Little Sahara State Park
Resource Management Plan
2013 [Updated April 2015]

Woods County, Oklahoma

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Acknowledgements

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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. Special appreciation is expressed to Steve Rogers for providing a tour of the dunes to research staff.

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, Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara State Park. With regard to Little Sahara State Park, the RMP is to:

- Provide a public location for recreational, off-road vehicles and their riders to ride
- Protect and provide management direction for the unique dune environment
- Establish the importance of state ownership and management relationship
  - Private ownership and management is untenable based on cost of insurance and exposure to risk
- Document the national draw for this property, one of the top five riding locations according to “Sand Sports Magazine”
- Document the dune environment and opportunities for education and interpretation
  - The opportunities should be expanded with installation of the planned observation center

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 Little Sahara State Park RMP is incorporated into the text of this document.

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

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

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

**Agencies Involved**

In 2006, Oklahoma State Parks, through the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department (OTRD), contracted with Oklahoma State University to prepare Resource Management Plans for each park. This agreement has been renewed annually since 2006. The current agreement specified Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara 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 – Entry sign for Little Sahara State Park
Figure 1.2 – Dune riding economics
Top: travel rig for multiple ORVs/ATVs
Middle: parking lot in Waynoka
Bottom: expression of dedication
Chapter 2 – Project Description

About Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara State Park

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

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

Little Sahara State Park provides a specialized recreation destination, the sand dunes and surrounding environment, designed and developed to provide public access to the unique dune environment. The dune environment is supplemented by a built and modified park environment providing essential amenities for the recreation visitors and offers opportunities for education and interpretation of that environment.
Similarly, in response to requests from the research staff, OTRD personnel, in cooperation with the research staff, developed a statement of significance for Little Sahara State Park. That statement follows:

Little Sahara State Park is one of the nation’s premier off-road riding sites, offering public access for a niche market to a dune environment with minimal constraint on the recreational experience. In addition, Little Sahara State Park is significant because it provides support amenities for the recreational visitor and serves as an economic stimulus for the region.

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 Little Sahara State Park**

Little Sahara State Park is located south of Waynoka in Woods County, in the northwest quadrant of Oklahoma. Woods County, comprising 1,271 square miles in northwestern Oklahoma adjacent to Kansas, is in the Great Plains, ranging in elevation from 2,110 feet in the northwest to 1,250 feet in the east and southeast. The major drainage is the Cimarron River along the southern edge of the county and Salt Fork in the northeastern part. The southern part of the area and the areas northeast of the main rivers are covered with Pleistocene deposits (Fay, 1965).

Woods County was established on September 16, 1893 from the Cherokee Outlet. The county was named in honor of Kansas populist and territorial legislator Samuel Newitt Wood. Alva is
the county seat for Woods County. Areas adjacent to Woods County in Oklahoma are Alfalfa County (east), Major County (south), Woodward County (southwest), and Harper County (West). Two counties of Kansas are adjacent to Woods County in Oklahoma: Comanche County (north) and Barber County (northwest). Alva, Avard, Capron, Dacoma, Freedom, and Waynoka are the cities and towns located in the county.

**Figure 2.2 – Woods County, Oklahoma**
Source: Google Maps

**Figure 2.3 – Little Sahara State Park, Oklahoma**
Community and Regional Context

Brief History of Woods County

The following history of Woods County was authorized by the Oklahoma Historical Society and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/W/WO014.html). Figures included in the following material are incorporated directly from this citation and credited to the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Woods County is located in northwestern Oklahoma. Harper and Woodward counties adjoin it on the west, Major County is on its southern border, and Alfalfa County lies to its east. The Kansas counties of Barber and Comanche border it on the north. The county encompasses a total land and water area of 1,290.07 square miles. Woods County is drained from the northwest to the southeast by the Cimarron and the Salt Fork of the Arkansas Rivers and their tributaries. The Gypsum Hills of Barber County, Kansas, extend southward into the western part of the county. At the turn of the twenty-first century incorporated towns included Alva, the county seat, Avard, Capron, Dacoma, Freedom, and Waynoka.

Archaeological investigations in Woods County over the past several decades reveal a long history of human use. It has been suggested that the Burnham Site could be older than the normal dates of Paleo-Indian occupation (prior to 6000 B.C.). Of the more than four dozen other sites examined, fourteen are within the Archaic (6000 B.C. to A.D.1) period, four are Woodland (A.D. 1 to 1000), and fifteen are Plains Village (A.D. 1000 to 1500).

In 1811 the first American to explore the area was George C. Sibley, who visited the saline north of present Freedom on the Woods River. Sibley then followed the Mountain Fork of the Arkansas River southeast to the Great Salt Plains east of Cherokee. Later, Nathan Boone explored western Woods County in 1843. Boone kept the Woods River on his right as he moved toward the southeast. He spent July 4 near the source of Eagle Chief Creek west of Avard and camped the night of July 5 near Galena in the southeastern corner of the county. The next day he crossed the Woods and left the area. Cattle ranching was important in this part of the Cherokee Outlet, which became a pathway for Texas drovers. Beginning at Dover, the Dodge City and Red Fork Trail, a branch of the Chisholm Trail, paralleled the north bank of the Woods. Following a northwesterly course, the trail crossed the southern and western sides of the county.

The lands acquired by the congressional acts of March 2, 1889, March 3, 1891, and March 3, 1893, were divided into counties by the secretary of the interior, as required by section 10 of the March 1893 act before opening them to settlement. Thus, officials in the nation’s capital formed Woods County as M County prior to the opening of the Cherokee Outlet. M County’s name was changed to Woods by popular vote on November 6, 1894. The Democrats submitted the name “Banner,” claiming that it was the banner county of the territory. The Republicans proposed “Flynn” to honor the territory’s Congressional Delegate Dennis T. Flynn. The Populists advocated “Wood” to honor Sam Wood, a renowned Kansas Populist. However, Wood’s name appeared as Woods on the ballot, and the secretary of the election committee misidentified Wood as Woods in his election report. The full committee also failed to notice the error before the report was published, and meeting later they “decided to keep the s for euphony sake.”
Alva was designated as the county seat for M County by the secretary of the interior and also was designated as one of the four district land offices for the Outlet. The town remained the county seat despite numerous efforts to secure a more, centralized county seat during the territorial period.

The division of large counties and location of county seats were divisive issues at the state’s 1906 Constitutional Convention. Woods County had elected four Democratic delegates to the convention on a platform against changing county lines or county seats unless the changes were approved by a vote of the people. However, John C. Major, District 7 delegate, opened the county division issue by introducing Proposition 138 on December 4, 1906. The proposition called for changing county lines and the location of county seats. Ultimately, the convention created Major and Alfalfa counties out of the southern and eastern sections of Woods County and transferred to Woods County a portion of Woodward County north of the Woods.

Agriculture, supplemented by oil and gas production, provides the county’s economic base, and wheat and cattle, have been the major sources of revenue for the county’s farmers. Farmers supplied 569 train carloads of wheat for shipment from Alva in 1898. They harvested 3.651 million bushels of wheat with a value of $5.11 million in 1945. The value of other small grains harvested in 1945 was $284,884. In 1959 the county ranked thirty-two among the one hundred highest wheat-producing counties in the nation with 4.09 million bushels. Wheat production increased to 5.48 million bushels in 1992. In 1997, 705 farms involved 804,637 acres in cultivation.

A network of railroad lines made possible the transportation of crops and other agricultural products to faraway markets. In 1886-87 the Southern Kansas Railway constructed a line from Kiowa, Kansas, through future Woods County and on to Texas. The Choctaw Northern, building north through Alfalfa County in 1901, is placed a spur line west from Ingersoll to Alva. The Arkansas Valley and Western (part of the St. Louis and San Francisco system) connected Enid, in Garfield County, with Dacoma and Avard in Woods County in 1904-05. In 1919-20 the Buffalo and Northwestern Railroad built from Buffalo to Waynoka. In 1898 the county’s farmers shipped thirty-nine carloads of cattle from Alva. The livestock and livestock products produced by county farmers had a market value of $2.95 million in 1945, and they owned 105,000 cattle and calves at the end of 1990. By 2000, only the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe provided rail service. Two national highways, U.S. 281 and U.S. 64, intersect in Alva.

Several educational institutions serve Woods County. After a four-year campaign by Alva entrepreneurs, the territorial legislature established the Northwestern Territorial Normal School (now Northwestern Oklahoma State University) at Alva in March 1897. In rented church facilities, the first class of fifty-eight students met on September 20, 1897, when the Northwestern Normal opened as the fourth territorial institution of higher education. Two museums, the Cherokee Strip Museum and the Northwestern Museum of Natural History, are located in Alva. A railroad museum is located in Waynoka and a western history museum is located in Freedom. Little Sahara State Park is located on the north bank of the Woods near Waynoka. Eleven properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places include seven territorial-era buildings in downtown Alva, as well as Science Hall on the university campus (NR 83002141) and the Waynoka Santa Fe Depot (NR 74001671).

Gen. Hugh S. Johnson, an 1897 Alva High School graduate, was in charge of World War I’s Selective Service System and in the 1930s directed Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt's National
Recovery Administration. Roy Dunn, a 1931 Northwestern graduate from Gate, Oklahoma, represented the United States as a heavyweight wrestler in the 1936 Olympic games in Berlin. Jesse Dunn, an Alva attorney, was elected to the Oklahoma Supreme Court in 1907.

In 1907 Woods County had 15,517 residents, reaching a peak of 17,567 in 1910. The population has declined each decade since 1930. The 1930, 1940, and 1950 censuses reported 17,005, 14,915, and 14,526, respectively. By 1960 the numbers dropped to 11,932 and by 1980, 10,923. The county had 9,103 inhabitants in 1990 and in 2000 reached a low of 9,089. The 2000 census reported that 93.4 percent were white, 2.4 percent were African American, 2.4 percent were Hispanic, and 1.6 percent were American Indian.

Demographic and Socioeconomic Conditions and Impact

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

The following tables provide this summary based upon data retrieved during May 2012 from http://factfinder2.census.gov.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2.1 – Population of Woods County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woods County</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The population of Woods County has decreased at a rate of 2.3% over the past ten years, continuing and accelerating the decline in population addressed in the previous section: the history of Woods County, Oklahoma.

Woods County shows a population with little diversity by race, demonstrated by 86.7% of the population being White. This percentage is much higher than that demonstrated within the state of Oklahoma (72.2%). Similarly, Black/African-American, the second largest group by race in the county, is 3.0% of the population in Woods County, which is smaller than the percentage within the state (7.4%). This composition of the population is rooted in historic settlement of the area and in recent employment activity. This employment pattern may also be reflected in the higher percentage of males living in Woods County than is true in the general population.

Table 2.2 on the following page provides detail on the population characteristics of Woods County. Of particular note is the median age in Woods County at 34.7 years, whereas the state of Oklahoma shows a median age of 36.3 years. Woods County is younger than the population of the state of Oklahoma and younger than many western Oklahoma counties. This composition of population affects the local workforce and recreation activity, as well as educational opportunities throughout the county.
The residents of Woods County show a higher percentage in the category of 65 and over (17.2%) than the general population of Oklahoma (13.5%). However, the residents of Woods County also reflect a lower percentage of Hispanic ethnicity (4.3%) than is true across the state of Oklahoma (8.2%).

Table 2.2 – Demographic Characteristics of the Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factor</th>
<th>Detail on factor</th>
<th>Woods County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex and Age</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>4,746 (53.4%)</td>
<td>1,816,749 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>4,132 (46.5%)</td>
<td>1,858,590 (50.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Median age (years)</td>
<td></td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Under 18 years of age</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,667 (18.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>5,688 (64.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>65 years of age and over</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,523 (17.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>White</td>
<td>7,540 (86.7%)</td>
<td>2,720,135 (72.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td></td>
<td>262 (3.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td></td>
<td>187 (2.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>29 (0.3%)</td>
<td>61,581 (1.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander</td>
<td></td>
<td>9 (0.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Two or more races</td>
<td>238 (2.7%)</td>
<td>263,896 (7.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hispanic/Latino</td>
<td>376 (4.3%)</td>
<td>302,167 (8.2%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2.3 on the following page reports the household characteristics of the population in Woods County. The aging nature of the population is again revealed with a much higher percentage of households in Woods County (29.7%) having one or more members of the household over the age of 65 than is true in the general population of Oklahoma (9.9%). Census data showed that Woods County had a higher percentage of vacant housing units (20.4%) than across the state of Oklahoma (13.5%). However, during preparation of the RMP, research staff found that housing in Woods County was extremely limited. Numerous oil and gas field crews were long-time occupants of hotels and motels. Some of the state parks also showed higher occupancy from long-term renters and several private rental properties expanded during this period.
Table 2.3 – Household Characteristics in Woods County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Household Related Factor</th>
<th>Woods County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of households</td>
<td>3,570</td>
<td>1,421,705</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in households</td>
<td>7,562 (85.2%)</td>
<td>3,563,497 (96.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with a child or children under 18</td>
<td>939 (26.3%)</td>
<td>425,149 (29.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with person 65 years and over</td>
<td>1060 (29.7%)</td>
<td>140,851 (9.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupied housing units</td>
<td>3,570 (79.6%)</td>
<td>1,421,705 (86.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant housing units</td>
<td>916 (20.4%)</td>
<td>222,523 (13.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner occupied housing units</td>
<td>2,374 (66.5%)</td>
<td>969,959 (68.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter occupied housing units</td>
<td>1,195 (33.5%)</td>
<td>451,746 (31.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Another characteristic on which the population of Woods County differs from that across Oklahoma is household income. The median household income in Woods County is higher than the statewide average. 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 household income in Woods County is $55,339, an indication that a small number of households are doing quite well, while a large number of households are at the lower end of the income base. One hundred and ten households in Woods County (0.3%) reported incomes exceeding $150,000, whereas 1,903 (53.3%) reported household incomes below $50,000.

It is important to recognize that about 35.2% of the population of Woods County is identified as being below federal poverty guidelines. The percentage of households below poverty levels and the percentage of individuals in those households are above the comparable statistics for the state of Oklahoma. It can be concluded that the residents of Woods County are well below the comparable financial characteristics for Oklahoma.

Table 2.4 – Financial Characteristics in Woods County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Woods County</th>
<th>Oklahoma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Median household income</td>
<td>$47,255</td>
<td>$42,979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households below poverty level</td>
<td>15.8%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individuals below poverty level</td>
<td>35.2%</td>
<td>16.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Residents of Woods County also present education characteristics that are associated with the financial status of the county. In Woods County, the percentage of individuals with less than a 9th grade education and no high school diploma are slightly lower than the statewide educational pattern, while a slightly higher percentage of the residents have earned Bachelor’s and graduate/professional degree (Table 2.5). Education levels have been shown to be highly correlated with other economic measures.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Educational Attainment</th>
<th>Woods County Number (Percent)</th>
<th>Oklahoma Number (Percent)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than 9th grade</td>
<td>207 (3.7%)</td>
<td>115,248 (4.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th to 12th grade, no diploma</td>
<td>392 (7.0%)</td>
<td>232,987 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High school diploma or equivalency</td>
<td>1,854 (33.1%)</td>
<td>775,478 (32.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some college, no degree</td>
<td>1,445 (25.8%)</td>
<td>559,367 (23.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate degree</td>
<td>196 (3.5%)</td>
<td>159,557 (6.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor’s degree</td>
<td>969 (17.3%)</td>
<td>362,043 (15.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate or professional degree</td>
<td>543 (9.7%)</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 Woods County are reported in Table 2.6. As of 2010, Woods County reported unemployment to be approximately 3.8% as compared with a statewide 7.7%, both of which were better conditions than nationally at the time of preparation of the RMP.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic or Factor</th>
<th>Woods 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>4,439 (61.1%)</td>
<td>1,806,858 (63.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>4,272 (96.2%)</td>
<td>1,674,765 (92.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private wage and salary workers</td>
<td>2,464 (57.7%)</td>
<td>1,260,965 (75.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government workers</td>
<td>1,246 (29.2%)</td>
<td>285,562 (17.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed (non-incorporated business)</td>
<td>548 (12.8%)</td>
<td>124,013 (7.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unpaid family workers</td>
<td>14 (0.3%)</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 Woods County between the age of five and fifteen, there are 46 individuals (4.3%) of the population with a disability. This percentage increases in the population from ages 16 to 64 years to 14.7% or 711 individuals. Among those persons aged 65 years or older, 40.5% or 771 individuals have one or more disabilities.

In summary, Woods County comprises an extreme rural area with approximately 6.9 persons per square mile as compared to an average of 50.3 for Oklahoma. The largest community in the county (Alva, population 4,945) reports almost 56% of the populace for Woods County. That population shows an average household income lower than the statewide average; a larger percentage of Woods County residents are below the poverty level than is true statewide. The residents of the county have achieved educational levels similar to those represented across the state of Oklahoma. Only the percentage of persons with Associate’s degrees varies among those with higher education.

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Regional and Park History

The following history of Little Sahara State Park was presented by Kenneth S. Johnson collection, Library Resources Division and retrieved from the website for the Oklahoma Historical Society (http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/l/li017.html).

A fourteen hundred-acre, state-owned park that is open to the public at all times, Little Sahara State Park consists primarily of sand dunes and tourist amenities. In 1958, when the Waynoka Chamber of Commerce purchased two camels from a circus and placed them in the sand dunes south of their town, they created local tourism, and a movement arose to create a state recreational area. In 1959 the Oklahoma Legislature appropriated $12,500 to buy land from the Oklahoma State Land Commission and develop the park. The park offers campsites (tent or RV), picnic tables, drinking water, and toilets. A major activity is riding dune buggies (rental or privately owned) across much of the park lands.

Sand dunes, which are mounds or ridges of windblown sand, are common on the north side of most major rivers in northwestern Oklahoma. Dunes form mainly through reworking of Pleistocene-age terrace deposits by the wind. Little Sahara is a popular place to see well-developed, “active” dunes, that is, migrating dunes that are devoid of vegetation. The park’s layer of sand commonly is twenty-five to seventy-five feet thick.
Sand in the Little Sahara dunes is largely reworked from terrace deposits left by the Cimarron River when it flowed across this area earlier, during Pleistocene times. In addition, some of the sand is blown from flood-plain deposits of the present river. Prevailing winds are from the south and southwest. Therefore, the wind blows, rolls, or pushes grains of sand up the gentle windward (south) slope, and the sand grains then are deposited on the steep lee (north) slope. In this way, sand dunes can migrate across the landscape and can encroach on fertile fields, roads, or even homes. Northeastward migration of these dunes has caused relocation of U.S. Highway 281 three times in the last seventy years, with each new road being built twenty-five to fifty yards east of the previous location.

![Figure 2.4 – Park visitors enjoy dune riding in Little Sahara State Park](image)

**Archeology of Little Sahara State Park**

While archaeological evidence was reported in the history of Woods County, an archeological survey of Little Sahara State Park has not been completed. By Dr. Don Wyckoff (2004) and other geologists initiated archeological efforts in 1986, particularly at the Burnham Site, Oklahoma. The following archeological information of the Burnham Site in Woods County was derived from Oklahoma Archeological Survey and retrieved from the website of University of Oklahoma (http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/counties/woods.htm).

The Burnham site came to the attention of archaeologists at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in 1986. Dr. Don Wyckoff, now with the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, visited the site at the request of the landowner, Mr. Vic Burnham. Mr. Burnham had noticed unusual bones which he uncovered while bulldozing a stock pond.
The first bones examined proved to be from a now-extinct bison from the period called the Pleistocene. During the Pleistocene, glacial ice covered half of North America a mile deep in places. Sea levels dropped as the ocean’s waters were tied up in ice, opening a land bridge between Siberia and Alaska. Archaeologists believe the first humans came to North America over this land bridge.

