Signature]

Notary Public
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Witnesseth:

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission is duly authorized and empowered to own, operate and maintain park and recreational properties, and to make improvements thereon, for the benefit of the people of the State of Oklahoma, and to lease any property which said Commission shall determine advisable to more fully carry into effect the duties and powers of said Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission, as authorized under Title 74 O.S. Supp. 1997, Section 1847.1(A)(4).

WHEREAS, the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission has authorized the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department to enter into a Management Contract for the purpose of operating Gloss Mountains State Park for the benefit of the people of the Oklahoma of Oklahoma.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is mutually agreed by and between the parties as follows:

MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

THIS MANAGEMENT CONTRACT is being entered into by the OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, hereinafter referred to as "Tourism", and GLOSS MOUNTAIN CONSERVANCY, INC. (a not-for-profit corporation), hereinafter referred to as "Contract Manager".

1. Grant and Description of Premises. Tourism hereby grants to Contract Manager the right to manage certain premises, all properties and improvements situated in the County of Major, State of Oklahoma, known as follows: Gloss Mountains State Park (Legally Described as All of Section 22-Township 22-Range 13 W.I.M., Major County, Oklahoma).

2. Term. The term of this Management Contract shall be ten (10) years. Renewals may be granted at the sole discretion of Tourism. Such option may be based upon the Contract Manager’s performance as determined in the sole discretion of Tourism. Tourism may at its sole discretion offer an additional ten (10) year extension at the end of the final option period. This Management Contract shall begin on the 1st day of April, 1998 and end on the 31st day of March, 2008. The Contract Manager shall, within thirty (30) days from the expiration or termination of this Management Contract, remove from said premises or otherwise dispose of all personal property belonging to the Contract Manager located on said premises. Should the Contract Manager fail to remove or dispose of Contract Manager’s personal property within thirty (30) days, Tourism may consider such property abandoned and may dispose of same.
All improvements shall become property of Tourism at the expiration or termination of the Management Contract. All improvements determined to be a detriment to the property may be disposed of by Tourism if Lessee refuses to do so upon request by Tourism. Costs of disposal of said property shall be billed to the Contract Manager.

3. **CONDITION OF PREMISES.** Contract Manager agrees to accept said premises in their presently existing condition, "as is", and Tourism shall not be obligated to make any alterations, additions or betterment thereto.

A complete inventory list is attached hereto and marked as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by reference.

4. **SUBSIDY.** Tourism shall pay any real property damage settlements (i.e. oil and gas exploration from drilling, pipelines and/or lease roads) and/or pond water sales to the non-profit Contract Manager which must be used by Contract Manager to improve the premises. These payments shall be made promptly upon settlement with claims personnel, and no later than the 15th day of the month thereafter.

5. **ACCOUNTS AND RECORDS.** Contract Manager shall keep true and accurate books and records showing all of its business transactions and separate records of account, in a manner acceptable to Tourism, and Tourism shall have the right, through its designated representative and at all reasonable times, including the one (1) year period following termination of this Management Contract, to inspect and copy such books and records, including pertinent tax records.

Contract Manager shall submit to Tourism a copy of its annual independent financial audit, an annual profit and loss statement for the park, and any other financial reports as required by all state parks. These documents shall be submitted to Tourism on or before June 1 of each year.

In the event this Management Contract is terminated, a profit and loss statement for the period of operation not previously reported, shall be submitted to Tourism within fifteen (15) days after the Management Contract is terminated. Profit and loss statements should be in a format approved by Tourism and shall contain an affidavit by the Contract Manager attesting to the accuracy of the statement.

6. **USE AND OPERATION OF PREMISES.** Contract Manager shall use the premises hereby let to provide the following services: The Contract Manager will be required to develop the historic, cultural and scenic features of the park property as necessary for educational and/or research purposes on a non-profit basis. All fees or other revenue generated will be used for park operations, expenses or improvements to the park. The Contract Manager may provide services or conduct such operations as are permitted in other state parks. The Contract Manager shall not use or permit the premises to be used for any other purpose or purposes without written permission from
Tourism. Any uses, services, or operations prohibited in all other state parks shall also be prohibited within Gloss Mountains State Park. Contract Manager must comply with all agency rules and procedures regarding dealing with the public, i.e. senior citizen discounts, audits, etc. The hours of operation shall be posted in a conspicuous place at or near entrances of the park. Contract Manager agrees to open the park seven (7) days per week and will give Tourism notice of the hours of operation.