The timing of the arrival of the first people is a matter of interest and debate among archaeologists. Some believe that people came to the continent toward the end of the Pleistocene, perhaps 12,500 years ago. However, others, based on evidence gathered from a few sites throughout the Americas, believe the arrivals occurred in a series of migrations, perhaps beginning as far back as 30,000 years ago.

At the Burnham site, Pleistocene animals including camels, mammoths, extinct forms of bison and horses, and even alligators died and their bones were preserved in the marshy clays. While interesting, what really excited Wyckoff and other archaeologists were the chert flakes found among the bones, flakes which result from human tool-making.

Excavations at the Burnham site continued for five years. Snail shells and bone recovered from the site have been dated to 33,000 years ago. The stratigraphy, or layers of soil deposited over time, at the Burnham site has proven to be very complex – so complex that it may not be possible to prove or disprove that the flakes found near the animal bones are of the same age as the dated bones. However, the careful study of the Burnham excavations has revealed much interesting information about this ancient time and will be useful to others looking for evidence of the earliest people who called Oklahoma home.

Although this is a significant archeological finding in Woods County, Oklahoma, there is no evidence as yet showing archeology sites within Little Sahara State Park.

**Climate and Air Quality**

Woods County is part of the Central Great Plains in the south, encompassing some of the best agricultural land in Oklahoma. To the north is the grassy and elevated Southwestern Tablelands. Average annual precipitation ranges from about 27 inches in western Woods County to 30 inches.
in the east. May and June are the wettest months, on average, but much of the spring through fall receives sufficient rainfall. Nearly every winter has at least one inch of snow, with one year in two having ten or more inches.

Temperatures average near 60 degrees, with a slight increase from north to south. Temperatures range from an average daytime high of 97 degrees in July to an average low of 23 degrees in January. Woods County averages a growing season of 199 days, but plants that can withstand short periods of colder temperatures may have an additional three to six weeks.

Winds from the south to southwest are quite dominant, averaging near eleven miles-per-hour. Relative humidity, on average, ranges from 34% to 92% during the day. During the year, humidity is highest in December and lowest in July. Winter months tend to be cloudier than summer months. The percentage of possible sunshine ranges from an average of about 65% in winter to nearly 80% in summer.

Thunderstorms occur on about 47 days each year, predominantly in the spring and summer. During the period 1950 - 2003, Woods County recorded 44 tornadoes. The most recent significant tornado occurred on May 23, 2008. This F3 tornado passed northwest of Cherokee. The people of Woods County were not so lucky on April 9, 1947 when an F5 tornado took a 170 mile long path through parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas killing 181 and injuring 970. Typically, there are about 5 events each year of hail exceeding one inch in diameter. As information collection improves, both the number of reported tornadoes and the number of severe hail events have increased.

Topography

The following topographical information of Woods County, Oklahoma was reported in Soil Survey of Woods County, Oklahoma prepared by United State Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other Oklahoma governmental agencies.

Woods County consists of three different Major Land Resource Areas. The northwest part of the county is in the Southern High Plains, Breaks Resource Area. The northeast and east-central parts are in the Central Rolling Red Prairies Resource Area. The rest of the county is in the Central Rolling Red Plains Resource Area (See Figure 2.5). The highest point in the county is in the far northwest part and is about 2,200 feet in elevation. The lowest point in the county is along the Cimarron River in the southeast corner and is about 1,250 feet in elevation. Woods County can be divided into four basic topographic areas:

- The northeast and east-central parts of the county are characterized by broad, nearly level to gently sloping alluvial terraces of moderately fine- and fine-textured soils.
- The western part of the county is characterized by gently rolling to steep hills and canyons. Most of the soils in this area were formed from the Permian Redbeds or local alluvium and are less than 60 inches to bedrock.
- The central part of the county, which runs generally in a line from north to south, is characterized by steep escarpments and areas of badlands. This area is a gradational zone from the rolling uplands in the west to the broad flat terraces in the east. The soils in this region are generally clayey and shallow or moderately deep to bedrock. These soils have low productivity and are susceptible to erosion when cultivated.

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The fourth area runs parallel to the Cimarron River at the southern edge of the county. It is a thin band in the western side of the county, but broadens rapidly and attains a width of about 20 miles in the southern and southeastern parts.

Geology

The following information related to geology of Woods County and Little Sahara State Park, Oklahoma was derived from a geological survey report: *Geology and Mineral Resources of Woods County, Oklahoma* was written by Robert Fay (1965) and supported by Oklahoma Geological Survey.

The geologic section of Woods County consists of 850 feet of Permian redbeds of the Cimarronian and Custerian Series, overlain by Kiowa Shale (Lower Cretaceous) up to 140 feet thick in the northwestern part of the county, and these in turn are overlain by Ogallala beds (Pliocene) up to 100 feet thick. The Pleistocene deposits occur at various levels below the base of the Ogallala and have been discussed previously, the separate areas being shown on the geologic map by different patterns. The redbeds dip from 4 to 10 feet per mile southwestward, with an anticline in the White-horse Springs area and a structural sag in the Freedom area, probably owing to solution of underlying salt and gypsum.

Little Sahara State Park reveals the best demonstration of open sand dunes, although the dunes area extends beyond the boundaries of the state park. The Pleistocene sand in this area is blown by the wind from the southwest, and where blowouts occur, the vegetation is stripped away. The
loose sand then drifts into dunes 30 to 50 feet high, creating a desert effect. Dromedary camels and other animals were kept in the park area in years past (Fay, 1968).

The four most important factors influencing the stability of sand dunes include: climate, soils, vegetation, and human activity. Climate change over time has molded the sand dunes of Oklahoma into their present state. The dune formations were created by a combination of excess water and wind. The initial formation began thousands of years ago near the end of the Pleistocene era when North America experienced an abundance of rainfall and melting ice and snow. Present day Cimarron and North Canadian Rivers carried large amounts of sediments from their headwaters in the Rocky Mountains and deposited them across present day Oklahoma. Prevailing southerly winds then distributed the sediments to the north to shape the dune systems that contain Little Sahara and Beaver Dunes. Wind is a more effective erosion force during times of drought (Scott, 1999). This factor led to large tracts of active dunes with the capability of burying entire houses and barns during the Dust Bowl period.

Figure 2.6 – Aerial photography of Little Sahara and surrounding area
Source: Caneday & Farris (2005)
The region containing Little Sahara has experienced an increase in annual precipitation in the decades following the Dust Bowl of the 1930s (Rhinewald, 2005). Although, the climate in this region is still considered semiarid (Thompson, 1986), this increase in precipitation has been significant enough to stimulate the vegetation that has stabilized much of the sand dunes. Vegetation will likely be sparse in years of minimal precipitation and therefore less effective as an erosion preventative. This especially is the case with the low nutrient content found in the soils of Little Sahara. It has also been stated that rains early in the spring play an important role in vegetation density for a given year (Cordova, et al, 2005). During a recent visit to Little Sahara in June, the research staff observed large water holes in between dunes due to a high water table and recent rains.

**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.

Material about soils in the study area provides background information about suitability for recreational development.
Figure 2.7 – Soil map of Little Sahara State Park
Source: USDA & NRCS
Soil Suitability for Recreational Development

The Soil Survey of Woods County, Oklahoma (USDA & NRCS, 1996) also provided suggestions for sustainable recreation use in the area. The ratings are based on restrictive soil features, such as wetness, slope, and texture of the surface layer. Susceptibility to flooding is considered. There were several recreational developments featured in the report:

**Camp areas** are tracts of land used intensively as sites for tents, trailers, and campers and for outdoor activities that accompany such sites. These areas require site preparation, such as shaping and leveling the tent and parking areas, stabilizing roads and intensively used areas, and installing sanitary facilities and utility lines. Camp areas are subject to heavy foot traffic and some vehicular traffic. The soils are rated on the basis of soil properties that influence the ease of developing camp areas and performance of the areas after development. Also considered are the soil properties that influence trafficability and promote the growth of vegetation after heavy use.

**Picnic areas** are natural or landscaped tracts of land that are subject to heavy foot traffic. Most vehicular traffic is confined to access roads and parking areas. The soils are rated on the basis of soil properties that influence the cost of shaping the site, trafficability, and the growth of vegetation after development. The surface of picnic areas should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry.

**Playgrounds** are areas used intensively for baseball, football, or similar activities. These areas require a nearly level soil that is free of stones and that can withstand heavy foot traffic and maintain an adequate cover of vegetation. The soils are rated on the basis of soil properties that influence the cost of shaping the site, trafficability, and the growth of vegetation. Slope and stoniness are the main concerns in developing playgrounds. The surface of the playgrounds should absorb rainfall readily, remain firm under heavy foot traffic, and not be dusty when dry.
Table 2.8 and Figure 2.7 on the previous pages detail the soil at Little Sahara State Park. There are three dominant soils within the park boundaries. More than one-third of Little Sahara State Park is Dune land with 3 to 60 percent slopes (37.9%). This is primarily situated in the center of the park and is the dune riding area.

The second large soil complex is slightly less than one-third of the park property and composed of Tivoli fine sand with 8 to 30 percent slopes (30.6%). This soil is located around the sand dune area and northern reaches of the dunes. This soil complex is now utilized for roadways and campgrounds especially in the northern dunes.

The third large soil dominant complex is Dune land-Tivoli complex (16.5%) with 3 to 60 percent slope. This soil complex has similar location as Tivoli, surrounding the sand dune area.

For recreational development, the majority of the soil properties within Little Sahara State Park have limited performance for camp areas. The soil of the current main campground and northern campground are located in the areas that are considered as moderately favorable for camp areas and the limitations can be overcome or minimized with special planning. On the other hand, the rest of the soil properties are unfavorable for the traditional recreational use.

In addition, other recreational facilities, such as playground, picnic area, and trails, are also limited in the park due to characteristics of the soil properties in the park. The distribution of the favorable locations for these recreation facilities is very similar to the pattern for the campground development.

Hydrology

Woods County straddles portions of three watersheds, all of which cross the state’s borders into the surrounding states. A fourth watershed (11060004 in Figure 2.9) originates at the eastern county line. These watersheds are shown in Figure 2.9 and identified as follows:

- 11050001- Lower Cimarron-Eagle Chief; state(s): KS, OK (includes Little Sahara State Park)
- 11060002-Upper Salt Fork Arkansas; state(s): KS, OK
- 11060003- Medicine Lodge; state(s): KS, OK

Soil Survey of Woods County, Oklahoma (NRSC, 1996) indicated that there are two major rivers and several smaller streams drain in Woods County. The Salt Fork of the Arkansas River enters the county from Kansas on the northern boundary and flows southeastward to Alva where it turns and flows eastward into Alfalfa County. It has several smaller tributaries which drain most of the northern part of the county. Yellowstone and Turkey Creeks head in the steeply dissected
uplands west of the river. Driftwood Creek heads in Kansas and drains the northeastern corner of the county before joining the Salt Fork in Alfalfa County.

The Cimarron River is the southern and western boundary and drains most of Woods County. However, one major tributary, Eagle Chief Creek, is responsible for draining about 25 percent of the county. It drains most of the central part and flows generally eastward into Alfalfa County before turning south to join the Cimarron in Major County. In the west, a number of smaller streams, such as Sand Creek, Moccasin Creek, Houston Creek, and Anderson Creek, head in the dissected uplands and flow southward to the Cimarron River. The southern part of the county is mainly deep sands and has little drainage to the Cimarron. This area has a local underground aquifer of fairly plentiful, good-quality water. This aquifer supplies most of the towns, rural water districts, and local individuals. There is also a small amount of local irrigation water that is pumped from the aquifer.

**Vegetative Cover**

The following information and figures result from a study by Sherwood and Risser (1980): *Annotated Checklist of the Vascular Plants of Little Sahara State Park*. The study focused on the vegetation of the sand dunes in Woods County, Oklahoma. Typical dune environments range from active, non-vegetated sand areas, through semi-stable dunes to stable vegetated dunes. There are also areas, though only forming a small proportion of the Park, that have unique species combinations that occur in specialized habitats, e.g., wooded dune slacks, blowouts, and even a temporary pool (Figure 2.10).

The results showed that a total of 55 families, 145 genera, and 181 species of vascular plants were encountered in the area. Two families, Asteraceae and Poaceae, contain more than one-third of all species present. Poaceae and Asteraceae are the family of plants in its scientific classification. The former is commonly named as “grass family”, and the latter is usually referred to as “daisy or sunflower family”.

When the vegetation of the Little Sahara State Park is compared with the vegetation of other sand dune areas, the dunes at Little Sahara are vegetationally more like the dune areas to the southwest than those to the northwest. Of the five sand dune areas considered in the study, the vegetation occurring at Little Sahara is most similar to that of the Texas panhandle (Rowell 1967).

In addition, Caneday and Farris (2005) indicated that precipitation and soil nutrient content are the limiting factors in the community structure of vegetation on sand dunes. Once conditions are suitable, plants are able to grow and provide a stabilizing cover.

Active sand dunes can be vegetated by seed dispersal from surrounding plant populations and accidental seed introductions of adapted species. Succession is the response of vegetation to changing environmental conditions or the introduction of adapted species (Thompson, 1986).

The vegetation of Little Sahara consists mainly of native tall grass species with some short grass species. The majority of shrubs and trees are yucca, sumac, sand plum, juniper, cottonwood, and hackberry. Thompson (1986) listed ten plant species with the highest occurrence near Little Sahara State Park, including little bluestem, vente conmigo, sand sagebrush, Horsemint, prairie spurge, lazy daisy, sand lovegrass, annual lovegrass, sand dropseed, and big sandreed.
Figure 2.10 – Distribution map of vegetation in Little Sahara Park, OK
Source: Sherwood & Risser (1980)
**Wildlife**

Woods County has extensive areas of good or excellent wildlife habitat for quail, pheasant, turkey, and deer which attract hunters and anglers to hunt and fish in this area. Some species listed for special concern in Oklahoma that may be found in Woods County include: swift fox, desert shrew, and prairie falcon. For example, the Interior Least Tern is listed as a federal candidate, but not a state species of special concern (ODWC, 2005). In addition, Siberian Elm has been identified as a nuisance plant in Woods County (Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, 2013).

**Nuisance Species**

Among the nuisance species in Woods County (Little Sahara State Park) is Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), is native to China, Siberia, and Turkestan but was brought to America in the 1860’s as a replacement for the American Elm after the breakout of Dutch Elm disease. It is now found to alter wildlife habitat and impact native floodplain vegetation water usage. Today, Siberian Elm can be found in Woods, Woodward, Alfalfa, Cleveland, and Mayes counties (Oklahoma Invasive Plant Council, 2013).

**Endangered or Threatened Species**

At present there are no state-listed threatened or endangered species listed for Woods County. It is also unlikely that any of these endangered or threatened species are in Little Sahara State Park since they are commonly associated with shoreline areas. As a result, the discussion is more limited than that for other parks in which the species are present within the park boundaries.

Federally listed endangered and threatened species that may be present in Woods County include: Whooping Crane (*Grus americana*), Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*), Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*), and Arkansas River Shiner (*Notropis girardi*). Endangered species are animals and plants that are in danger of becoming extinct. Threatened species are animals and plants that are likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future.

The Whooping Crane and Interior Least Tern are listed as endangered, whereas the Piping Plover and Arkansas River Shiner are listed as threatened. In addition, the Lesser Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus pallidicinctus*) is recognized as a candidate species under evaluation.

According to Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (2013), the Whooping Crane is the tallest bird in North American at a height of nearly five feet. This endangered crane passes through Oklahoma each spring and fall during migration. The decline of the Whooping Crane population result from the loss of shallow wetland habitat for their nesting and the wintering ranges. It also was affected by unregulated market hunting in the 1800s before modern wildlife conservation laws were passed.
The Interior Least Tern is the smallest member of the gull and tern family in North America. They breed in isolated areas along the Missouri, Mississippi, Ohio, Red, and Rio Grande river systems, and their winter home is unknown but probably includes coastal areas of Central and South America (US Fish & Wildlife, 2013).

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.

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 Little Sahara 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

Figure 2.12 – Endangered species in Woods County, Oklahoma
(Right: Whooping Crane; Light: Interior Least Tern)
Source: ODWC & USFW
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 2.13. 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 Little Sahara 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, older restrooms are not accessible. New rule-making and interpretation of rules requires on-going vigilance related to accessibility.

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).
**Little Sahara State Park and the Local Economy**

Figure 2.14 on the previous page displays the Waynoka train station. This train station is north of the boundaries of Little Sahara State Park and adjoins a former Harvey House. For those unfamiliar with Harvey Houses, these restaurants were associated with the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway. In the late 19th century, there were 84 Harvey Houses across the west. In Waynoka, the Harvey House has been renovated to be a restaurant and museum (Figure 2.15). As shown in this figure, state park visitors frequent the restaurant and other businesses in Waynoka.

Photographic evidence throughout the RMP documents the symbiotic relationship between Little Sahara State Park and Waynoka. Although the political relationship between city leadership and the state park may vary, the reality is that numerous businesses in Waynoka rely upon park visitation for their existence. Six to ten businesses have direct affiliation with the dunes and riders. However, many others have indirect relationships.
Chapter 3 – Current Status of the Resource

Recreational Development

As one of the specialized recreation destination state parks in Oklahoma, Little Sahara State Park is an economic and recreational resource. The physical development of Little Sahara State Park began in 1958, when the Waynoka Chamber of Commerce purchased two camels from a circus and placed them in the sand dunes south of their town, they created local tourism, and a movement arose to create a state recreational area. In 1960, OTRD acquired 339.16 acres through “permanent easement” and began planning and development of Little Sahara State Park. As of 2013, Little Sahara State Park is not only a premier example of Oklahoma’s diverse terrain, but also one of the unique recreational areas and tourism attractions for ORV riding in the state. Little Sahara State Park is also recognized as one of the top off-road vehicle areas nationally. The sand dune area within the park offers dune buggy, 4x4 vehicle, motorcycle, and ATV enthusiasts opportunities to enjoy their ORV experience in open terrain.

The map on the following page, Figure 3.2a, provides an overview of the features of Little State Park. The park now consists of 1,952.62 acres of park land, including approximately 1,500 acres of rugged sand dunes terrain. The dunes range in height from 25 to 75 feet and shift with the wind. The park also includes tent and RV campgrounds, day use areas, and other facilities. These facilities are detailed in the following discussion. For ease of presentation, the discussion and presentation begins at the south entrance to the main park area of Little Sahara State Park and proceeds northerly along the main road through the property to the north entrance of the park. For all visitors entering Little Sahara State Park by automobile, the only highway access route is along U.S. Highway 281 bordering the eastern part of the park (Figure 3.1).
Figure 3.2a – Map of Little Sahara State Park
Figure 3.2b – Map of Little Sahara State Park

LITTLE SAHARA PROPERTY MAP
Summary of the Property at Little Sahara State Park

Little Sahara State Park (Figure 3.2b on the previous page) began with the purchase of a 339.16 acre permanent easement for park and recreational purposes from the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO, School Land Commission) in 1960. This was supplemented by an additional permanent easement of 5.58 acres from the CLO in 1966. Only about half of the nearly 345 acres included in these initial property acquisitions were sand dunes. The balance of this property was outside the dunes and became the site where the first facilities for the park, including campgrounds and a group camp, were constructed. By 1970 additional dune areas, approximately 720 acres, were added by temporary leases from the CLO. Another 320 acres adjoining the temporary leases were acquired by Land Patent from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in 1985. Additional dune area and the site of the north campgrounds, approximately 390 acres, were acquired through condemnation in 1990. Approximately 77 acres of dune area were acquired on the west side of the park in 1995. Also in 1995, a nearly half acre road easement was acquired to access the north side of the park from Highway 281. A new access route to the north side of the park was enabled by the 1994 grant of a road easement by the Waynoka Industrial Authority extending from downtown Waynoka, and the 1995 purchase of a corridor extending north from the park (13.64 acres) to the road easement. A portion of that road easement was later relinquished following the 1997 purchase of a corridor (8.86 acres) extending east to Highway 281. In 2009, approximately 75 acres on the east side of the park between the dunes and Highway 281 were purchased, bringing the total acreage of the park to 1,952.62 acres. One of the interesting features related to the property is that a portion of Little Sahara State Park along Highway 281 has incorporated into the city limits of Waynoka. This results in requirements for tax collection on sales and dune fees.

Entry Drive and Environs

The majority of the Little Sahara State Park visitors enter the park through the south entrance on the Highway 281. Highway 281 is two-lanes with a 55 mile per hour speed limit, increasing to 65 mph, heading south out of Waynoka. In town, the speed limit is lower, while vehicles coming from the south may be at higher speeds with a 65 mile per hour limit. A visitor entering Little Sahara State Park is in a rural, small-town environment.

Since Highway 281 is two-lane at the intersection with the park access road, there is limited turning space. For larger recreational vehicles or cars turning left into the park, there may be some delay caused by on-coming traffic. Sight-lines at this location are adequate due to the open terrain. Immediately upon entry into the property, the roadway turns right (north) to head toward the park office and the main portion of the park.

The entry drive into the park from Highway 281 is paved, although frequently sand-covered. This entry drive is a transition from the rural environment outside the park into the atmosphere and experience available within Little Sahara State Park. Along Highway 281, visitors will pass a business area adjoining the state park property providing tourists with food, beverage, campsites, and recreational equipment. At the south entrance, there is no specific gate to control the access to the property and the entrance is open at all times.

Park Office and Nearby Area

Upon entry into Little Sahara State Park, all vehicles continue northward for about a fourth of a mile to the park office. The office is located between the incoming lane and the out-going lane.
along the entry drive (Figure 3.3). The office is normally staffed during daylight hours and includes a visitor center, a small gift shop, and park information. Several parking spots are available along the entry drive near the office. In addition, a temporary parking lane allows incoming campers and riders to park while stopping by the office. The building and the parking spaces outside of the office are ADA compliant facilities. Along the east side of road, opposite from the office, are several storage buildings. Signs remind visitors that these storage facilities are for park staff only.

At one time these buildings were a group camp within Little Sahara State Park. The park office building was the former dining hall and the storage buildings were the sleeping cabins. The comfort station at this location was also the bathhouse for the former group camp.

Along this entry and immediately northwest of the park office is a quarter mile trail, named Nature Trail. Although the Nature Trail does not show on the park map (Figure 3.2a), it extends from the park office area northerly toward the Picnic Pavilion # 1 and # 2 and continues to the scenic overlook area (Figure 3.4 on the following page). It is an easy walking trail with natural surfaces and a few interpretive signs located along the trail. A “Leave No Trace” sign at the trail head reminds visitors to bring their trash outside the natural trail area to maintain a clean environment within the park.
Main Campground

Continuing northerly on the main road, the main park area is developed along both sides of the entry drive. This is the most heavily used area in Little Sahara State Park. The main campground, also called the south campground, in this report refers to the campground facilities within the main park area in Figure 3.2a. The camping facilities within this area include modern campsites, semi-modern campsites and unimproved campsites.

Since the layout of the campgrounds in the main park area is linear by design, the following presentation and discussion is divided into two sections based on its geographic location near the south dune riding entrance in this area: south end of the main camping area and north end of the camping area.

The south end of the main camping area, also called Golden Sands, refers to the campgrounds and other amenities located south of the dune entrance in this area, while the north end of the main camping area is located north of the dune entrance in this area. In general, most of the recent improvements occurred in the south end of the main campground, while the north end of the area received limited improvement.

In the south end of the main campground, two picnic shelters (picnic pavilion number 1 & 2) are located in the west side of the entry drive. Each picnic shelter has maximum capacity of 40 people, and electric, water, and grills are available at the pavilions (Figure 3.5). A campground primarily for tent camping is north of the number two pavilion.

Parking is available near these picnic shelters, allowing visitors to have reasonable access. However, the soil in this area is quite sandy, often making it necessary to walk through sand to get to the shelters. This does limit accessibility for persons with mobility limitations.
About an eighth of a mile further north along the entry road heading north, the third picnic shelter in the park is located and accessed directly from the entry drive. This restroom area includes parking space for six vehicles. The adjacent picnic pavilion has a similar capacity and feature as the other two picnic pavilions but is situated on a grass area. Between the tent campground and the number three picnic shelter, a new restroom building and a new playgroup were installed. These are compliant with current ADA standards. These amenities are shown in Figure 3.6 below.
RV camping facilities are also provided in the main campground (Golden Sands) and located east of the picnic pavilions, tent camping area, and playgroup area along the main drive. This location provides ease of access for RV campers entering the dune riding area and to the other amenities west of the entry drive, such as restroom, playground, and park office. These RV sites are designed as a linear array and are packed tightly along the drive to the south dune riding entrance in the park. All the 45 RV campsites are clearly distinguished by surface materials and defining lines on the ground, each of which is served at least with water and 50-amp electricity as semi-modern campsites.

Immediately north of the dune riding entrance in the main park area, a comfort station with showers is located close to the dune entrance. This area includes a day-user parking lot, designated for day use only rather than use for overnight camping (Figure 3.8). Unlike the comfort station in the south end of the main campground which has been replaced, the restroom in Figure 3.8 has not been upgraded. However, it remains a useable and reasonable facility for day visitors.

Moving toward the north end of the main campground, there is additional tent camping area situated along the entry drive. These campsites in this campground provide unpaved surfaces without water or electricity for a less developed camping experience. Some campsites are well-defined by clear boundaries, but other sites are somewhat less clearly defined. As can be seen in Figure 3.9, some of the sites have shade structures, while some of them do not have shade. Shade in Little Sahara State Park was reported to be in high demand in the 2005 carrying capacity study of the park (Caneday & Farris, 2005) and expressed by campers during preparation of the RMP.
At the north end of the main campground, there is a concession in the park. Little Sahara Sand Sports offers retail sales, riding apparel, gifts, and vehicle parts and is operated on a seasonal basis (Figure 3.9). The main drive through the campground then exits park property.

A final amenity for park visitors, a sanitary dump station for recreational vehicles, is located on the east side of Highway 281, outside the main campground area. The dump station is situated along a loop allowing vehicles to have reasonable access in a drive-through. This location provides an easy access for RV campers entering or leaving the sanitary dump station. A helicopter landing zone is also available in this area for emergency purposes only (Figure 3.10).

About a half mile further north along the Highway 281 from the sanitary dump station, there is a service road leading to the maintenance area and park residence. The access to the maintenance area and park residence is not highly visible since this area is not intended for public use. Several storage buildings, fuel tanks, equipment, and a park residence are in this area (Figure 3.11).
The summary table for the Main Campground in Little Sahara State Park shows in Table 3.1.

**Table 3.1 – Amenities of Main Campground at Little Sahara State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Main Campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved campsite (no utilities)</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA compliant campsite</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom (with showers)</td>
<td>2 (south end and north end)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playgroup</td>
<td>1 site (south end)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic pavilion (capacity of 40 people)</td>
<td>3 sites (south end)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dump station</td>
<td>1 (east of Hwy 281)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 3.11 – Maintenance area and park residence*

Top Left: Maintenance storage; Top Right: Open space with the maintenance area
Bottom Left: Gas tanks; Bottom Right: Park residence
Dune Riding Area and Entrance

There are two dune riding entrances in Little Sahara State Park: one is within the south campground, located in the main park area, and a northern entrance providing more direct access from the northern campgrounds and a parking lot. Dune riders pay entrance fees at both the south and north entrance and must wear wrist bands documenting payment of this entry fee. The main road to the south entrance in the main park area is open year around, while the road access to north entrance may be closed due to weather or other special conditions.

It is important to inform visitors regarding regulations related to riding in the park and state laws for personal safety and enjoyment. ORV/ATV riding is considered to be a risky recreation activity. As can be seen in Figure 3.13, all the information and regulations are displayed at the entry and emphasize “No Alcohol Use” and safety rules related to vehicle operation in the dunes.
As mentioned in the general discussion of the park, approximately 1,500 acres of the park property is sand dunes for ORV riding, and dune riding is the major attraction for park visitors. During the time of RMP preparation, an observation center over the dune area was under construction and its main purpose is to provide an educational and interpretive opportunity for all park visitors (Figure 3.14).

Currently, the park staff occasionally provides interpretive service for school or other groups. In the near future, the developing observation center and interpretive signs will provide an educational and interpretive opportunity for park visitors, especially for non-dune riders. This observation center will offer a great opportunity for informing all the visitors of the scientific, educational, recreational, and environmental resources of the park (Figure 3.15 and 3.16).
**Figure 3.15 – Little Sahara Observation Center**

Top left: walkway with interpretive signs
Top right: accessible viewer
Middle left: Interpretive signs and seating
Middle right: viewer
Below: walkway leading to the observation center
North Campground

Another campground is located at the northern part of the park, referred to as North Campground. Two campgrounds are available in this northern area: Buttercup Campground and Cowboy Campground. The access roadway to the north campground of the park is approximately three miles north of the south entrance of the park and closer to the city of Waynoka. The sign at the entry to the north campground (Figure 3.17) indicates whether the campground is opened or closed. At this location a gate can be closed across the entry road. The northern boundary of the park is fenced as is the right-of-way for this entry road leading into the north campgrounds.

The roadway leads visitors first to Buttercup Campground, designated as an RV campground. However, the mixed use of RV camping and tent camping is commonly seen in this area. Each campsite has water and electric (semi-modern facility) with unpaved surfaces. In comparison of
Buttercup to the campsites in the main camping area, the layout of Buttercup campground provides a larger open space for campers to park or display their ORVs around their camping trailer. An older restroom with showers is also located in this camping area.

During the time of preparing RMP, a portion of the Buttercup Campground was unavailable for public camping due to the occupation by construction equipment in work on the observation center. That construction was completed in 2014.

Immediately south of Buttercup Campground is Cowboy Campground. The usage of this campground is similar to that in Buttercup Campground, designed for RV camping and mixed use with tents and RV camping. Water and electric are available for each site. Although the campsites in this area do not have developed shade, some of the campsites are close to trees which create natural shade for them. Most of the campers bring more than one ATV or ORV and open space between sites is used to display their dune riding equipment (Figure 3.18). An ADA compliant restroom with showers and a pump house are located in the Cowboy Camping area. The amenities of North Campground at Little Sahara State Park are reported in Table 3.2 in the following page.
Table 3.2 – Amenities of North Campground at Little Sahara State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>North Campground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Modern campsite (Water, sewer, electricity)</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-modern campsite (Water, electricity)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unimproved campsite (no utilities)</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADA compliant campsite</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Restroom (with showers)</td>
<td>2 (Buttercup and Cowboy Campground)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Access and Surrounding Environment

Public access to Little Sahara State Park was discussed earlier. The only route of access for visitors by vehicle is from Highway 281. Highway 281 is two-lane for most of the distance from Seiling on the south to Waynoka on the north. Access to Little Sahara State Park is provided by two-lane, hard surface routes. Most visitors to Little Sahara State Park are likely to have some knowledge of the park’s location prior to a visit. Incidental visitation for travelers along Highway 281 is somewhat unlikely. Highway 281 intersects with Highway 412 south of the park. Highway 412 provides east/west access leading to Little Sahara State Park.

Little Sahara State Park is located south of the City of Waynoka which provides commercial services, such as restaurants, convenience stores, automotive services, and other business ventures for park visitors. However, Waynoka services are somewhat limited. The city government extended a connecting ORV trail from the park road to the downtown business area to attract park visitors to visit the local businesses. Although the City of Waynoka has a welcoming and positive relationship with Little Sahara State Park visitors, some conflicts have occurred between the city residents and visitors due to the trail use to the downtown area, including noise, speed limits, and other traffic concerns (Figure 3.20).

Figure 3.20 – ORV trail from Little Sahara to Waynoka

Left: ORV trail along the park road; Middle: Sign of caution ORV riders
Right: Trail to the downtown area

In addition to the downtown business area, private businesses are adjacent to the park property and rely upon park visitation to sustain their activity. Some of these businesses provide similar services to those offered through the state park (i.e. RV campsites), and others offer food, beverage, and automotive services. As can be seen in Figure 3.21 on the following page, these private businesses are adjacent to the state park boundary and these green poles show the property limits. In general, Little Sahara State Park is essential for numerous businesses in Waynoka.
Park Visitation

Attendance records have been kept since the opening days of the park. It should be noted that counting park visitors is an inaccurate process. Technically, every person entering the park is a park visitor, but not all of those visitors are recreational visitors. At Little Sahara State Park a certain percentage of the visitors recorded in the park would include park staff, vendors, and members of the general public entering the park to utilize a restroom, conduct business at the retail concession on site, or for other purposes.

In addition, since Little Sahara State Park provides a dune riding recreational opportunity for visitors in which an exchange of a fee for this recreational service occurs, the number of armbands sold for allowing visitors to use the dune area provides an exact count of riders. However, it is important to note that a portion of the park visitors are not counted through the number of armbands sold for dune riding since some park visitors do not participate in dune riding activity or are not the drivers for the various dune vehicles.

For clarity in understanding of visitation patterns, total park visitation is presented in the following discussion. This would include campers, dune riders, day visitors, and others.

Recreational Use of Park Facilities

Little Sahara State Park has maintained approximately 160,000 total visitation for the past three years between 2010 and 2012, while the average visitation in 2008 and 2009 was around 220,000. The number includes dune riders, overnight visitors, and total visitation. The number of armbands sold refers to the actual number of dune riders who purchased armbands for entering the sand dune area. Overnight visitors include RV and tent campers who spend one or more nights in the park. The total visitation included day visitors who might be pass-through sightseers, campers at other local businesses who ride in the dunes, and many other recreational visitors do not stay overnight at the park.

Determining the number of campers and dune riders is more accurate than is the calculation of total visitors to the park. Total visitors are calculated based on traffic counters and a proxy
variable for number of occupants in vehicles passing entry points into the park. Total number of visitors should not be interpreted as “individuals” in that numerous individuals are repeat visitors to the park on a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual basis. In addition, with multiple entries into Little Sahara State Park, it is possible that a single individual may be counted on multiple occasions entering different portions of the park.

Table 3.3 – Camping and Total Visitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Armbands sold</th>
<th>Overnight Guests</th>
<th>Total Visitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>78,121</td>
<td>13,144</td>
<td>234,363</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>71,211</td>
<td>15,364</td>
<td>213,633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>55,999</td>
<td>10,953</td>
<td>167,997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>53,757</td>
<td>11,055</td>
<td>161,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>52,322</td>
<td>8,074</td>
<td>156,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the figures in Table 3.3, it is apparent that visitation during the recent five-year period peaked in 2008 for both day visitors and overnight guests. In all likelihood, the decline in visitation is a reflection of economic conditions during the past few years and the price of gasoline. This pattern has also been seen in several other parks across Oklahoma.

It is difficult to identify exactly how many campers are individually associated with a registration. In the campgrounds, records are maintained of the number of campsites rented. As demonstrated in the photographs presented, it is fairly common for one campsite rental to include multiple tents and/or recreational vehicles. In addition, it is common for multiple motorized vehicles to be associated with a single campsite rental. Logically, group size associated with a single campsite rental can vary greatly.

Although the park is operated year around and sand dune riding is allowed 24/7 in the park, park visitors prefer specific times of the year to visit the park. The maximum capacity of the park for dune riding may be approached on Friday through Sunday from February 1 through May 31; on the four-day Memorial Day weekend, July 4th weekend, and Labor Day weekend; and Friday through Sunday from Labor Day through November 30 (Caneday & Farris, 2005).

Table 3.4 on the following page presents the campsite rentals for the past five years. These sites are defined as improved or unimproved, for which the category of improved refers to semi-modern site design (no modern camp site in the park). The number of campsites available varies slightly as new sites are developed, old sites are taken “off-line,” and new campground design changes the configuration of a campground. The number of campsites available is an estimate, calculated based on number of sites of a given category multiplied by 365 and reduced by 5% for days on which individual sites may have been unavailable due to maintenance or construction. The occupancy rate on unimproved campsites is hindered by extremes of weather since these sites do not have electricity. In addition, a portion of the campground may be closed during the winter. However, it is a rare occurrence for campsites to be closed. This calculation is utilized to permit comparison with other resource management plans.
### Table 3.4 – Camping at Little Sahara State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Type of campsite</th>
<th>Campsites rented</th>
<th>Campsites available*</th>
<th>Occupancy rate on campsites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>4,354</td>
<td>32,941</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>8,790</td>
<td>42,303</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>5,694</td>
<td>32,941</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>9,670</td>
<td>42,303</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>3,434</td>
<td>32,941</td>
<td>10.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>7,519</td>
<td>42,303</td>
<td>17.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>3,454</td>
<td>32,941</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>7,601</td>
<td>42,303</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Unimproved campsites</td>
<td>2,282</td>
<td>32,941</td>
<td>7.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Improved campsites</td>
<td>5,792</td>
<td>42,303</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Based on number of total sites, either improved or unimproved, less 5% for maintenance

### Public Perception of Little Sahara State Park

At the time of preparation of this resource management plan, the authors reviewed numerous websites and marketing sources related to Little Sahara State Park, which were provided by private sources. Further, private citizens and visitors to Little Sahara State Park maintain personal blogs and social networking sites that address their experiences and visits to the park. These blogs often were associated with dune riding and camping, but addressed Little Sahara State Park in some manner. Examples of comments from visitors include:
• This is a great place to go for some family fun. We’ve been so many times and have a blast every time. We bring dirt bikes, ATVs and side-by-sides. Awesome! (Tripadvisor, January 2013)

• Great place to ride sand dunes. It is actually 10 dollars a day to ride. 20 dollars a night to camp with electric. On main camp. Little Sahara sand sports is a great shop with friendly people and reasonable prices. (ATVEscape.com, February, 2013)

• We stayed at the park again in Oct. 2012, during the week it was interesting to have the entire dune area to ourselves and not see a soul. The park has made many changes and has new improved sites in the south campground. The park manager is a very nice ranger and cares for the park as well as the campers and riders riding atvs, buggies in the park. (Tripadvisor, October 2012)

• We have been here many times and love this park. The dunes are fun to ride. At the end of the day, you have access to showers, but bring a roll quarters as they cost 25 cents. They also have restrooms and no porto-potties. I think they overcharge and the rate seems to always change. They charge per driver and per tent, but that could change. We learned that liquor is not allowed and we got caught because we left the bottles on the table. If you want to bring liquor, be sure to keep it out of sight or pre-make your drinks. The troopers were cool with us though because we didn’t argue with them. Be cool with them and they will be cool back. (Tripadvisor, September 2012)

• After a long drive from MS to OK it was such a relief to land at the Bunkhouse in Waynoka, Ok. No sand in MS but tons here. I have ridden the Rubicon puttering around our place and was a little nervous about the dunes. Look out Little Sahara. I’m coming back soon and it won’t be on a Rubicon. We had so much fun! My only concern is the big Sand Railers. They think they own the place so you are constantly on edge. (Tripadvisor, October 2011)

• If you need a clean place for your family to stay, the Bunkhouse is the place to be. Just a short ride through town to the Dunes for FUN FOR A LIFETIME!!! Hutch’s country Market in town has EVERYTHING and I mean everything you could need. They even make their own beef sticks. Very Tasty! My family and I had an awesome time in this very small town with big attitude. We will be back to stay with Karen and “Woody” for many years to come (Tripadvisor, October 2011)

Visitor Study of Little Sahara State Park

The most formal and scientific evaluations for Little Sahara State Park were generated during the 2003 park visitor survey (Caneday & Jordan, 2003). These evaluations were the result of on-site interviews with park visitors contacted at various locations throughout the park. The analysis of the data from these interviews was reported by category of type of visitor: day visitor or camper. Although somewhat dated, this visitor survey is the most recent thorough analysis of attitudes and opinions represented by visitors to Oklahoma state parks. Since contacts were made at public locations throughout the park, the determining factor for classification of the visitors was their respective place of lodging during the visit on which they were contacted.