Contract Manager agrees to maintain and operate such premises in a clean, safe, wholesome and sanitary condition, free of trash, garbage or other obstructions, mowed and trimmed, and in compliance with any and all state and federal laws, general rules or regulations of any governmental authority as required in all Oklahoma State Parks.

In the event Contract Manager sells goods in the park, prices for said goods shall be competitive with those charged by similar businesses in the same region at the same time. The prices charged for RV camping, tent camping or shelter rental must be in conjunction with prices and fees assessed at all Oklahoma State Parks.

Contract Manager shall provide the services offered in a manner comparable with like businesses and with prices comparable to other comparable businesses providing similar services during the entire term of this Management Contract.

Contract Manager and Tourism shall, from time to time, review items sold and containers or utensils used or dispenses by Contract Manager and, whenever possible, Contract Manager shall eliminate the use of non-returnable containers, plastics, etc. Tourism reserves the right to prohibit the sale or use of non-biodegradable cups that are not approved by Tourism in advance of such use.

7. UTILITIES. Contract Manager shall be responsible for payment of all utility charges. Tourism will be responsible for transferring their membership (water tap) with Major County Rural Water and Sewer District No. 1 to the Contract Manager for the term of the Contract. In the event that this Contract is terminated, Contract Manager hereby immediately conveys the membership (water tap) back to Tourism and such conveyance is hereby acknowledged.

8. IMPROVEMENTS AND MAINTENANCE:

(a) Title to improvements. Contract Manager hereby acknowledges the title of Tourism in the premises described in this Management Contract. Title to personal property provided by the Contract Manager shall remain in the name of the Contract Manager. If the Contract Manager constructs a permanent structure on the property, Tourism shall assume title to such property at the end of the Management Contract term. Prior to the construction of any improvements on the property, Contract Manager shall
obtain the approval of Tourism. Tourism may in its discretion, require certain design and material specs.

(b) Maintenance of Improvements. Contract Manager agrees to provide maintenance to facilities at its own expense during the entire term of this Management Contract. Contract Manager shall, at Contract Manager’s own expense, perform normal required maintenance and repairs. Should Contract Manager fail, neglect, or refuse to do so, Tourism may perform such maintenance or repair, the Contract Manager shall reimburse Tourism for the cost thereof, provided that Tourism shall first give the Contract Manager thirty (30) days written notice of its intention to perform such repair or maintenance resulting from a major system failure or resulting from a structural failure or catastrophe. Tourism is obligated to maintain roads.

(c) Uniforms. All Contract Manager employees coming in direct contact with the public shall wear uniforms deemed appropriate and approved by Tourism.

9. PERFORMANCE OF MANAGEMENT CONTRACT. Performance of Management Contract: Any violation by Contract Manager of the terms of this Management Contract shall be grounds for termination of this Management Contract by Tourism, upon thirty (30) days written notice to Contract Manager.

In addition, Tourism may close the premises within twenty-four (24) hours written notice and until Contract Manager shall correct any condition which Tourism, or Department of Health, shall reasonably deem a threat to health or safety, or which Tourism shall reasonably deem a violation of the Management Contract herein relating to the collection, disbursement or reporting of revenues. Contract Manager agrees that, upon such notification, he shall immediately and diligently undertake to correct any such condition.

10. INVENTORY. None.

11. LIABILITY INSURANCE. The Contract Manager must carry all required worker’s compensation insurance on all of its employees. Contract Manager shall maintain public liability insurance naming both the Contract Manager and Tourism as the named insured from a duly licensed insurance company, acceptable to Tourism, providing for minimum limits of:

$15,000 each person, $50,000 property damage, $300,000 each accident.

A copy of the insurance policy shall be furnished to Tourism prior to the commencement of any operations.

Contract Manager agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Tourism and State from all loss or damage to any person, or to the property of any person, including
Tourism, arising in connection with the operation of the business, including, but not limited to, all aspects of managing Gloss Mountains State Park. Contract Manager further agrees to pay any attorney fees incurred by State and/or Tourism or his/her agents in defense of any such actions.

12. INSPECTION OF PREMISES. Tourism hereby reserves the right to enter upon the premises occupied by Contract Manager, at any reasonable time, to inspect the same.

13. APPLICABLE LAWS. Contract Manager shall comply with all state, local and federal laws and regulations and with all other applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations of the county and municipality where the leased premises are located, with regard to construction, sanitation, licenses, permits and all other matters.

14. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY. The Contract Manager and Contract Manager's employees shall not discriminate because of race, religion, color, sex or national origin, against any person by refusing to furnish such person any accommodation, facility, service or privilege offered to or enjoyed by the general public. In addition thereto, Contract Manager will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. Tourism shall approve all plans to ensure that new facilities will be constructed in a manner which reasonably accommodates accessibility for disabled individuals.

15. ASSIGNMENTS AND SUBLLEASES. Contract Manager must obtain written authorization from the Tourism Executive Director before he/she subleases or conveys any interest granted by this Management Contract. The Contract Manager must be the operator of the facility. The Contract Manager's interest hereunder shall not be assignable in bankruptcy nor by operation of law. Any documents by which an interest is granted shall indicate that the person acquiring the interest takes it subject to the terms of this Management Contract. Tourism may prescribe the conditions of assignment.

16. AGENT FOR SERVICE OF PROCESS. It is expressly agreed that if Contract Manager ceases to be resident of the State of Oklahoma, then the Contract Manager shall file with Tourism a designation of a natural person and his address residing in Oklahoma, as his agent for the purpose of service of process in any court action between Contract Manager and Tourism. The Contract Manager shall keep Tourism informed of any change of mailing address.

17. TAXES. Contract Manager agrees to pay all lawful taxes, assignment or charges which, at any time, may be levied by state, county, and municipality, or any tax or assessment levied upon any interest in the Management Contract or any possessory right which Contract Manager may have in or to the premises covered hereby or the improvements thereon, by reason of its use or occupancy thereof, or otherwise.
Contract Manager also agrees to pay all lawful taxes on goods, merchandise, fixtures, appliances, equipment and property owned by it in or about said premises.

18. PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT. The Contract Manager shall conduct its or her business in a professional manner at all times, and its employees are expected to do likewise. Any incident of an unprofessional nature that could jeopardize the image or reflect adversely on Tourism, or its holdings, can and will be considered as grounds for termination. Along with standard Contract Manager inspections performed by Tourism, Tourism may conduct customer service/satisfaction surveys and hold the Contract Manager accountable for such surveys.

19. FACILITY CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN APPROVAL. All modifications or new construction associated with the Management Contract shall be reviewed and approved by Tourism for sensitivity of design as relates to Tourism’s desire to develop a theme or appearance at the respective park/resort. Contract Manager shall prepare and submit all plans and specifications for construction or improvements to be reviewed and approved by Tourism for compliance to federal state, and local codes and requirements.

20. MARKETING. The Contract Manager shall submit an annual marketing plan to Tourism on or before January 1st of each year for approval. The plan must include estimated budgets and market targets. The facility must be marketed and identified as an OKLAHOMA STATE PARK.

21. SAFETY AND SECURITY. The Contract Manager must enforce all existing safety rules and regulations as they apply now or in the future to all Oklahoma State Parks and activities pertaining thereto. Security and safety functions must be performed by uniformed, qualified security personnel. The qualifications of security personnel must be approved by Tourism. In law enforcement situations, Contract Manager will request the county sheriff’s office as first responder and an Oklahoma State Highway Patrolman as second responder if needed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this document on the day and year first above written.
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

by

Edward H. Cook, Executive Director

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

) ss.

COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA

On this 20th day of April, 1998, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Edward H. Cook, known to me to be the Executive Director of Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and acknowledged to me that he executed the foregoing instrument in such capacity on behalf of such entity, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

WITNESS, my hand and seal the date last above written.

7-26-99
My Commission Expires

Janet Ellis
Notary Public

Gloss Mountain Conservancy, Inc.

by

Mark Stubsten, Pres.

Mark Stubsten, President

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

) ss.