Day visitors to Little Sahara State Park were familiar with the park, averaging one or more visits per year. Almost 86% of all day visitors interviewed were repeat visitors to the park. The most frequent recreational activities reported by these day visitors were motorized activity, camping, and picnicking. Day visitors tended to be satisfied with their experiences at the park, showing the
least satisfaction with availability of shade and rain/sun shelters for picnic tables in the park. The park was the primary destination for most of the day visitors, who were motivated to visit the park to be with friends or family.

Day visitors tended to be in groups, ranging up to five individuals, with the most common grouping of day visitors being three members. The day visitors contacted during the survey tended to be white, non-Hispanic with a high school education or above. They ranged in age from 19 to 67 years of age, with a median of 47 years of age; they included fourteen males and six females. Since these individuals were day visitors, most had traveled more than 120 miles to get to Little Sahara State Park, although distance ranged from 4 to 400 miles. However, many of the day visitors indicated they were staying in the area and had traveled much further on the trip during which they were surveyed.

Campers at Little Sahara State Park were also quite familiar with the park in that approximately 77% of respondents were repeat visitors. These visitors tended to get to Little Sahara State Park six times a year. These campers participated in a wide range of recreation activities, but most frequently they were camping, participating in motorized activity, and pleasure driving/sightseeing. Campers expressed great satisfaction with the facilities provided in the park.

Little Sahara State Park was the primary destination for 90% of the campers contacted in the survey. They chose to visit the park to relax or rest and to be with friends or family, with the single highest factor in motivation being the use of off road vehicle trails or areas. The vast majority of the campers were white and non-Hispanic. In addition, the campers were similar to other visitors in that they presented a high school education as the highest level achieved.

Campers reported having traveled an average of 280 miles on their visit to Little Sahara State Park, although the median distance traveled was 200 miles and the mode was also 200 miles. This would indicate that the majority of the visitors came from great distances, ranging from 65 to 967 miles.

**Park Management**

Over the years of operation, the management structure for Little Sahara State Park has changed at the direction of leadership within OTRD from Oklahoma City. However, Little Sahara State Park has been quite stable in organization and operation throughout the years.

Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara State Park has been fairly stable over the past three years (2010-2012) with minor adjustments between numbers of permanent staff and seasonal staff during that time. However, the major changes of staffing the park was the year of 2009, when the number of seasonal staff had a 40% decrease from 25 to 15 seasonal park staff, while the permanent salaried staff remained stable during the past five years. Table 3.5 documents the staffing pattern for Little Sahara State Park in recent years. Most state parks in Oklahoma experienced similar
staffing adjustments in response to budgetary appropriations. Little Sahara State Park has sustained a dedicated, loyal staff over the years.

**Table 3.5 – Staffing at Little Sahara State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Permanent salaried staff</th>
<th>Seasonal park staff</th>
<th>Total park staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Revenue and Expenses**

Data related to revenue and expense at Little Sahara State Park was provided by local staff and augmented with material from the central OTRD office. Table 3.6 reports this revenue and expense data for the past five years in the following page.

The principal revenue sources for Little Sahara State Park are entry fees to the dune area and campsite rentals. Most other services within the park are supported through state appropriations and allocation of state budgeted funds. As a result, the difference between revenue and expense for operation of Little Sahara State Park varied by year. For example, a positive difference between revenue and expense shown in 2008 to 2011, meaning that the park generated enough revenue on-site to cover its operation and personal expenses and make an operating-profit, whereas 2012 showed a negative difference between revenue and expense, meaning the generated revenue for the park did not cover its operating expense. However, Little Sahara State Park, in general, is one of the few parks, nationwide, in which revenue is close to balancing operating expense within state park systems.

**Figure 3.22 – Park patrol rescue ORV**
Table 3.6 – Expense and Revenue at Little Sahara State Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Expense</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Difference Revenue - expense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Personnel Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total</td>
<td>$648,428</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>$699,291</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Total</td>
<td>$625,743</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>$593,802</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>$679,355</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Operating Expense</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Total</td>
<td>$465,971</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>$528,716</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Total</td>
<td>$479,221</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>$480,331</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>$529,729</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$182,457</td>
<td>$798,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009 Total</td>
<td>$528,716</td>
<td>$777,017</td>
<td>$77,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010 Total</td>
<td>$171,575</td>
<td>$730,977</td>
<td>$105,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011 Total</td>
<td>$113,471</td>
<td>$746,411</td>
<td>$152,609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Total</td>
<td>$149,626</td>
<td>$662,211</td>
<td>($17,144)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Hazards Analysis – Natural and Operational

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

Natural Hazards

As with all natural areas, Little Sahara 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 Little Sahara 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, the dunes invite visitors to engage the varied terrain and, while signage exists, dune riders test the limits of their abilities on the shifting dunes. Trees, fence posts, and cables in the shifting dunes also present hazards for riders. Although signs inform visitors of these hazards, the visitor is has limited comprehension of the various hazards and is not prepared for the risks involved in their interactions.

Among the natural hazards present in the park are those associated with weather events. The National Climatic Data Center reports a variety of such hazards by county over several years. These hazards include hail, floods, thunderstorms with accompanying wind and lightning, tornadoes, heavy snow, ice, excessive heat, and drought. Staff members are prepared to notify
park visitors in the event of severe weather, but appropriate shelter is limited. At the present
time, neither signage nor printed visitor materials provide severe weather information to park
visitors. Some visitors choose to seek shelter in structures in Waynoka.

Other natural hazards are related to life forms in the natural environment. Any time people are
riding and recreating in an outdoor environment, a chance exists that they will inadvertently
encounter such wildlife; this is the case in Little Sahara State 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. While equestrian activity
rarely occurs within Little Sahara State Park, horses are common in the rural area surrounding
the park.

There are venomous snakes native to Woods County and encounters between snakes and park
visitors may occur. However, such encounters are infrequent.

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 Little Sahara
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.

Little Sahara State Park receives its potable water from several wells on-site and park management treats the water for public use. The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality has recommended additional wells to augment present water supplies. As with all water supplies, there is the potential to be a host for waterborne disease through the drinking water provided on-site. Such a risk is no greater for a park visitor than would be true in a private residence.

**Operational Hazards**

Operational hazards include those vulnerabilities to park staff, the park system, or the state of Oklahoma that exist as a result of management or operation of the resource and application of policy. Management and operational decisions are made on a daily basis and are affected by budgets, prioritization within the state park system, staffing patterns, local and state politics, and other external influences. Operation of Little Sahara State Park as an off-road vehicle park introduces hazards and associated risk. This is indicated in accident and injury reports detailed later in this RMP. It is also a major factor in the role of Oklahoma State Parks as the property manager, since private liability concerns would make private operation untenable.

At present, emergency fire service and other emergency services are provided by the local volunteer fire department and Emergency Management Service from Waynoka. A memorandum of understanding is in place between Little Sahara State Park and the Waynoka volunteer fire department. Emergency response time is estimated to be 10 to 15 minutes. Emergency medical service is available through the Waynoka medical clinics, although trauma centers are more distant. A heliport is also available east of the main portion of the park which offers an option for medical emergency transport to University of Oklahoma medical center in Oklahoma City or Saint Francis medical center in Tulsa.

As part of the data collection for the development of this RMP, the researchers conducted several on-site visits to Little Sahara State Park. Common issues that could be dangerous for visitors include the hazards related by the moving sand dunes. Cables, fencing, solid waste and other objects should be removed from the sand dune area for safety concerns.

Further, weather-related events (e.g., ice storms, strong winds) in Oklahoma often result in tree and limb damage throughout the park. The locations in which downed trees and limbs have immediate impact on visitors include the camping areas, trails, roadways, and day use areas. Currently, Little Sahara State Park does not have a formal limb management or tree replacement program; this is common throughout the state park system. Limb management at Little Sahara State Park is not as prominent an issue as it is in other state parks within the system.

![Figure 3.23 - Solid waste on the dunes (April, 2013)](image)
Law Enforcement

The CLEET certified rangers and reserve-CLEET certified rangers are responsible for primary activity related to law enforcement within the boundaries of the park. At present under the staffing and management provided through Little Sahara State Park, there are three CLEET certified rangers and one additional reserve-CLEET ranger available for Little Sahara State Park in 2012 (Table 3.7).

**Table 3.7 – Ranger Staff at Little Sahara State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>CLEET Certified</th>
<th>Reserve CLEET</th>
<th>Total ranger staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Citation records were available specifically for Little Sahara State Park and are shown in Table 3.8. The incidents and citations ranged from drug and alcohol related situations, to vehicular accidents and traffic incidents, to domestic difficulties, and conflict between park visitors. Compared with other state parks in the state system, Little Sahara State Park has a relatively higher reported number of citations and incidents than other parks in Oklahoma. However, it is also one of the busiest and the most popular parks in the system and provides motorized recreation opportunities for park visitors all year round. In the past five years, most of the citations and written warnings were related to traffic and alcohol issues, while a few of them were associated with drug use or criminal incidents. The high reported number could be considered as an evidence of enforcing “No Alcohol Use” safety policy, especially in the dune area at the park.

**Table 3.8 – Citation and Incident Reports at Little Sahara State Park**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar year</th>
<th>Incident Reports</th>
<th>Citations Issued</th>
<th>Arrests</th>
<th>Combined Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>276</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>325</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>337 (warnings)</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>734</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Since dune riding is considered a risky recreation activity, it is important to inform visitors regarding state laws and park regulations related to riding in the park. The primary purpose for providing this information is to minimize risk for the visitors, enhance the recreation experience, and assist park managers in providing a safe recreation experience. As seen in Figure 3.14, all the information and regulations are displayed at the entrance into the dunes and highlight safety rules related to ATV/ORV riding in dunes.

However, severe accidents leading to injuries and fatalities do occur at Little Sahara State Park. Research staff reviewed reports provided by park management and chose to report two years data related to these serious events. This data is reported in Table 3.9 and is unique to Little Sahara State Park within the Oklahoma State Park system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Calendar year</th>
<th>Accidents</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
<th>Agency Assists</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laws regarding age of riders, equipment required for riders, and related regulations have changed over time. In addition, the technology utilized in the vehicles has changed dramatically. Three-wheeled ORVs and ATVs are much less common in 2012 than in past years. Helmets and body armor are much more common. It is likely that technology will continue to develop and improve safety for those involved in this sport.

**Policy-Related Exposures**

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

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

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

In terms of wildlife, while a formal management plan does not exist, staff operates under an agreed-upon plan approved by the Oklahoma Division of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC). Although they are an important natural resource in the park, wildlife 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 Little Sahara 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 dispersed area of development at Little Sahara State Park requires multiple programs in waste management. There are two primary concerns related to waste management within the park: solid waste and liquid waste.

Solid waste is transported off-site under a multi-year contract with the City of Waynoka. Dumpsters have been located at strategic points within the park. Visitors are expected to dispose of waste properly in these dumpsters.

Liquid waste is managed on-site through seven septic systems distributed throughout Little Sahara State Park. These septic systems tend to be clustered in service to specific developments. As a result, restroom location or building location is associated with the location of a septic tank and distribution field. In addition, there are two vault toilets in Little Sahara State Park.

Park management did not express any concerns or problems with waste management at Little Sahara 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 and also present potential risk for riders in the dunes.
Figure 3.24 – Examples of diversity of ORVs/ATVs
Chapter 4 – Alternatives and Preferred Plans

Overview and Summary

In this Resource Management Plan, background is provided related to Little Sahara 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 may not be as apparent for Little Sahara State Park as for other properties, but several aspects of management as a complex, developed park require resolution of this issue for this property. For Little Sahara State Park, the focused purpose of the park for motorized, consumptive activity is a factor in determining qualification as a state park.

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, 2003). 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 recreational 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 Little Sahara State Park, it could be concluded that:

1. Little Sahara State Park provides a specialized recreation destination, the sand dunes and surrounding environment, managed and developed to provide public access to the unique dune environment. The dune environment is supplemented by a built and modified park environment providing essential amenities for the recreation visitors and offers opportunities for education and interpretation of that environment. As such, Little Sahara State Park is a multi-state economic hub serving a niche market. Little Sahara State Park has been identified as one of the top five dune parks nationally. It is significant as a recreational resource.

2. Little Sahara State Park is feasible to manage within the agency and fits within the mission of Oklahoma State Parks. It is unlikely that Little Sahara State Park could be managed by other than a governmental agency. Little Sahara State Park is a national draw for a specific recreational audience.

3. Little Sahara State Park property fits within the mission of OTRD and the park’s state purpose as a pre-eminent property with a unique recreational resource deserving of protection and management for the present and future generations. This niche market includes a clientele willing to pay for the opportunity to play, leading to a park that is as close to operational self-sufficiency as is seen in all public parks.

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

Alternatives

A. Seek to divest Oklahoma State Parks of the property at Little Sahara State Park and relinquish the current leases;
B. Outsource management and operation of Little Sahara State Park under lease;
C. No change – Retain Little Sahara State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative C: No change – Retain Little Sahara State Park as an integral property in the Oklahoma State Park system.
**Issue Statement 2: Carrying Capacity of Little Sahara State Park**

Every property has a capacity for use. In park management, capacity has been defined as a function of resource characteristics, type and amount of use, and management goals. Little Sahara State Park is one of the top five riding sites across the United States and the only state park in Oklahoma that is designated for open riding. It is also famous for offering open riding with few restrictions, such as not being limited by directional traffic or capacity restrictions.

A recreational carrying capacity of Little Sahara State Park conducted by Caneday and Farris (2005) showed that the dunes in the park are not at capacity and can hold more riders; however, the number of camp sites or other lodging options is the limitation for potential visitors to use the park especially during the peak season.

According to the capacity study, calculating a carry capacity by the methods used in California and Florida ORV state parks (three vehicles per acre of dunes), the capacity of the dune area in Little Sahara State Park is 4,500 vehicles, while the suggested capacity is about 1,500 ATV/ORV at one time, or approximately one vehicle (ATV/ORV) per acre of dunes (Caneday & Farris, 2005). In terms of the capacity of the built environment, a total number of 984 campers per night in the park, accounting for 246 campsites with 4 persons per site, is the maximum capacity of the campground within the park property. In other words, the capacity of the Little Sahara sand dune area would far exceed the capacity of the built environment and amenities provided within the park. As a result, the recommended carrying capacity for Little Sahara State Park is dictated by visitor amenities more than by the dune environment. However, the development of surrounding campgrounds and other access for day-users who enter Little Sahara State Park to access the dunes places additional capacity pressures upon the park infrastructure.

Moreover, the occupancy of the park’s unimproved campsites and semi-modern campsites ranged from 10% to 20% in the past five years. This indicates that the level of development in numbers of campsites exceeds the demand or the quality of the facilities does not match park visitors’ expectation. There may be a few weekends or holidays in which the park is actually full. Being “full” and turning away some visitors would probably be more efficient in practice than over-building campgrounds. The future development should focus on the quality of the amenities rather than the quantities. Some heavily used RV and tent sites might also have negative impact to the environment and the aesthetics of the park.

Alternatives

A. Review the need for some of the marginal campsites, especially in Cowboy, Buttercup, and the northern portion of the main campground, with the intent of reducing the total number of campsites;

B. Close and rehabilitate marginal campsites, especially in Cowboy, Buttercup, and the northern portion of the main campground, with the intent of improving the campground aesthetics;

C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A & B: Review the need for some of the marginal campsites, especially in Cowboy, Buttercup, and the northern portion of the main campground, with the intent of reducing the total number of campsites, and close and rehabilitate marginal campsites, with the intent of improving the campground aesthetics.
Issue Statement 3: Interpretive services at Little Sahara State Park

Little Sahara State Park not only provides a public location for recreational, off-road vehicles and other riders to enjoy dune riding but also offers opportunities for education and interpretation related to that environment. These opportunities were expanded greatly upon completion and opening of the observation center.

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.”

Little Sahara State Park and the Waynoka region offer several resources with inherent meaning and interest for the audience, allowing for forging of emotional and intellectual connections. The story includes the people, the place, the events, the geology, the topography, the habitat, the wildlife, the recreation experience in the dunes, and much more.

Properly developed and delivered programming could be presented on a fee-for-service basis. These programs could and should be delivered on-site and off-site. These programs become the educational foundation and outreach for Little Sahara State Park and the state park system more broadly. This would require staff at a time when finances are limited for employing personnel.

Little Sahara State Park could host one or two collegiate interns continually to create and deliver interpretive messages. Housing may be a major concern that would require some creative solution. Sustained internships would accomplish several goals for Little Sahara State Park: (1) it would bring creative and energetic personnel into the park system; (2) it would achieve an educational goal for the park and the park system; (3) it would provide a link between the park system and the formal college and university education system; and (4) it would provide a message that Oklahoma’s state parks serve an educational role as well as a recreational role.
Alternatives

A. When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park, especially if an interpretive education center is possible
B. Encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A and B: When finances permit, expand the interpretive programming within and beyond the park, especially if an interpretive and education center is possible; encourage the development of internship agreements focused on interpretive services.

Issue Statement 4: Staffing and employment difficulties

Staffing and employment in park systems is a nationwide issue in the United States especially in the recent recession with serious budget cuts affecting state finances. The Oklahoma State Park system has been affected by the economic crisis and Little Sahara State Park experienced similar staffing adjustments in response to budgetary appropriations.

During meetings in preparation of the RMP, state park employees mentioned that the challenge of staffing and employment in the park system is to achieve and sustain competitive wages, especially with the boom in the oil and gas business in Oklahoma. The limitation of affordable and quality housing for employees within a reasonable driving distance is an added difficulty related to staffing. Housing and pay scale are also serious issues limiting attraction for potential interns.

Alternatives

A. As funding permits, seek to offer competitive wages for full-time and seasonal employees;
B. As funding permits, seek to offer internship opportunities for college students with consideration of creative housing solutions;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternatives A & B: As funding permits, seek to offer competitive wages for full-time and seasonal employees, and seek to offer internship opportunities for college students with consideration of creative housing solutions

Issue Statement 5: Improvement of amenities and facilities

Due to the limited resource and capital investment of funding, the major improvement of Little Sahara State Park has concentrated on the main park area which is in the southern region of the park. For example, a new playgroup was installed at the south end of the main campground where day visitors and overnight visitors are able to use the facility. The RV campground at the south end of the main park area has been improved.
However, the north end of the main campground is aesthetically unpleasing. In contrast to the recently renovated portion of the main campground, this section appears over-used, abused, and jumbled. A complete redesign and rethinking of the layout of this portion of the main campground is necessary.

Cowboy and Buttercup campgrounds will also require rethinking of the layout and some redesign. Buttercup was adversely impacted by construction equipment associated with the installation of the observation center. Traffic is likely to increase in that campground as the observation center grows in popularity.

Cowboy campground is over-crowded, particularly on the outside of the campground loop. Sites outside the roadway and adjacent to the fence lines should be reconsidered as suggested in Issue Statement 2. Many of these sites are under-utilized and aesthetically unpleasing. Rehabilitation of the spaces into a more natural appearance would enhance the camping experience.

Alternatives

A. As funding permits, rethink and redesign the north end of the main campground, Cowboy, and Buttercup campgrounds to improve the park aesthetics and enhance the camping experience;

B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

Alternative A: As funding permits, rethink and redesign the north end of the main campground, Cowboy, and Buttercup campgrounds to improve the park aesthetics and enhance the camping experience.

**Issue Statement 6: Safety issues at Little Sahara State Park**

Dune riding in Little Sahara State Park is the major attraction for the park visitors. The dune riding community in Oklahoma and across the nation has discovered the interesting features of the park and their communication network is spreading the word of new routes, challenges, and experiences. Part of what is attractive about Little Sahara State Park for ORV/ATV riders is the open riding with few restrictions: not limited by directional traffic or capacity restrictions.