COUNTY OF OKLAHOMA

On this 17th day of April, 1998, before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, personally appeared Mark Stubsten, President of Gloss Mountain Conservancy, Inc., known to me to be the person who executed the 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.

WITNESS, my hand and seal the date last above written.

10-13-2000
My Commission Expires

Bill
Notary Public
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

On this 1st day of April, 2008 the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission and Department, an agency of the State of Oklahoma, hereinafter referred to as “Department,” entered into this Agreement, with the City of Fairview, a municipal government in the State of Oklahoma hereinafter referred to as “Fairview,” for the purpose of performing operation and maintenance and other improvement work at Gloss Mountains State Park, pursuant to the authority of 74 O.S. 2001 §1008.

WHEREAS, the Department is the owner of real estate and park improvements known as Gloss Mountains State Park, located in Major County, and

WHEREAS, the Gloss Mountains State Park has been operated under a concession lease agreement between the Department and the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc., a non-profit organization for the last ten years, with that agreement expiring on March 31, 2008, and

WHEREAS, the Department, Fairview and the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. all desire that the park property remain available and open to the traveling public, and

WHEREAS, Fairview is willing to partner with the Department to provide basic services to allow Gloss Mountains State Park to operate in a similar fashion as has been provided by the Gloss Mountains Conservancy, Inc. and

WHEREAS, the Department is willing to subsidize the efforts of Fairview to secure the ongoing operation, maintenance and future improvement of Gloss Mountains State Park.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual agreements set forth, the Department and Fairview agree as follows:

A. Department agrees:

1. To pay Fairview the amount of twelve thousand dollars ($12,000.00) for all work associated with the operation and maintenance at Gloss Mountains State Park. The basic services are further identified in Attachment A to this agreement.

2. To pay the amount identified in paragraph (A)(1) to Fairview for performance of operation and maintenance work upon receipt of acceptable billings from Fairview. Payment shall be made in quarterly installments of $3,000 each with the first installment due on or about July 1, 2008. Subsequent payments shall be on or about October 1, January 1, and April 1.

3. To include Gloss Mountains State Park in the Department’s web site information and to assist with the development and acquisition of other
materials that may be necessary to properly promote and meet visitor needs at the park.

4. To include Gloss Mountains State Park in the Department’s consolidated request of capital improvements needs so that funding of improvements may be considered.

5. Assist with or provide design assistance in the development of construction document, inspections and other services relating to capital projects that are funded by the Department.

B. Fairview agrees:

1. To purchase or provide all equipment, supplies, materials and labor necessary to perform the operation and maintenance work at Gloss Mountains State Park.

2. To comply with all local, state and federal laws, code requirements and other governmental regulations that are applicable to any work associated with this agreement. This shall include but is not limited to environmental compliance, materials testing, accessibility requirements and permit applications. Fairview shall also complete all work in a workmanlike manner.

3. To bill the Department quarterly for the service provided in accordance with paragraphs (A)(1) and (A)(2).

4. To allow any pertinent State or Federal agency the right to examine and audit all records relevant to execution of this agreement. All relevant records shall be retained for the duration of the agreement term and for a period of three years following completion and/or termination of the agreement. If an audit, litigation, or other action involving such records is started before the end of the three year period, the records are required to be maintained for three years from the date that all issues arising out of the action are resolved or until the end of the three year retention period, whichever is later. As used in this agreement, records includes books, documents, accounting procedures and practices, and other data, regardless of type and regardless of whether such items are in written form, in the form of computer data or in any other form.

C. Department and Fairview agree:

1. That further development of Gloss Mountains State Park may be desirable. Any such development, addition or improvement shall be agreed upon by the parties prior to initiation of the project and permission of the
Department is required for all development. All improvements, additions or development at the park are the property of the Department.

2. That federal funding under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Program and the Recreational Trails programs has been utilized at Gloss Mountains State Park and that the park shall be operated, maintained and developed within the guidelines of these and any other funding programs that may be applicable in future years.

3. Fairview and Department are separate entities and Department bears no responsibility or liability for Fairview employees regarding workers compensation or any other issues or obligations that Fairview may have.

4. The provisions of this agreement may be modified or amended by mutual agreement of Department and Fairview in writing.