Safety issues are among the most important issues in Little Sahara State Park for the park visitor, although park visitors in general understand incidents and accidents are part of the activity and the present level of such incidents is acceptable (Caneday & Farris, 2005). Park management should continue to remove cables and upkeep trees and fences in the dunes. ATV use on roads in and around the park and city of Waynoka also show some safety concerns.

In addition, with the increase in dune riding activity in night time, there will be potential for increased accidents and injuries. Since much of the riding is intentionally occurring after dark, there is the potential for difficult “search and rescue.” Even though some riders consider night riding as being safer than day riding, night time rescues in general are more difficult than day time rescues due to the visibility in the area.

Other safety issues related to the park are associated with the weather condition and individuals’ personal experience of ORV/ATV riding. Weather warnings in the park would help park visitors to be aware of the weather conditions and weather safety.
In addition, rentals of ATVs/ORVs are perceived as being more accident prone than are those riders on their own units. This safety concern is likely related to individual experience and level of specialization of the ORV equipment.

Alternatives

A. Consideration of a seat belt policy for all riders (this may require legislation);
B. Consideration of mandatory safety classes for first-time riders;
C. Consideration of mandatory body armor for youth while in the dunes (this may require legislation);
D. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative D: No change – continue management as it is. This means sustaining present levels of monitoring, enforcement, and vigilance related to equipment, regulations, and drivers.

**Issue Statement 7: 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 comfort stations and office structures, and needs to be expanded to other management practices.

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

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

Little Sahara 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. Little Sahara 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. Encourage the development of a “Friends of Little Sahara State Park” to create, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive recycling program throughout the park;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

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

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**Issue Statement 8: Confusion of park boundary and property ownership**

The movement of the dunes leads to lack of definition of the legal riding area and results in conflict with adjacent property owners, particularly to the north. For example, in some cases cattle move across fence lines onto park property. In other cases, riders either knowingly or unknowingly cross from the state park onto private property. The constantly changing dunes or unclear park boundaries lead to confusion for animals and people.

Solutions such as fences and cables have been tried, with temporary success.

Alternatives

A. Install additional fences and signs to identify the park boundary in many confusing locations;
B. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternative:

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

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**Issue Statement 9: Pricing for instate and out-of-state guests**

Presently OTRD operates under a policy of pricing a given good or service similarly for all guests. There is no distinction in pricing of goods and services between in-state residents who visit an Oklahoma State Park and out-of-state residents who visit and enjoy the same facilities and events. There is a distinction in that the in-state residents pay a significant tax burden which then subsidizes OTRD and the state parks. As a result, the in-state residents subsidize the recreation experience of out-of-state guests. It is readily acknowledged that the out-of-state guests benefit the local economy with their expenditures. However, if a guest at a local park resides outside the extent of the local economy, the dollars spent by a resident or an out-of-state guest have equal economic impact in direct measures, indirect measures, and induced measures.

Many states have instituted a pricing differential to benefit in-state residents. For example, Texas requires vehicle permits for all vehicles entering its parks. Texas residents pay a lower price for the vehicle permits than do out-of-state residents, including Oklahomans who visit Texas.

Tourism is a business that includes intriguing interactions between the host community and its guests. OTRD must sustain a positive relationship between its parks, the staff in those parks, the surrounding community, in-state taxpayers, and guests, some of whom come from out of state. Pricing of goods and services is a sensitive variable in that relationship.
It is clear that Little Sahara State Park draws visitors from multiple states. Little Sahara State Park offers a unique recreational experience to a niche market. The resource and park belong to the people of the state of Oklahoma. In principle, Oklahoma residents should receive some preference beyond that given to out-of-state residents. That preference could be in differential pricing.

Alternatives

A. Review the pricing of camping and dune riding provided by Oklahoma State Parks with consideration for state of residence as a factor in establishment of those prices;
B. Consider implementing additional entry fees at premium locations within Little Sahara State Park for all guests utilizing those locations;
C. No change – continue management as it is.

Preferred alternatives:

Alternative A: Review the pricing of camping and dune riding provided by Oklahoma State Parks with consideration for state of residence as a factor in establishment of those prices.

**Recommendations beyond the Issues**

**Recommendation 1: General clean-up of Little Sahara State Park**

Litter was more apparent at Little Sahara State Park than is true in most other Oklahoma State Parks. The terrain and vegetation may make litter more apparent in this park. However, the litter is also associated with the park visitors.

Little Sahara State Park needs a general clean-up. Cans, bottles, paper, plastic, and other discarded items detract from the aesthetics in the park. They may also be safety concerns in the dunes as noted in the RMP. Such litter is also present in adjoining private properties, although many visitors do not distinguish between state park and private properties.

A “Friends of Little Sahara State Park” organization could, and should, organize a twice annual park clean-up coordinated with local private businesses. Lacking such a Friends organization, a Boy Scout troop or a riding organization could be recruited to coordinate this clean-up effort. In addition, enforcement of regulations and laws related to litter would give a message of value to many park visitors. Education related to trash disposal is an on-going, and never-ending, effort.

**Recommendation 2: Improved communications with local businesses**

The Waynoka Chamber of Commerce, local businesses, and local organizations creatively develop special events designed to attract visitors to Little Sahara State Park. Some of these events have grown into large special events with traditions of their own. As stated in meetings with park personnel, these local businesses “name” a weekend and attract 4,000 additional visitors to the park without informing state park personnel.

Management of Little Sahara State Park must improve communications with these local businesses and organizations to assure an appropriate exchange of information. The state park is the MAGNET for attracting visitors to Waynoka. The city benefits from the presence of the state park. Communication between the two parties is essential.
Recommendation 3: Enforcement of pets-on-leash policy

During preparation of the RMP, research staff spent hours walking through the various areas within the park. On several occasions, staff encountered dogs running loose in the park. Most of these dogs belonged to campers. The policy of “pets-on-leash” is posted at the park entry and must be enforced for the safety of the pets, park wildlife, and other park visitors. There should be no tolerance for pets on the loose within the park.

At Little Sahara State Park to a greater extent than in other state parks, dogs may have been on leashes, but the leashes were extremely long. As a result, dogs on these long leashes had free reign with access to people and vehicles in the roadway. Research staff also found that several dogs at Little Sahara State Park showed more aggressive tendencies than dogs in other state parks. It may be necessary to further define the pets-on-leash policy with limitations on length and range permitted.

Recommendation 4: Renovation of the comfort station in Buttercup

Renovation and rehabilitation of the campgrounds at Little Sahara State Park has been proposed. However, it is acknowledged that this will be an expensive and time-consuming process, especially with replacement and upgrading of facilities to fully comply with accessibility standards. In the meantime, the older comfort station that presently serves Buttercup Campground needs to be renovated for aesthetics. This restroom is not in compliance with current ADA standards and does not fit the desired park design. That will require much more than renovation for aesthetic purposes.
References


Caneday & Farris (2005). Carrying Capacity of Oklahoma’s Sand Dune Parks. Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, Oklahoma City, OK.


Rowell, C. M. (1967). Vascular Plants of the Texas Panhandle and South Plains, PhD. Dissertation, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK.


Appendix A – Documents related to the property
EASEMENT

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into this, the ______ day of July, 1960 by and between the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma, hereinafter designated as the parties of the first part, and Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, State Capitol, Oklahoma, hereinafter designated as the party of the second part:

WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the sum of Three Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty-nine and 30/100 - $3,859.30 Dollars ($3,859.30), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part, by power vested in them by the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, hereby grant and convey unto the party of the second part, the full and free right to the uninterrupted access and enjoyment of a Permanent Easement for Park & Recreational purposes only, covering the following described land situate in Woods County, State of Oklahoma:

The South Half of the Southwest Quarter and Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter of Section 23; Northwest Quarter and West Half of Northeast Quarter of Section 26, all in Township 24 North, Range 16 W.I.M., less 20.84 acres for U. S. Highway No. 281, containing in all, less exceptions, 339.16 acres, and to place thereon buildings and other structures and equipment necessary or incidental to the use of said land for park and recreational purposes, only.

The parties of the first part reserve and retain right of ingress and egress for the exploration for and the production of minerals from said land.

This Easement shall not be transferred in whole or in part, except by operation of law, while legal title to said land remains in the State, without filing the transfer or copy thereof in the office of the Commissioners of the Land Office, payment of $5.00 transfer fee and approval of parties of the first part. Should party of the second part, its successors, heirs or assigns, cease to use said land for the purposes herein granted, the same shall revert to the State of Oklahoma or its assigns, and all rights and privileges herein granted shall thereupon cease and terminate.

It is hereby expressly understood and agreed that the party of the second part shall settle with the agricultural lessee of said land for any damages that may be sustained to improvements and/or crops, by reason of construction or use of said right-of-way or Easement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma have caused these presents to be executed by their Chairman or Vice-Chairman and attested by their Secretary, on the date first above written.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

By: Andy Brown, Sec. Chairman
EASEMENT

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THIS INDENTURE, made and entered into this, the 30th day of September, 1966, by and between the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma, hereinafter designated as the parties of the first part, and Oklahoma Industrial Development and Park Department, Will Rogers, hereinafter designated as the party of the second part; Memorial Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma,

WITNESSETH: That in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred Seventy-nine and NO/100- Dollars ($ 279.00), the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties of the first part, by power vested in them by the Constitution and laws of the State of Oklahoma, hereby grant and convey unto the party of the second part, the full and free right to the uninterrupted access and enjoyment of a Permanent Easement for park and recreational purposes only, covering the following described land situate in County, State of Oklahoma:

That part or portion of the Northeast Quarter of Section 26, Township 24 North, Range 16 W.I.M., described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the South line of said NEQ a distance of 21.8 feet East of the SW corner of said NEQ, thence East along said South line a distance of 63.5 feet, thence Northeasterly on a curve to the right having a radius of 17,308.7 feet a distance of 2112.4 feet to a point 554.4 feet South of the North line and 2080.2 feet West of the East line of said NEQ, thence S 21°30' W a distance of 1201.7 feet, thence Southwesterly and Southerly on a curve to the left having a radius of 1437.4 feet a distance of 562.6 feet, thence S 0°37'E a distance of 425 feet to point of beginning, containing 5.58 acres, more or less,

and to place thereof buildings and other structures and equipment necessary or incidental to the use of said land for park and recreational purposes only.

This Easement shall not be transferred in whole or in part, except by operation of law, while legal title to said land remains in the State, without filing the transfer or copy thereof in the office of the Commissioners of the Land Office, payment of $10.00 transfer fee and approval of parties of the first part. Should party of the second part, its successors, heirs or assigns, cease to use said land for the purposes herein granted, the same shall revert to the State of Oklahoma or its assigns, and all rights and privileges herein granted shall thereupon cease and terminate.

It is hereby expressly understood and agreed that the party of the second part shall settle with the agricultural lessee of said land for any damages that may be sustained to improvements and/or crops, by reason of construction or use of said right-of-way or Easement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Commissioners of the Land Office of the State of Oklahoma have caused these presents to be executed by their Chairman or Vice-Chairman and attested by their Secretary, on the date first above written.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Attest: ___________________________
Secretary

By: ____________________________
Vice-Chairman
The United States of America
To all to whom these presents shall come, Greeting:

WHEREAS

State of Oklahoma, through its Tourism and Recreation Department
is entitled to a Land Patent pursuant to the Recreation and
Public Purposes Act of June 14, 1926 (44 Stat. 741), as amended
and supplemented (43 U.S.C. 869 et seq.), for the following
described lands:

Indian Meridian, Oklahoma.
T. 24 N., R. 16 W.,
Sec. 14, SE¹/₄NW¹/₂, E¹/₂SW¹/₂, JUN 19 1986
Sec. 22, NE¹/₄,
Sec. 23, NE¹/₂NW¹/₂.

Containing 320.00 acres;

NOW KNOW YE, that there is, therefore, granted by the
UNITED STATES unto the above said State of Oklahoma the lands
described for recreation purposes; TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said
lands with all the rights, privileges, immunities and
appurtenances, of whatsoever nature, thereunto belonging, unto
the said State of Oklahoma, its successors and assigns forever;
and

EXCEPTING AND RESERVING TO THE UNITED STATES:

1. All mineral deposits in the lands so patented, and
to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to
prospect for, mine and remove such deposits from
the same under applicable law;

Patent Number 35-85-0274
2. All the geothermal steam and associated geothermal resources as to lands so patented, and to it, or persons authorized by it, the right to prospect for, mine and remove such deposits, upon compliance with the conditions and subject to the provisions and limitations of the Act of December 24, 1970 (84 Stat. 1566).

This patent is issued subject to:

1. Existing access road rights-of-way and easements;

2. Outstanding oil and gas lease New Mexico 51851 (OK) issued to Viking Resources on December 21, 1981, for a 10 year period and so long thereafter as oil and gas is produced in paying quantities or other extensions granted consistent with the terms of the lease and applicable laws and regulations, with any funds generated under the lease for fees or royalties from production accruing to the benefit of the United States;

3. Outstanding oil and gas lease New Mexico 36047 (OK) issued to Dome 1980 Institutional Investors Limited, Ward Petroleum Corporation, and H and T Exploration on April 1, 1979, for a 10 year period and so long thereafter as oil and gas is produced in paying quantities or other extensions granted consistent with the terms of the lease and applicable laws and regulations, with any funds generated under the lease for fees or royalties from production accruing to the benefit of the United States.

Title to the above-described lands shall revert to the United States upon a finding, after notice and opportunity for a hearing, that, without the approval of the BLM authorized officer:

(a) The patentee or its approved successor attempts to transfer title to or control over the lands to another without approval of the BLM authorized officer;

(b) The lands have been devoted to a use other than that for which the lands were conveyed;
(c) The lands have not been used for the purpose for which they were conveyed for a five-year period; or

(d) The patentee has failed to follow the approved development and management plan filed August 10, 1981, with the Bureau of Land Management, or any revision thereof approved by the Secretary of the Interior or authorized delegate.

The Secretary of the Interior may take action to revest title in the United States if the patentee directly or indirectly permits its agents, employees, contractors, or sub-contractors (including without limitation lessees, sub-lessees and permittees) to prohibit or restrict the use of any part of the patented lands or any of the facilities thereon by any person because of such person's race, creed, color, sex, or national origin.
The grant of the herein described lands is subject to the following reservations, conditions, and limitations:

(1) The patentee or his (its) successor in interest shall comply with and shall not violate any of the terms or provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 241), and requirements of the regulations, as modified or amended, of the Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant thereto (43 CFR 17) for the period that the lands conveyed herein are used for the purpose for which the grant was made pursuant to the act cited above, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(2) If the patentee or his (its) successor in interest does not comply with the terms or provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the requirements imposed by the Department of the Interior issued pursuant to that title, during the period during which the property described herein is used for the purpose for which the grant was made pursuant to the act cited above, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits, the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate may declare the terms of this grant terminated in whole or in part.

(3) The patentee, by acceptance of this patent, agrees for himself (itself) or his (its) successors in interest that a declaration of termination in whole or in part of this grant shall, at the option of the Secretary or his delegate, operate to revest in the United States full title to the lands involved in the declaration.

(4) The United States shall have the right to seek judicial enforcement of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the terms and conditions of the regulations, as modified or amended, of Secretary of the Interior issued pursuant to said Title VI, in the event of their violation by the patentee.

(5) The patentee or his (its) successor in interest will, upon request of the Secretary of the Interior or his delegate, post and maintain on the property conveyed by this document signs and posters bearing a legend concerning the applicability of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to the area or facility conveyed.

(6) The reservations, conditions, and limitations contained in paragraphs (1) through (5) shall constitute a covenant running with the land, binding on the patentee and his (its) successors in interest for the period for which the land described herein is used for the purpose for which this grant was made, or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits.

(7) The assurances and covenant required by sections (1)–(6) above shall not apply to ultimate beneficiaries under the program for which this grant is made. “Ultimate beneficiaries” are identified in 43 CFR 17.12(b).

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the undersigned authorized officer of the Bureau of Land Management, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of June 17, 1948 (62 Stat. 476), has, in the name of the United States, caused these letters to be made Patent, and the Seal of the Bureau to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, in Santa Fe, New Mexico the TWELFTH day of SEPTEMBER in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and EIGHTY–FIVE and of the Independence of the United States the two hundred and TEN

By

[Signature]
Deputy State Director, Operations

Patent Number 35-85-0274
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF WOODS COUNTY  
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, ex rel. OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION COMMISSION,

Plaintiff,

vs.

REX BIXLER, PEARL BIXLER, BILL BIXLER, and CHARLENE K. BIXLER,

Defendants.

ORDER OF CONDEMNATION

NOW, on this 31st day of August, 1990, this matter comes on for hearing before the undersigned Judge for a final order setting out the rights, interests and obligations of the parties herein; the Plaintiff, State of Oklahoma ex rel. Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Commission ("Commission"), appearing by its attorney, K. W. Johnston, Assistant Attorney General, and the Defendants, Rex Bixler, Pearl Bixler, Bill Bixler and Charlene Bixler (referred to collectively as "Bixlers"), appearing by their attorney, Guy Clark.

The Court finds from an examination of the pleadings and records filed herein that the Commission filed its second amended petition on August 14, 1990, alleging that it was necessary for the Commission to appropriate and acquire title to certain real property owned by Bixlers, situate in Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

The Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4), and the South Half of the Northeast Quarter (S 1/2-NE 1/4), and the South Half of the Northwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (S 1/2-NW 1/4-NW 1/4), and the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW 1/4, NE 1/4, NW 1/4) of Section Fifteen (15); and the

FILED

AUG 31 1990

WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA
DELLA DUNNIGAN, COURT CLERK
by Della Dunnigan

DEPUTY

No. C-90-43
STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY of WOODS ss,
THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED FOR RECORD
AT 11:45 O'CLOCK A.M.

OCT 5 1990

And Duly Recorded in Book 693 of Misc. on Page 323
ELEANOR RING, County Clerk by Jan Winchell
West Half of the Southwest Quarter (W 1/2-SW 1/4) and the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter (SW 1/4-NW 1/4) of Section Fourteen (14); all in Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Indian Meridian (T24N, R16W, IM), in Woods County, State of Oklahoma, and containing three hundred ninety (390) acres, more or less; surface rights only,

(referred to as the "Property") for lawful public purposes and that the Commission was unable to secure the same by purchase because of the Bixlers' refusal to grant the same to the Commission for the consideration offered by the Commission for the Property, and that thereafter the required statutory notice was served upon the Bixlers.

The Court further finds that the Bixlers asserted various defenses and claims against the Commission relating to the Property including, but not limited to: (a) lack of public necessity supporting condemnation of the property, (b) insufficiency of the compensation awarded by the commissioners, (c) prior conduct by the Commission resulting in trespass upon the Property, and (d) prior acts by the Commission which have interfered with the Bixlers' enjoyment, use and possession of the Property such as to constitute a taking of the Bixlers' Property; and that all of the foregoing claims arose out of or related to conduct or events which occurred between January 1, 1988 and the present.

The Court finds that the Bixlers have agreed that all claims, rights and causes of action, of whatever kind, that they had, or may have had against the Commission or the State of Oklahoma, and any of their officers, agents, servants, and employees, arising out
of the disputes described above, are satisfied, discharged, settled and released.

The Court finds that the Commission has agreed to erect a fence along the entire northern boundary of that portion of the Property located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 14, Township 24 North, Range 16 West, I.M. (NW/4, Sec. 14, T24N, R16W, I.M.), and the Northeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 24 North, Range 16 West, I.M. (NE/4, Sec. 15, T24N, R16W, I.M.).

The Court further finds that pursuant to the agreement of the parties, approved by this Court on August 24, 1990, the Commission has deposited with the Clerk of this Court the sum of eighty thousand dollars ($80,000.00) and that thereupon the Commission became entitled to immediate possession of the Property and the Bixlers thereupon became entitled to have said award disbursed to them by the Court Clerk, as their interests may be or as determined by the Court upon proper application.