5. In the event of an occurrence rendering Fairview incapable of performing under this agreement, any governmental successor of Fairview, whether the result of legal process, assignment, or otherwise, shall succeed to the rights of Fairview under this agreement. Also, any benefits and obligations accruing to the Department based on this agreement shall inure to the successor agency of state government.

6. All correspondence directed to the Department shall be sent to

Kris Marek, Interim Director of State Parks
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department
120 North Robinson, Suite 600
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

All correspondence directed to Fairview shall be sent to:
Dale Sides, City Manager
City of Fairview
123 S. 6th Street
Fairview, OK 73737

7. 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 as if the illegal clause were not contained in the agreement.

8. This agreement may be automatically renewed for additional year, provided that either party has not given notice of the desire to cancel the agreement. Such notice of cancellation shall be provided to the other party in writing no less than sixty (60) days in advance of the normal expiration date of the agreement which shall be March 31, of each year.
9. To the extent allowable under Oklahoma law, each party agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the other party for any loss or damage to any person, or to the property of any person arising in connection with negligence it may commit in association with this its performance under this agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties acting under the authority of the respective entities have caused this agreement to be executed in three (3) counterparts, each of which shall constitute and original.

Hardy Watkins, Executive Director
Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

State of Oklahoma )
) County of Oklahoma )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 31st day of March, 2008, by Hardy Watkins, Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department.

Commission # and Expiration Notary Public

Kenneth Carmack, Mayor
City of Fairview.

State of Oklahoma )
) County of Major )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on the 4th day of April, 2008, by Kenneth Carmack, as Mayor of the City of Fairview.

Commission # and Expiration Notary Public

Anita E. Gifford

ATTACHMENT A

Gloss Mountains State Park Basic Services

The City of Fairview shall:

1) Operate the Gloss Mountains facility to allow public access during the daylight hours. Access for activities and use beyond daylight hours may be provided to the extent desired by Fairview.

2) Provide portable or other restroom service.

3) Pay all applicable utility, service and other bills or charges for the property.

4) Provide grounds maintenance including litter pickup, mowing, solid waste disposal and other associated work.

5) Provide building, trail, signs and other structure or facility maintenance, including but not limited to custodial, painting, general upkeep and repair.

6) Provide all necessary supplies, materials, equipment and labor associated with these basic services.

7) Provide reporting, quarterly billings, maintain brochure area and other administrative support necessary for the park.
State of Oklahoma
Department of Central Services
Central Purchasing

CONTRACT
NON-COLLUSION
AFFIDAVIT

In accordance with 74 O.S. § 85.23, ___________Kenneth W. Carmack__________, of lawful age, being first duly sworn, on oath says:

1. (S)he is the duly authorized agent of __City of Fairview, Oklahoma_________ (vendor), the contractor under the contract which is attached to this statement, for the purpose of certifying the facts pertaining to the giving of things of value to government personnel in order to procure said contract;

2. (S)he is fully aware of the facts and circumstances surrounding the making of the contract to which this statement is attached and has been personally and directly involved in the proceedings leading to the procurement of said contract;

3. Neither the contractor nor anyone subject to the contractor's direction or control has paid, given or donated or agreed to pay, give or donate to any officer or employee of the State of Oklahoma any money or other thing of value, either directly or indirectly, in procuring the contract to which this statement is attached; and

In accordance with 74 O.S. § 85.42.B, the contractor further certifies that no person who has been involved in any manner in the development of that contract while employed by the State of Oklahoma shall be employed to fulfill any of the services provided for under said contract.

In accordance with 74 O.S. § 85.41.F.1., if this contract is for professional services as defined in 74 O.S. § 85.2.25, and if the final product is a written proposal, report, or study, the contractor further certifies that (s)he has not previously provided the state agency or any other state agency with a final product that is a substantial duplication of the final product of the proposed contract.

____________________________
Signature

____________________________
Kenneth W. Carmack
Printed Name

____________________________
April 4, 2008
Date

____________________________
Mayor
Title

State of

Oklahoma

County of

Major

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ___________4th_________ day of __April_________, __2008____.

My Commission Expires: __7-23-2010____

My Commission Number: __02011428____

____________________________
Anita E. Gifford
Notary Public

DCS/PURCHASING - FORM 003 (06/2002)