The Court finds that the parties have waived any and all objections or exceptions to these proceedings, that the parties have waived the right to demand a jury trial herein and that these proceedings have therefore become final and complete; and that the Bixlers are entitled to money deposited by the Commission and that the Commission is entitled to an order of this Court confirming the appropriation of the Property by the Commission and vesting in the Commission title in fee simple in and to the Property.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the money deposited by the Commission into the Court belongs to the Bixlers;
and that the appropriation of the Property by the Commission, as sought in the Commission's second amended petition, is hereby granted, approved and confirmed, and that title in and to the Property in fee simple is vested in the Commission.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Commission is hereby released from any claims by the Bixlers relating to the Property arising between January 1, 1988 and the date of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Commission is to erect a fence along the entire northern boundary of that portion of the Property located in the Northwest Quarter of Section 14, Township 24 North, Range 16 West, I.M. (NW/4, Sec. 14, T24N, R16W, I.M.), and the Northeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 24 North, Range 16 West, I.M. (NE/4, Sec. 15, T24N, R16W, I.M.).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Court's continuing jurisdiction in this case is hereby terminated.

[Signature]
JUDGE OF THE DISTRICT COURT

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
K. W. Johnston
Attorney for the Plaintiff

[Signature]
Guy Clark
Attorney for the Defendants

I, Della Dunnigan, Court Clerk for Woods County, Okla., hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, correct and complete copy of the instrument herewith set out as appears of record in the District Court Clerk's Office of Woods County, Okla.

this 2nd day of Oct., 1990

Della Dunnigan, Court Clerk

By: Della Dunnigan
Deputy
"CORRECTED" 2/23

WARRANTY DEED
Statutory Form—Individual

Know All Men by These Presents:

That Rex E. Bixler and Martha Pearl
Bixler, husband and wife

of Woods County, State of Oklahoma, part lies of the first part, in consideration of the sum of $3405.00 DOLLARS in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey unto State of Oklahoma of Okmulgee County, State of Oklahoma of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Woods County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the SE/4 of Section Ten (10), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Indian Meridian, Woods County, Oklahoma, thence North along the entire East boundary line of Section 10 a distance of 2640 feet (1/2 mile) and including that corridor of land which lies 150 feet immediately West of this line, for the entire length of the described boundary, AND

Beginning at the Northeast corner of the NE/4 of Section Fifteen (15) Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Indian Meridian, Woods County, Oklahoma, thence South along the East boundary line of Section 15 a distance of 1320 feet (1/4 mile) and including that corridor of land which lies 150 feet immediately West of this line, for the entire length of this described line, LESS AND EXCEPT MINERALS which lie beneath this property as described.

SUMMARY: To correct the description of this property given on the Warranty Deed of April 3, 1995, together with all the improvements thereon and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, their heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Return to Okla. Tourism and Recreation Dept.
Attn: Tom Creider
P.O. Box 52002
Oklahoma City, Okla. 73105-4492

Signed and delivered this 15th day of May, 1995

Rex E. Bixler

Martha Pearl Bixler

STATE OF OKLAHOMA COUNTY OF Woods

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Oklahoma Form

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 15th day of May 1995, personally appeared Rex E. Bixler and Martha Pearl Bixler, husband and wife, to me known to be the identical persons who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that they executed the same as an act of 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 3/23/99

Helen J. Guthrie Notary Public
WARRANTY DEED

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT Ronald Lee Bouziden, party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Ten and no/100 DOLLARS in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant, bargain, sell, and convey, unto the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, an agency of the State of Oklahoma, with its central office located at Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, party of the second part, the following described real property and premises situate in Woods County, State of Oklahoma, to wit:

SURFACE RIGHTS ONLY

A tract of land situated in the NW 1/4 of Section 22, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M., Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows;

Beginning at the northeast corner of the NW 1/4 of said Section 22, thence south (01°05′52"W) a distance of 2615.43 feet to the southeast corner of the NW 1/4 of said Section 22, thence west (N89°06′36"W) on the south boundary of the NW 1/4 of said Section 22 a distance of 487.22 feet, thence northwesterly (N12°11′00"W) a distance of 173.15 feet, thence northwesterly (N14°52′00"W) a distance of 356.79 feet, thence northwesterly (N20°59′17"W) a distance of 392.31 feet, thence northwesterly (N21°20′45"W) a distance of 252.60 feet, thence northwesterly (N20°31′57"W) a distance of 104.82 feet, thence northwesterly on a curve to the left (R=60.00 feet) a distance of 59.28 feet, thence northwesterly (N79°02′35"W) a distance of 544.68 feet, thence northwesterly (N81°34′25"W) a distance of 367.62 feet, thence northwesterly (N01°58′35"W) a distance of 509.39 feet, thence northwesterly (N00°51′32"W) a distance of 655.74 feet, thence northeasterly (N10°44′50"E) a distance of 66.28 feet to a point on the north boundary of the NW 1/4 of said Section 22, thence east (S89°03′17"E) a distance of 1891.10 feet to the point of beginning said tract containing 77.0889 acres;

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

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part, ITS heirs and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Signed and delivered this thirtieth day of May, 1995.

Ronald Lee Bouziden

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF OKLAHOMA  )
COUNTY OF  ) ss.

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this twenty-sieth day of May, 1995, personally appeared Ronald Lee Bouziden, to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

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

My commission expires: 4-0-97

Notary Public
RIGHT OF WAY EASEMENT

Ronald Lee Bouziden, hereinafter referred to as "Grantor," for the sum of One Dollar ($1.00) and other good and valuable considerations in hand paid, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, hereby grants, bargains, sells, conveys and warrants unto the Oklahoma Department of Tourism and Recreation, an adjacent land owner to Ronald Lee Bouziden, and hereinafter referred to as "Grantee," its successors and assigns, the perpetual right, privilege and authority to construct, operate, maintain and reconstruct a connecting road upon, over and across the following described real property and premises situated in the E 1/2 of Section 14, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M., Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point 57.33 feet south (500'50"W) of the northwest corner of the SE 1/4 of said Section 14, thence continuing south (500'50"W) on the west boundary of the SE 1/4 of said Section 14 a distance of 131.59 feet, thence northeasterly (N50'18"E) a distance of 215.31 feet, thence northerly on a curve to the right (R=2964.79 feet) a distance of 48.86 feet to a point on the north boundary of the SE 1/4 of said Section 14, thence continuing northerly on a curve to the right (R=2964.79 feet) a distance of 74.11 feet, thence southwesterly (S50'18"W) a distance of 113.37 feet to a point on the north boundary of the SE 1/4 of said Section 14, thence continuing southwesterly (S50'18"W) a distance of 87.97 feet to the point of beginning, said tract containing 0.4770 acre.

Also granting said Grantee, its successors and assigns, the perpetual right, privilege and authority to cut down, trim, treat and dispose of any trees and undergrowth that prevents the placement of said road within the right-of-way; also to place any fill necessary to stabilize said road.

Should the Grantee cease to use said land for the purposes herein granted, the same shall revert to Ronald Lee Bouziden or his assigns, and all rights herein granted shall cease.

The Grantee agrees that the right of way easement shall be used solely for Little Sahara State Park use and enjoyment, including ingress and egress for park visitors, patrons and employees. The Grantee agrees that the right of way easement shall not be used for any commercial purpose other than the use and enjoyment of Little Sahara State Park visitors, patrons and employees. The Grantee further agrees to maintain a fence along the right of way easement, and shall pursue all efforts in good faith to install a fence along the right of way easement no later than October 1, 1995.

Any special agreement between Grantor and Grantee shall be in writing.
Signed and Delivered this 19 day of May, 1995.

Ronald Lee Bouziden

STATE OF OKLAHOMA,
COUNTY OF WOODS,
Darfield

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 19 day of May, 1995.

Debbie L. Needham
NOTARY PUBLIC

My commission expires:
12-24-96

STATE of OKLAHOMA, COUNTY of WOODS ss,
THIS INSTRUMENT WAS FILED FOR RECORD
AT 11:16 O'CLOCK A.M.
JUN - 1 1995
And Duly Recorded in Book 704
of Misc. on Page 568
ELEANOR RING, County Clerk
by Jean Wunkel
RIGHT-OF-WAY EASEMENT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That the undersigned

OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND LITTLE SAHARA STATE PARK

(unmarried) (husband and wife) for a good and valuable consideration, the receipt whereof is hereby
acknowledged, does hereby grant unto Alfalfa Electric Cooperative, Inc., a Corporation, whose postoffice
address is Cherokee, Oklahoma, and to its successors or assigns, the right to enter upon the lands of the
undersigned, situated in the County of ...wood ... State of OK, and more particularly
described as follows: ... Lot 14, Tract 24, Rg. 15. ...

and to place, construct, operate, repair, relocate, maintain and replace thereon and in or upon all streets,
roads or highways abutting said lands an electric transmission or distribution line or system, and to cut and
trim trees and shrubbery to the extent necessary to keep them clear of said electric line or system and to
cut down from time to time all dead, weak, leaning or dangerous trees that are tall enough to strike the
wire in falling, and to spray trees along the right-of-way without liability to the Cooperative for damages to
or from adjacent trees or plants.

In granting this easement, it is understood that at pole locations, only a single pole and appurten-
ances will be used, and that the location of the poles will be such as to form the least possible interfer-
tence to farm operations, so long as it does not materially increase the cost of construction.

The undersigned covenants that he is the owner of the above described lands and that the said
lands are free and clear of encumbrances and liens of whatsoever character except those held by the fol-
lowing persons:

It is further understood that, whenever necessary, words used in the singular in this instrument
shall be construed to read in the plural and words used in the masculine gender shall be construed to read
in the feminine.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has set his hand and seal this 14 day of

Oklahoma, 1997

X. John Reesmeyer

Director of State Parks

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

STATE OF: Oklahoma, COUNTY OF ...Wood ..., ss.

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public within and for said County and State, on this 14
day of ...Wood ..., 1997, personally appeared

X. John Reesmeyer

to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and ac-
knowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and pur-
poses therein set forth.

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

(SEAL)


Notary Public
WARRANTY DEED

Shelby County--Individual

Linnis All Men by These Presents:

That, Verla Dean Jones, widow; Martha Lewis Wooley

and

Mary K. Jones, husband and wife

of

Koods  County,

State of

Oklahoma  part I. of the first part, in consideration of the

sum of $10.00 DOLLARS

in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and

Convey unto the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department

of

County, State of

Oklahoma, parties

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

Koods

County, State of

Oklahoma, to wit:

SURFACE ONLY: A tract of land situated in the

51/2 NW1/4 of Section 11, T24N, R30W, I.N., Koods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as

(50°57'55"W) of the northeast corner of said NW1/4 a distance of 1851.00 feet south

a distance of 150.00 feet (said point being 845.25 feet north (50°57'55"W) of the southeast corner of

the NW1/4 of said section 11). Thence west (50°57'55"W) a distance of 750.00 feet, thence southeasterly

on a curve to the left (radius=507.25 feet) a distance of 355.42 feet, thence southeasterly (50°57'55"W)

a distance of 435.24 feet, thence northeasterly on a curve to the right (radius=498.92 feet) a distance of

40.06 feet, thence northeasterly (50°24'11"W) a distance of 153.57 feet, thence southeasterly (50°26'30"W)

a distance of 620.25 feet, thence northeasterly on a course to the left (radius=399.82 feet) a distance of 233.92 feet, thence

northeasterly (50°24'11"W) a distance of 620.25 feet, thence easterly on a curve to the right

(radius=567.25 feet) a distance of 434.97 feet, thence east (50°24'11"E) a distance of 720.00 feet to the

point of beginning, said tract containing 8.8609 acres.

No Documentary Stamps required pursuant to 60 O. S., Section 3202 (11).

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 parties of the second part, heresby and assigns forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former

grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Signed and delivered this 23rd day of October, 1997

Verla Dean Jones, Widow

Martha Lewis Wooley

Mary K. Jones, married person, husband

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

COUSNY OF Woods

BY

INDIVIDUAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Oklahoma City

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this 23rd day of

October, 1997, personally appeared Verla Dean Jones, Martha Wooley

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 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 7-28-99

Sharon R. Barlow

Notary Public
PARTIAL RELEASE OF EASEMENT

Know All Persons by These Presents:

The State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, an agency of state government, is the Grantee in a certain grant of an easement and right-of-way bearing the date of January 3, 1995, executed by the Waynoka Industrial Authority of Woods County, State of Oklahoma, as Grantor, covering described lands and premises situated in Woods County State of Oklahoma as further identified in Exhibit A—(Perpetual Easement for Public State Park Road, consisting of five pages) and attached to this document.

In consideration of the sum of ten dollars ($10.00) and other valuable consideration, receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Grantee does by these presents release and acquit unto the said Grantor, its successors and assigns, forever, all the rights, title and interest it acquired by virtue of said grant of easement and right-of-way, in and to said lands except that part hereof which is hereinafter described, to wit:

An easement situated in the NW/4 of Section 11, T 24 N, R 16 WIM, Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point 1326.30 feet east (S89°15'15"E) on the section line and 2156.21 feet southwesterly (S30°24'12" W) of the northwest corner of said Section 11, thence continuing southwesterly (S30°24'12" W) a distance of 542.11 feet to a point on the west boundary of said NW/4; thence north (N00°57'45" E) along said west boundary a distance of 305.17 feet; thence northeasterly (N30°24'12" E) a distance of 246.37 feet; thence southeasterly (S78°54'01" E) a distance of 152.97 feet to the point of beginning, said easement containing 1.3576 acres, and;

An easement situated in the NE/4 of Section 10, T 24 N. R 16 WIM, Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a point on the section line a distance of 2039.68 feet south (S00°57'45" W) of the northeast corner of said Section 10, thence continuing south (S00°57'45" W) a distance of 570.02 feet to the southeast corner of said NE/4; thence west (N89°12'15"W) on the south boundary of said NE/4 a distance of 150.00 feet; thence north (N00°57'45"E) a distance of 304.70 feet; thence northeasterly (N30°24'12" E) a distance of 305.17 feet to the point of beginning, said easement containing 1.5060 acres.

Both parcels are further identified in Exhibit B (consisting of two pages) and attached to this partial release of easement.

This partial release of easement is granted without prejudice, however, to the continuing right of ingress and egress of the undersigned Grantee, acquired under said Perpetual Easement for Public State Park Road, a portion of which is reserved by Grantee in the above-described lands.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, said Grantee has caused this instrument to be executed on this 26th day of July, 2007.

[Signature]

Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department

State of Oklahoma )

County of Oklahoma )

This instrument was acknowledged before me on this 26th day of July, 2007 by Hardy Watkins, as the Executive Director of the State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department and who executed this instrument on behalf of the Agency.

[Signature]

Notary Public

[Commission # and Expiration]
KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

THAT, Waynoka Industrial Authority of Woods County, State of Oklahoma, hereinafter called the Grantors (whether one or more), do hereby grant, convey and dedicate unto the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department the following described lots or parcels of land for the purpose of establishing thereon a public road and facilities necessary and incidental:

This easement shall grant and convey to the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department full and free right to construct, operate and maintain a public road on a permanent and perpetual basis. If the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department ceases to use the land contained in this easement for public access and related purposes, it shall revert back to the Waynoka Industrial Authority, and all rights and privileges herein granted shall thereupon cease and terminate.

Legal Description: A 150 foot wide road easement which extends from the northern boundary of Tract No. 1 as described to the southeast corner of Tract No. 2 as described. The north end of the road will begin at Ash Street, at a point on the section line a distance of 729.95 feet east (89°15'15"E) of the northwest corner of said Section 11.

Descriptions: Tract No. 1: A tract of land situated in the NW1/4 of Section 11, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M., Woods County, Oklahoma more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the section line a distance of 729.95 feet east (89°15'15"E) of the northwest corner of said Section 11, thence continuing east (89°15'15"E) a distance of 597.35 feet, thence southwest (S30°24'12"W) a distance of 2698.32 feet, thence north (N00°57'46"E) a distance of 1203.08 feet to a point on the easterly right of way line of the A.T. & S.F. Railroad, thence northeasterly along said right of way line on a curve to the left (R = 5829.58') a distance of 898.06 feet, thence northeasterly (N30°32'20"E) a distance of 460.68 feet to the point of beginning, said tract containing 25.8413 acres.

Tract No. 2: A tract of land situated in the NE1/4 of Section 10, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M., Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the section line a distance of 1141.78 feet south (S00°57'46"W) of the northeast corner of said Section 10, (said point of beginning being on the easterly right of way line of the A.T. & S.F. Railroad), thence continuing south (S00°57'46"W) a distance of 1467.93 feet to the southeast corner of the NE1/4 of said Section 10, thence west (N89°12'15"W) on the one quarter section line a distance of 1622.17 feet to a point on the easterly right of way line of the A.T. & S.F. Railroad, thence northeasterly (N53°04'40"E) along said right of way line a distance of 802.73 feet, thence northeasterly on a curve to the left (R = 5829.58') a distance of 1395.17 feet to the point of beginning, said tract containing 24.8131 acres.

The Waynoka Industrial Authority will review, approve or deny all requests for abutments, driveways or other access points which seek to intersect that portion of the public road which is contained within this easement agreement. The Waynoka Industrial Authority will consider the recommendation of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department before making any decision regarding abutments to that part of the public road contained in this lease. All driveways, abutments or access points which might intersect this public road shall intersect at the same grade elevation as the public road.

For the same considerations hereinbefore recited, said Grantors hereby waive, relinquish and release any and all right, title or interest in and to the surface of the above granted and dedicated tract of land and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, including any and all dirt, rock, gravel, sand and other road building materials, reserving and excepting unto said Grantors the mineral rights therein provided, however, that any explorations or development of said reserved mineral rights shall not directly or indirectly interfere with the use of said land for the purposes herein granted; and reserving unto said Grantors the right of ingress and egress to said public road from the remaining lands of the Grantors.

The Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department agrees to construct a four strand barbed wire fence along the west boundary of this easement. The Department will maintain that portion of this fence that separates the public easement from the Waynoka Industrial Authority property so long as said property is undeveloped. When portions of the Industrial Authority land that are adjacent to this easement are leased or sold to other parties, then the Industrial Authority or its assigns, shall then become responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of that portion of the fence.
To have and to hold said above described premises unto the said State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department free, clear and discharged from any and all claims of damages or injury that may be sustained directly or indirectly to the remaining lands of the Grantors by reason of the construction and maintenance of a public road and all road excavations, embankments, structures, bridges, drains, sight distance of safety areas and other facilities that may now or hereafter be, in the discretion of the grantee, necessary for the construction and maintenance of a public road and incidental facilities over, across or along the above described real estate; the supervision and control of said public road to be in such municipality, county or other agency of the State of Oklahoma as has or may have jurisdiction thereof by the laws of the state of Oklahoma; and said State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department, its officers, agents, contractors and employees are hereby granted free access to said property for the purpose of entering upon, constructing, maintaining or regulating the use of said public road and incidental facilities.

Said Grantors hereby covenant and warrant that at the time of delivery of these presents they are the owners in fee simple of the above described premises and that same are free and clear of all liens and claims whatsoever, except ______________.

The undersigned Grantors hereby designate and appoint Michael D. Payne as agent to execute the claim herein named.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Grantors herein named have hereunto set their hands and seals this the 3rd day of January, 1995

[Signature]

Michael D. Payne

On behalf of the State of Oklahoma, Tourism and Recreation Department

[Signature]

David G. Davies
Executive Director

Date 1/22/94

TC/rwa easement
State of Oklahoma
County of Woods

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this 3rd day of January, 1995, personally appeared Michael D. Payne and


to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as a free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

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

[Signature]
Notary Public

My Commission expires: ___________

State of Oklahoma
County of

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this day of , 19 , personally appeared and


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

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

Notary Public

My Commission expires: 

State of Oklahoma
County of

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said county and state, on this day of , 19 , personally appeared to me known to be the identical person who subscribed the name of the maker thereof to the foregoing instrument as its , and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed, as the free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation, for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

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

Notary Public

My Commission expires: 

WAIVER OF LIEN

This indenture made and entered into the 3rd day of January, 1955 by and between
Waynoca Industrial Authority, Party of the First Part, and the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation
Department Party of the Second Part, Witnesseth:

That, Whereas, party of the first part is the owner and holder of a valid and subsisting mortgage against
the following described real property situated in Woods County, Oklahoma, to-wit:

Legal Description: A 150 foot wide road easement which extends from the northern boundary of Tract
No. 1 as described to the southeast corner of Tract No. 2 as described. The north end of the road will
begin at Ash Street, at a point on the section line a distance of 729.95 feet east (S 89°15'15"E) of the
northwest corner of said Section 11.

Descriptions: Tract No. 1: A tract of land situated in the NW¼ of Section 11, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M.,
Woods County, Oklahoma more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the section line a distance of 728.95 feet east (S 89°15'15"E) of the northwest
corner of said Section 11, thence continuing east (E 89°15'15"E) a distance of 597.35 feet, thence
southwest (S 30°24'12"W) a distance of 2698.32 feet, thence north (N 00°57'46"E) a distance of
1203.08 feet to a point on the easterly right of way line of the A.T. & S.F. Railroad, thence
northeasterly along said right of way line on a curve to the left (R=5829.58') a distance of 898.08
feet, thence northeasterly (N 30°32'20"E) a distance of 460.68 feet to the point of beginning, said tract
containing 25.5413 acres.

Tract No. 2: A tract of land situated in the NE¼ of Section 10, T 24 N, R 16 W.I.M., Woods County,
Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at a point on the section line a distance of 1141.78 feet south (S 00°57'48"W) of the
northeast corner of said Section 10, (said point of beginning being on the easterly right of way line of
the A.T. & S.F. Railroad), thence continuing south (S 00°57'45"W) a distance of 1407.93 feet to the
southeast corner of the NE¼ of said Section 10, thence west (N 89°12'15"W) on the one quarter
section line a distance of 1622.17 feet to a point on the easterly right of way line of the A.T. & S.F.
Railroad, thence northeasterly (N 53°04'40"E) along said right of way line a distance of 802.73 feet,
thence northeasterly on a curve to the left (R=5829.58') a distance of 1395.17 feet to the point of
beginning, said tract containing 24.9131 acres.

And, Whereas, The party of the second part in constructing and improving a public road along, over
and across said above described premises and it being necessary for the construction of said road to
appropriate a portion of said land for such purposes.

Now, therefore, the said party of the first part does hereby waive, in favor of the State of Oklahoma,
all right, title, interest to said above described real property insofar as the same shall be affected by the
taking of the following described portion thereof for road purposes, to-wit:

and that the State of Oklahoma is not responsible for any liens or encumbrances, known or
unknown, relative to the real property as described.
Witness my hand and seal on the day and year last above written.

__________________________
Michael D. Payne

State of Oklahoma
County of Woods

On this 3rd day of January A.D. 1995 before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for the County and State aforesaid, personally appeared Michael D. Payne, to me known to be the identical person as who executed the within and foregoing instrument, subscribed the name of the maker to the foregoing instrument as its chairman, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed and as the free and voluntary act and deed of such corporation for the uses and purposes therein set forth.

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

__________________________
Shirley M. Parnell
Notary Public

My Commission expires:

Oct. 17, 17, 1997
JIVIDEN'S LAND SURVEY CO., INC.
REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR
OKLAHOMA-KANSAS-COLORADO
P.O. BOX 943 / 1210 15TH STREET
WOODWARD, OK 73801
PHONE (580) 256-7174 or 256-8039
FAX (580) 256-3424

SURVEY FOR: OKLAHOMA TOURISM AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, HC 66, BOX 111,
FOSS, OKLAHOMA 73647

DESCRIPTION: AN EASEMENT SITUATED IN THE NW/4 OF SECTION 11, T 24 N, R 16 W.L.M.,
WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS
FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT 1526.30 FEET EAST (S89°15'15"E) ON THE SECTION LINE AND
2156.21 FEET SOUTHWESTERLY (S30°24'12"W) OF THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID
SECTION 11, THENCE CONTINUING SOUTHWESTERLY (S30°24'12"W) A DISTANCE OF
542.11 FEET TO A POINT ON THE WEST BOUNDARY OF SAID NW/4; THENCE NORTH
(N00°57'45"E) ALONG SAID WEST BOUNDARY A DISTANCE OF 305.17 FEET; THENCE
NORTHEASTERLY (N30°24'12"E) A DISTANCE OF 246.37 FEET; THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY
(S70°54'01"E) A DISTANCE OF 152.97 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, SAID EASEMENT
CONTAINING 1.3576 ACRE.

DESCRIPTION: AN EASEMENT SITUATED IN THE NE/4 OF SECTION 10, T 24 N, R 16 W.L.M.,
WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS
FOLLOWS:

BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE SECTION LINE A DISTANCE OF 2029.68 FEET SOUTH
(S00°57'45"W) OF THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 10, THENCE CONTINUING
SOUTH (S00°57'45"W) A DISTANCE OF 570.02 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID
NE/4; THENCE WEST (N89°12'15"W) ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF SAID NE/4 A DISTANCE
OF 150.00 FEET; THENCE NORTH (N00°57'45"E) A DISTANCE OF 304.70 FEET; THENCE
NORTHEASTERLY (N30°24'12"E) A DISTANCE OF 305.17 FEET TO THE POINT OF
BEGINNING, SAID EASEMENT CONTAINING 1.5060 ACRE.

SURVEYOR CERTIFICATE

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT ON THE 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2002, WE COMPLETED
A SURVEY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED PROPERTY AND TO THE BEST OF OUR
KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF THIS SURVEY IS TRUE AND CORRECT.

JIVIDEN'S LAND SURVEY CO., INC.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE
ME THIS 15TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2002.

NOTARY PUBLIC
COMMISSION NO. 26376
MY COMMISSION ADEPTED MARCH 30, 2006

SHEET 2 OF 2
February 3, 2009

Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Dept.
120 N Robinson, Ste. 600
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

RE: Lease No. 511004, Easement #8775, 8776

Dear Lessee:

This is to notify you that Atlas Pipeline Mid-Continent WestOK, LLC is to be granted two easements for natural gas pipelines which will cross your lease. The enclosed plat will show you exactly where the pipelines will be located.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (405) 604-8143.

Sincerely,

Kathy Costello
Real Estate Management Division

Enclosure

Copy: Tom Eike, RMS, Woods County
File
Ag file
EXHIBIT FOR A 20' EASEMENT OF A PIPELINE CROSSING IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION 22, T-24-N, R-16-W I.M. WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

R 16 W
1/4 SEC. & PROP. LN.

WELLHEAD:
CHESAPEAKE
KELLIN #1-22

S 70°05'40" E
178.00'

142+22 E.O.L. @ PAD SITE
140+44 P.L. R1'00"15" RT.

N 28°54'05" E
763.00'

20' EASEMENT

N 12°09'16" E
277.00'

132+81 P.L. 16°44'49" RT.

N 13°55'32" E
237.00'

130+04 P.L. 10°46'16" LT.

127+67 FENCE & PROP. LINE (E-W)

TRACT "4"
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
NW/4 SW/4 22-T24-R16W
1455' OR 88.2 RODS

SECTION LINE

BM 1/16 SEC. COR.

SECTION LINE

BM 1/16 SEC. COR.

LSE. RD.

SECTION LINE

21

SECTION LINE

28

SW COR. SW/4

SECTION 22

22

SECTION LINE

1/4 SEC. LN.

SCALE:
1"=500'

LEGEND

SET IRON PIN
FOUND IRON PIN
FENCE

NOTE: THE TIES AND FOOTAGTS SHOWN ON THIS PLAT ARE FROM LINES OF OCCUPATION FROM AN ON-THE-GROUND SURVEY AND/OR BEARINGS AND DISTANCES FROM THE CORRAL LAND OFFICE PLAT OF THE AREA SHOWN AND MAY NOT BE THE ACTUAL PROPERTY CORNERS.

DATE: 1-6-2009 LOCATION: 22-T24N-R16W
DRAWN BY: APC COUNTY: WOODS
DRAWING NO.: CD7660D_STATE STATE: OKLAHOMA

CLEERE DESIGN
P.O. BOX 1183 ENO, OK 73702
PHONE: (580) 237-2787 FAX: (580) 237-2786
EXHIBIT FOR A 20’ EASEMENT
OF A PIPELINE CROSSING IN THE
NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE
SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF
SECTION 22, T-24-N, R-16-W I.M.
WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A TWENTY (20.00) FOOT WIDE STRIP OF LAND THAT IS PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION TWENTY TWO (22), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FOUR (24) NORTH, RANGE SIXTEEN (16) WEST OF THE INDIAN BASE AND MERIDIAN, WOODS COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, BEING 10.00 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTERLINE:

COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4);

THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF SAID SECTION A DISTANCE OF 1320.00 FEET MORE OR LESS TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 22;

THENCE EAST ON THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID NORTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 630.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF SAID CENTERLINE;

THENCE North 13°55'32" East A DISTANCE OF 237.00 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 12°09'16" EAST A DISTANCE OF 277.00 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 28°54'05" EAST A DISTANCE OF 763.00 FEET;

THENCE SOUTH 70°05'40" EAST A DISTANCE OF 178.00 FEET TO THE END OF SAID CENTERLINE

BASIS OF BEARING

THE BASIS OF BEARING OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS THE WEST LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER AS SHOWN. (NORTH)

BRADLEY WELLS, RPLS, PLS
DATE 1/9/09

CLEERE DESIGN
P.O. BOX 1163
ENID, OK 73702
PHONE: (580) 237-2767
FAX: (580) 237-2786
EXHIBIT FOR A 20’ EASEMENT OF A PIPELINE CROSSING IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION 22, T-24-N, R-16-W I.M. WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

A TWENTY (20.00) FOOT WIDE STRIP OF LAND THAT IS PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION TWENTY TWO (22), TOWNSHIP TWENTY-FIVE (25) NORTH, RANGE SIXTEEN (16) WEST OF THE INDIAN BASE AND MERIDIAN, WOODS COUNTY, STATE OF OKLAHOMA, BEING 10.00 FEET ON EACH SIDE OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED CENTERLINE:

COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4);

THENCE EAST ON THE NORTH LINE OF SAID SOUTHWEST QUARTER A DISTANCE OF 1001.00 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF SAID CENTERLINE;

THENCE SOUTH 46°47’52” EAST A DISTANCE OF 99.00 FEET;

THENCE SOUTH 13°07’26” EAST A DISTANCE OF 67.00 FEET TO THE END OF SAID CENTERLINE

BASIS OF BEARING

THE BASIS OF BEARING OF THIS DESCRIPTION IS THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER AS SHOWN. (EAST)

BRADLEY WELLS, RPLS, PLS DATE

CLEERE DESIGN
P.O. BOX 1183 END, OK 73702
PHONE (580) 237-2797 FAX (580) 237-2796

LEGEND

SET IRON PIN FOUND IRON PIN FENCE

DATE: DRAWN BY: DRAWING NO.: 1-6-2009 APC CD7657_STATE
NOTE: THE TIES AND FOOTAGES SHOWN ON THIS PLAT ARE FROM LINES OF OCCUPATION FROM AN ON-THE-GROUND SURVEY AND/OR BEARINGS AND DISTANCES FROM THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE PLAT OF THE AREA SHOWN AND MAY NOT BE THE ACTUAL PROPERTY CORNERS.

COUNTY: WOODS STATE: OKLAHOMA
EXHIBIT FOR A 20' EASEMENT OF A PIPELINE CROSSING IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4) OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW/4) OF SECTION 22, T-24-N, R-16-W I.M. WOODS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

R 16 W

EAST 1001.00'  P.O.B.
1/4 SEC. & PROP. LN.

S 46°47'52" E
99.00'

S 13°07'26" E
67.00'

P.O.T.

TRACT 'I'
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
NW4 SW4 22-T24N-R16W
166.00' OR 100.00 RODS

SECTION LINE

BM 1/16 SEC. COR.

PROP. LN.

BM 1/16 SEC. COR.

SECTION LINE

SCALE:
1"=500'

LEGEND
SET IRON PIN
FOUND IRON PIN
FENCE

DATE: 1-6-2009 LOCATION: 22-T24N-R16W
DRAWN BY: APC COUNTY: WOODS
DRAWING NO.: CD7657_STATE STATE: OKLAHOMA
THAT Ronald Bouziden, Sr., Trustee of the Ronald Bouziden, Sr. Revocable Trust No. 1, party of the first part, in consideration of the sum of Ten and no/100 dollars and other valuable considerations, in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, does hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey unto State of Oklahoma, by and through the: Oklahoma Tourism & Recreation Department, P.O. Box 52002, Oklahoma City, OK 73152-2002, party of the second part, the following described real property and premises situated in Woods County, State of Oklahoma, to-wit:

A tract of land situated in the South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 SE/4) of Section Fourteen (14), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Indian Meridian, Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

COMMENCING at the Southwest corner of SE/4 of said Section 14; thence North (N00°50’44″E) along the West boundary of said SE/4 a distance of 978.01 feet; thence Southeasterly (S77°00’14″E) a distance of 493.84 feet to a point on the West boundary of State Highway No. 14; thence Southeasterly (S19°30’57″E) along said West boundary a distance of 585.47 feet; thence Southeasterly (S27°00’56″E) along said West boundary a distance of 369.51 feet to a point on the South boundary of said SE/4; thence West (N89°03’17″W) along said South boundary a distance of 859.17 feet to the Point of Beginning.

AND

A tract of land situated in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township Twenty-four (24) North, Range Sixteen (16) West of the Indian Meridian, Woods County, Oklahoma, more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the Northwest corner of the NE/4 of said Section 23; thence South (S00°59’27″W) along the West boundary of said NE/4 a distance of 2079.95 feet; thence East (E88°56’38″E) a distance of 1468.90 feet to a point on the West boundary of State Highway 14; thence Northwesterly on a curve to the right along said West boundary (R=1472.39 feet) a distance of 274.47 feet (chord bearing N02°20’00″W, chord distance of 274.07 feet); thence Northeasterly (N03°00’23″E) along said West boundary a distance of 388.82 feet; thence Northwesterly (N09°07’30″W) along said West boundary a distance of 287.19 feet; thence Northwesterly on a curve to the left along said West boundary (R=2734.79 feet) a distance of 307.34 feet (chord bearing N23°47’45″W, chord distance of 307.18 feet); thence Northwesterly (N27°00’56″W) along said West boundary a distance of 578.03 feet; thence Northwesterly (N12°58’45″W) along said West boundary a distance of 103.08 feet; thence Northwesterly (N27°00’56″W) along said West boundary a distance of 281.04 feet to a point on the North boundary of said NE/4; thence West (N89°03’17″W) along said North boundary a distance of 859.17 feet to the Point of Beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT RESERVING, however, unto the Grantors herein, their heirs and assigns forever all the oil, gas, hydrocarbons, and other minerals and mineral rights in and under and that may be produced from the above described property with right of ingress and egress to explore for, drill for and produce and remove such minerals therefrom forever, it being the intention of the Seller to convey unto the Buyer the surface interest only.

No documentary stamps required pursuant to 68 O.S., Section 3202 (11).
Together with all the improvements thereon, and the appurtenances thereunto belonging, and warrant the title to the same.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD said described premises unto the said party of the second part and to their heirs and assigns, forever, free, clear and discharged of and from all former grants, charges, taxes, judgments, mortgages and other liens and incumbrances of whatsoever nature.

Signed and delivered this \underline{14}\ day of \underline{April}\ 2009.

\underline{Ronald Bouziden, Sr.}, Trustee of the
Ronald Bouziden, Sr. Revocable Trust
No. 1,

STATE OF OKLAHOMA, COUNTY OF WOODS, ss:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, on this \underline{14}\ day of \underline{April}\ 2009, personally appeared \underline{Ronald Bouziden, Sr.}, Trustee of the Ronald Bouziden, Sr. Revocable Trust No. 1, to me known to be the identical person who executed the within and foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that he executed the same as his free and voluntary act and deed for the uses and purposes therein.

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

\underline{Jeffrey L. Mapes}
Notary Public
December 28, 2012

Okla Tourism & Recreation Dept. St. of Okla.
120 N. Robinson, Suite 600
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Re: Lease No. 511002    Contract No. 12493

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed is the signed and filed lease for your records.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (405) 521-4200 or our Real Estate Specialist for your area Tom Eike at (580) 256-1679.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W    Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
December 4, 2012

OKLA. TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT, ST OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102

RE: Lease No. 511002 Contract No.12493 , in WOODWARD, County

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed are your new lease contracts for your approval. Please review and make any necessary corrections to the address or phone number. Sign and return both original copies of the contract in the enclosed envelope. We need to have these back in our office within fifteen (15) days.

The new rate established for a three-year renewal of this lease is $5,800.00 per year effective 1/1/2013.

After the contracts have been signed by the Secretary of the CLO and recorded, we will return one copy to you for your records.

If you have any questions, call me at (405)521-4200.

Sincerely,

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

cc: Tom Eike, RMS Woodward County
Copy: file

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
LEASE NO. 511002

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM SURFACE COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

This lease contract by the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) as administrators of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts (Trusts) is binding when signed and approved by all parties.

TERMS

CLO and Lessee(s) agree the following terms, reservations, conditions and remedies govern the rights and obligations of the contracting parties.

1.1 LESSEE, LAND, TERM, USE, RENTAL.
CLO agrees to lease and Lessee accepts the following described Trust property for the commercial uses and the rental Terms as follows:

LEASE NO: 511002       CONTRACT NO: 12493       COUNTY: WOODS

ANNUAL RENT: $5,800.00       CONTRACT RENT: $17,400.00

TERM(YRS): 3       BEG DATE: 01/01/2013       EXP DATE: 12/31/2015

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: S/2 OF NW/4 AND SW/4 OF SEC 15-24N-16WIM; CONTAINING 240 ACRES MOL (SEE ALSO LS#S 511004 AND 511630)

LESSEE NAME AND ADDRESS: OKLA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT. ST OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
TEL: 405-230-8380

INTENDED USE: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
IMPROVEMENTS OWNED BY LESSEE: CABLES & WOOD POSTS

1.2 RENTAL DUE DATE.
Annual rent is due January 1st of each year, or at commencement of lease, as appropriate.
1.3 NOTICES.
All notices shall be in writing and considered properly given if mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

LESSEE: (Address as shown above)

CLO: 
MAIL LEASE PAYMENTS TO: 
Commissioners of the Land Office 
Lock Box Account 
PO Box 248896 
OKC, OK 73124-8896

MAIL ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO: 
Commissioners of the Land Office 
120 N. Robinson, Suite 1000 West 
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

1.4 DELIVERY, CHANGE OF ADDRESS.
Notices and communications shall be considered effective on date delivered or refused. In the event of change of address written notice is required to be given to the other party.

II
RESERVATIONS

2.1 INTERPRETATION, VENUE, TRUST OBLIGATION.
This lease shall be interpreted in accordance with laws of the State of Oklahoma. Lessee agrees any dispute or litigation with CLO in relation to this lease contract shall be conducted in Oklahoma County, CLO's official residence. Terms and conditions of the lease contract shall be construed in favor of CLO as part consideration for this lease and in recognition of the obligation CLO has to protect Trust assets while maximizing economic return.

2.2 LEGAL SUBORDINATION.
This lease will be subordinate to and Lessee will comply with laws, Court Orders, policies, procedures and rules, existing and future, relative to the operation and management of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts.

2.3 SALE OF LAND/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts the right to lease, exchange, sell or commercially develop all or part of the leased property. If all of the leased property is sold, exchanged or taken for commercial purposes, this lease shall terminate and Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. If part of the leased property is sold, exchanged or commercially developed, Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. CLO agrees to reduce annual rental
proportionately in relation to original appraisal of surface retained by Lessee for remainder of lease term or, at the option of the Lessee, lease shall terminate. Adjustment in annual rental will be made only if amount exceeds twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.4 MINERALS, ACCESS EASEMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees and assigns an easement with right of ingress and egress for purpose of exploring, drilling, developing and operating on the property; including installation of pipelines, machinery, storage tanks and other equipment, necessary for production, storage, transportation and marketing of oil, gas, coal, copper or other minerals of any kind or nature and their components which may be produced from said property or from other property owned by CLO, or communitized with Trust land.

2.5 DAMAGES.
Lessee may recover damages, if any, from the minerals lessees, permittees and assigns for the remaining term of the lease contract as effected by paragraph 2.4. above. Lessor is entitled to all other damages and compensation. No reduction of annual rental will be made beyond original appraised value of surface permanently removed from use and no adjustment for less than twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.6 EASEMENTS.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees, and assignees an access easement in other CLO trust property. CLO reserves the right to grant easements for access and other purposes across the leased property. Prior to granting an easement, CLO will notify lessee and consider any impact to lessee’s operations in negotiating the terms of the easement.

2.7 WATER RIGHTS.
CLO reserves all water rights. Irrigation, sale or release of water from lease property is prohibited unless written permission is granted by CLO.

III

CONDITIONS

3.1 PERMANENT CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS.
Lessee cannot be released from contract obligations except as provided by this contract or according to law. Debt cannot be reduced or canceled without full payment pursuant to Constitution and laws.
3.2 PAYMENT, BOND, NON-PAYMENT.
All unpaid rent shall bear interest at rate of sixteen percent (16%) per annum until paid. If annual rent is not paid within 90 days of the due date or an adequate bond provided, the CLO may seek all available legal remedies.

3.3 TAXES.
Lessee is required to pay ad valorem property taxes on any improvements and structures on Trust land.

3.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST.
Lessee shall notify CLO in writing within 5 days when any public official or employee or any official or employee of the CLO has acquired any direct or indirect interest in this lease.

3.5 HOLD HARMLESS; INDEMNITY.
Subject to the Oklahoma Tort Claims Act, and without waiving any rights, Lessee agrees to indemnify CLO against all claims arising out of the use of the property. Lessee shall promptly notify CLO of any claim.

3.6 SUBLEASES AND ASSIGNMENTS.
This lease may not be subleased or assigned without prior written consent of CLO.

3.7 LEASE INSPECTION.
CLO may enter upon lease property at any time for inspection and exercise of rights reserved to CLO. If locks are placed on gates, keys will be furnished to CLO or its representative upon request, or CLO reserves the right to remove locks.

3.8 LEASE IMPROVEMENTS.
If deemed necessary by CLO, Lessee, at Lessee's expense, agrees to enclose the leased property with appropriate fencing. Lessee will pay all costs incurred in use of the property, including establishment of ingress and egress. Lessee understands and agrees CLO cannot pay Lessee for any lease improvements made by Lessee. Improvements of any nature shall not be placed on or removed from lease property without prior written consent of CLO. Lessee agrees to maintain with CLO a current and complete list of all Lessee installed improvements.
3.9 REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to remove their improvements at Lessee's expense within sixty (60) days after contract terminates or improvements are deemed abandoned and become CLO's property. Additional time for removal of improvements may be granted by CLO upon prior written request. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be beneficial become property of the Land Office without further notice. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be a detriment to the lease will be disposed of by the CLO without further notice and Lessee will be indebted for the cost incurred for disposal beyond the deposit in escrow.

3.10 MAINTAIN IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to maintain and repair CLO's and Lessee's improvements at Lessee's sole expense. At termination of the lease, Lessee shall, at Lessee's sole expense, refill and render level the surface of the property as well as reestablish grasses in accordance with the directions of the supervising CLO field representative.

3.11 INJURY TO LAND.
With the exception of that provided for herein, Lessee will not, without written permission from CLO: irrigate; cut trees or timber; remove soil, stone or minerals; permit waste, trespass, trash disposal, littering, erosion or pollution. Lessee will promptly report damage to leased property or minerals to CLO.

3.12 NO POLLUTION.
Lessee shall carry on the development and/or operation of the lease in a workmanlike manner, and shall not commit or suffer to be committed, waste or pollution upon the lands in its occupancy or use. Lessee shall preserve the lands, and upon the termination of this lease, promptly surrender and return the property to the CLO. Lessee shall bury and maintain all pipelines below thirty-six (36) inches unless written permission to the contrary is obtained from the CLO pursuant to their rules and regulations. Lessee shall obtain the consent of the CLO on the location of any tank batteries and/or lease roads, which consent will not be unreasonably denied.

3.13 DEPOSIT.
As evidence of the Lessee's intentions to abide by the terms and provisions herein stated, the CLO may require that Lessee provide a cash escrow refundable at the conclusion of the Lease provided all terms and provisions have been fulfilled, in an amount as determined by the CLO.
REMEDIES

4.1 MITIGATION, RELT.
CLO may relet the property to mitigate Lessee's damages (including rent) without prejudice to or waiver of its rights to hold Lessee liable for all costs, damages and entire contract rentals less amounts realized from mitigation.

4.2 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.
Lessee agrees to meet CLO's representative on request.

4.3 BREACH OF CONTRACT.
Violation by Lessee of any provision of this lease constitutes material breach.

4.4 BIND, BENEFIT, COMPLETE AGREEMENT, CHANGES.
All terms and conditions of this lease shall be binding on CLO and Lessee, its heirs, devisees, administrators, executors, successors and assigns. This lease document contains the complete agreement between the parties; any changes to the lease must be in writing and agreed to and approved by the parties.

4.5 SEVERABILITY, SAVINGS.
If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of the provisions will not be affected and will be valid and enforceable to carry out, to the fullest extent possible, the original intent of the parties as permitted by law.

V

NON-COLLUSION

5.1 NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT.
Lessee states as a material consideration of the contract (s)he has not 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 obtaining this Lease. Furthermore, (s)he did not conspire or collude with, give or receive anything of value to, or agree to give or receive anything of value to any bidder or potential bidder relative to obtaining this Lease.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lessee and CLO have executed and approved this contract of 8 pages on the dates indicated.

LESSEE:

[Signature]  
Name: [Name]  
Title: [Title]  
Date: [Date]

Name  
Title  
Date

LESSOR: COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE (CLO)

[Signature]  
Harry W. Birdwell  
Secretary  
Date: [Date]

For Land Office Use Only

No. 511002  
Volume DB  
Recorded 12/28/2012 (Date)  
By [Signature]  
(Records Clerk)
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lessee and CLO have executed and approved this contract of 8 pages on the dates indicated.

LESSEE:

Name: [Signature]
Title: [Signature]
Date: 12-13-12

Name
Title
Date

LESSOR: COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE (CLO)

Harry W. Birdwell
Secretary

For Land Office Use Only
No. 511630
Volume DB
Recorded 12-28-2012
(Date)

By: [Signature]
(Records Clerk)
December 28, 2012

Okla Tourism & Recreation Dept. St. of Okla.
120 N. Robinson, Suite 600
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Re: Lease No. 511004   Contract No. 12494

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed is the signed and filed lease for your records.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (405) 521-4200 or our Real Estate Specialist for your area Tom Eike at (580) 256-1679.

Sincerely,

\[Signature\]

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W   Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
December 4, 2012

OKLA. TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT, ST OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102

RE: Lease No. 511004 Contract No. 12494, in WOODWARD, County

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed are your new lease contracts for your approval. Please review and make any necessary corrections to the address or phone number. Sign and return both original copies of the contract in the enclosed envelope. We need to have these back in our office within fifteen (15) days.

The new rate established for a three-year renewal of this lease is $6,700.00 per year effective 1/1/2013.

After the contracts have been signed by the Secretary of the CLO and recorded, we will return one copy to you for your records.

If you have any questions, call me at (405)521-4200.

Sincerely,

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

cc: Tom Eike, RMS Woodward County
Copy: file

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W
Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
LEASE NO. 511004

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM SURFACE COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

This lease contract by the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) as administrators of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts (Trusts) is binding when signed and approved by all parties.

TERMS

CLO and Lessee(s) agree the following terms, reservations, conditions and remedies govern the rights and obligations of the contracting parties.

1.1 LESSEE, LAND, TERM, USE, RENTAL.
CLO agrees to lease and Lessee accepts the following described Trust property for the commercial uses and the rental Terms as follows:

LEASE NO: 511004  CONTRACT NO: 12494  COUNTY: WOODS
ANNUAL RENT: $6,700.00  CONTRACT RENT: $20,100.00  DEPOSIT: 0.00
TERM(YRS): 3  BEG DATE: 01/01/2013  EXP DATE: 12/31/2015
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: E/2 OF SW/4 & NW/4 OF SW/4 & SE/4 OF SEC 22-24N-16W1/2; CONTAINING 280 ACRES MOL (SEE ALSO LS#S 511002 AND 511630)

LESSEE NAME AND ADDRESS: OKLA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT. ST OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
TEL: 405-230-8380

INTENDED USE: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
IMPROVEMENTS OWNED BY LESSEE: CABLES & WOOD POSTS

1.2 RENTAL DUE DATE.
Annual rent is due January 1st of each year, or at commencement of lease, as appropriate.
1.3 NOTICES.
All notices shall be in writing and considered properly given if mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

LESSEE: (Address as shown above)

CLO:  
MAIL LEASE PAYMENTS TO:  
Commissioners of the Land Office  
Lock Box Account  
PO Box 248896  
OKC, OK 73124-8896
MAIL ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
Commissioners of the Land Office  
120 N. Robinson, Suite 1000 West  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

1.4 DELIVERY, CHANGE OF ADDRESS.
Notices and communications shall be considered effective on date delivered or refused. In the event of change of address written notice is required to be given to the other party.

II
RESERVATIONS

2.1 INTERPRETATION, VENUE, TRUST OBLIGATION.
This lease shall be interpreted in accordance with laws of the State of Oklahoma. Lessee agrees any dispute or litigation with CLO in relation to this lease contract shall be conducted in Oklahoma County, CLO's official residence. Terms and conditions of the lease contract shall be construed in favor of CLO as part consideration for this lease and in recognition of the obligation CLO has to protect Trust assets while maximizing economic return.

2.2 LEGAL SUBORDINATION.
This lease will be subordinate to and Lessee will comply with laws, Court Orders, policies, procedures and rules, existing and future, relative to the operation and management of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts.

2.3 SALE OF LAND/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts the right to lease, exchange, sell or commercially develop all or part of the leased property. If all of the leased property is sold, exchanged or taken for commercial purposes, this lease shall terminate and Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. If part of the leased property is sold, exchanged or commercially developed, Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. CLO agrees to reduce annual rental
proportionately in relation to original appraisal of surface retained by Lessee for remainder of lease term or, at the option of the Lessee, lease shall terminate. Adjustment in annual rental will be made only if amount exceeds twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.4 MINERALS, ACCESS EASEMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees and assigns an easement with right of ingress and egress for purpose of exploring, drilling, developing and operating on the property; including installation of pipelines, machinery, storage tanks and other equipment, necessary for production, storage, transportation and marketing of oil, gas, coal, copper or other minerals of any kind or nature and their components which may be produced from said property or from other property owned by CLO, or communitized with Trust land.

2.5 DAMAGES.
Lessee may recover damages, if any, from the minerals lessees, permittees and assigns for the remaining term of the lease contract as effected by paragraph 2.4. above. Lessor is entitled to all other damages and compensation. No reduction of annual rental will be made beyond original appraised value of surface permanently removed from use and no adjustment for less than twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.6 EASEMENTS.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees, and assigns an access easement in other CLO trust property. CLO reserves the right to grant easements for access and other purposes across the leased property. Prior to granting an easement, CLO will notify lessee and consider any impact to lessee’s operations in negotiating the terms of the easement.

2.7 WATER RIGHTS.
CLO reserves all water rights. Irrigation, sale or release of water from lease property is prohibited unless written permission is granted by CLO.

III

CONDITIONS

3.1 PERMANENT CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS.
Lessee cannot be released from contract obligations except as provided by this contract or according to law. Debt cannot be reduced or canceled without full payment pursuant to Constitution and laws.
3.2 PAYMENT, BOND, NON-PAYMENT.
All unpaid rent shall bear interest at rate of sixteen percent (16%) per annum until paid. If annual rent is not paid within 90 days of the due date or an adequate bond provided, the CLO may seek all available legal remedies.

3.3 TAXES.
Lessee is required to pay ad valorem property taxes on any improvements and structures on Trust land.

3.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST.
Lessee shall notify CLO in writing within 5 days when any public official or employee or any official or employee of the CLO has acquired any direct or indirect interest in this lease.

3.5 HOLD HARMLESS; INDEMNITY.
Subject to the Oklahoma Tort Claims Act, and without waiving any rights, Lessee agrees to indemnify CLO against all claims arising out of the use of the property. Lessee shall promptly notify CLO of any claim.

3.6 SUBLEASES AND ASSIGNMENTS.
This lease may not be subleased or assigned without prior written consent of CLO.

3.7 LEASE INSPECTION.
CLO may enter upon lease property at any time for inspection and exercise of rights reserved to CLO. If locks are placed on gates, keys will be furnished to CLO or its representative upon request, or CLO reserves the right to remove locks.

3.8 LEASE IMPROVEMENTS.
If deemed necessary by CLO, Lessee, at Lessee's expense, agrees to enclose the leased property with appropriate fencing. Lessee will pay all costs incurred in use of the property, including establishment of ingress and egress. Lessee understands and agrees CLO cannot pay Lessee for any lease improvements made by Lessee. Improvements of any nature shall not be placed on or removed from lease property without prior written consent of CLO. Lessee agrees to maintain with CLO a current and complete list of all Lessee installed improvements.
3.9 REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to remove their improvements at Lessee's expense within sixty (60) days after contract terminates or improvements are deemed abandoned and become CLO's property. Additional time for removal of improvements may be granted by CLO upon prior written request. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be beneficial become property of the Land Office without further notice. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be a detriment to the lease will be disposed of by the CLO without further notice and Lessee will be indebted for the cost incurred for disposal beyond the deposit in escrow.

3.10 MAINTAIN IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to maintain and repair CLO's and Lessee's improvements at Lessee's sole expense. At termination of the lease, Lessee shall, at Lessee's sole expense, refill and render level the surface of the property as well as reestablish grasses in accordance with the directions of the supervising CLO field representative.

3.11 INJURY TO LAND.
With the exception of that provided for herein, Lessee will not, without written permission from CLO: irrigate; cut trees or timber; remove soil, stone or minerals; permit waste, trespass, trash disposal, littering, erosion or pollution. Lessee will promptly report damage to leased property or minerals to CLO.

3.12 NO POLLUTION.
Lessee shall carry on the development and/or operation of the lease in a workmanlike manner, and shall not commit or suffer to be committed, waste or pollution upon the lands in its occupancy or use. Lessee shall preserve the lands, and upon the termination of this lease, promptly surrender and return the property to the CLO. Lessee shall bury and maintain all pipelines below thirty-six (36) inches unless written permission to the contrary is obtained from the CLO pursuant to their rules and regulations. Lessee shall obtain the consent of the CLO on the location of any tank batteries and/or lease roads, which consent will not be unreasonably denied.

3.13 DEPOSIT.
As evidence of the Lessee's intentions to abide by the terms and provisions herein stated, the CLO may require that Lessee provide a cash escrow refundable at the conclusion of the Lease provided all terms and provisions have been fulfilled, in an amount as determined by the CLO.
REMEDIES

4.1 MITIGATION, RELET.
CLO may relet the property to mitigate Lessee’s damages (including rent) without prejudice to or waiver of its rights to hold Lessee liable for all costs, damages and entire contract rentals less amounts realized from mitigation.

4.2 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.
Lessee agrees to meet CLO’s representative on request.

4.3 BREACH OF CONTRACT.
Violation by Lessee of any provision of this lease constitutes material breach.

4.4 BIND, BENEFIT, COMPLETE AGREEMENT, CHANGES.
All terms and conditions of this lease shall be binding on CLO and Lessee, its heirs, devisees, administrators, executors, successors and assigns. This lease document contains the complete agreement between the parties; any changes to the lease must be in writing and agreed to and approved by the parties.

4.5 SEVERABILITY, SAVINGS.
If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of the provisions will not be affected and will be valid and enforceable to carry out, to the fullest extent possible, the original intent of the parties as permitted by law.

V

NON-COLLUSION

5.1 NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT.
Lessee states as a material consideration of the contract (s)he has not 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 obtaining this Lease. Furthermore, (s)he did not conspire or collude with, give or receive anything of value to, or agree to give or receive anything of value to any bidder or potential bidder relative to obtaining this Lease.
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Lessee and CLO have executed and approved this contract of 8 pages on the dates indicated.

LESSEE:

Name:

Title:

Date:

LESSOR: COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE (CLO)

Name:

Title:

Date:

Harry W. Birdwell
Secretary

For Land Office Use Only
No. 511004
Volume DB
Recorded 12/31/2012
(Date)
By L. Cox
(Records Clerk)
December 28, 2012

Okla Tourism & Recreation Dept. St. of Okla.
120 N. Robinson, Suite 600
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

Re: Lease No. 511630   Contract No. 12495

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed is the signed and filed lease for your records.

Should you have any questions, please call me at (405) 521-4200 or our Real Estate Specialist for your area Tom Eike at (580) 256-1679.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W   Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
December 4, 2012

OKLA. TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT, ST OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102

RE: Lease No. 511630  Contract No.12495 , in WOODWARD, County

Dear Lessee:

Enclosed are your new lease contracts for your approval. Please review and make any necessary corrections to the address or phone number. Sign and return both original copies of the contract in the enclosed envelope. We need to have these back in our office within fifteen (15) days.

The new rate established for a three-year renewal of this lease is $4,800.00 per year effective 1/1/2013.

After the contracts have been signed by the Secretary of the CLO and recorded, we will return one copy to you for your records.

If you have any questions, call me at (405)521-4200.

Sincerely,

Tranna Fischer
Real Estate Management Division

cc: Tom Eike, RMS Woodward County
Copy: file

120 N Robinson Suite 1000W          Oklahoma City, Ok 73102

"MANAGING ASSETS TO SUPPORT EDUCATION"
LEASE NO. 511630

COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM SURFACE COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE LAND OFFICE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA SCHOOL LAND TRUSTS
SHORT TERM COMMERCIAL LEASE CONTRACT

This lease contract by the Commissioners of the Land Office (CLO) as administrators of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts (Trusts) is binding when signed and approved by all parties.

TERMS

CLO and Lessee(s) agree the following terms, reservations, conditions and remedies govern the rights and obligations of the contracting parties.

1.1 LESSEE, LAND, TERM, USE, RENTAL.
CLO agrees to lease and Lessee accepts the following described Trust property for the commercial uses and the rental Terms as follows:

LEASE NO: 511630 CONTRACT NO: 12495 COUNTY: WOODS
ANNUAL RENT: $4,800.00 CONTRACT RENT: $14,400.00
TERM(YRS): 3 BEG DATE: 01/01/2013 EXP DATE: 12/31/2015

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NW/4NW/4; S/2 NW/4; N/2SW/4 OF SEC 23-24N-16WIM; CONTAINING 200 ACRES MOL (SEE ALSO LS#S 511002 AND 511004)

LESSEE NAME AND ADDRESS: OKLA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPT. ST. OF OKLA
120 N. ROBINSON, STE. 600
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102
TEL: 405-230-8380

INTENDED USE: RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES
IMPROVEMENTS OWNED BY LESSEE: CABLES & WOOD POSTS (3/4 MILE)

1.2 RENTAL DUE DATE.
Annual rent is due January 1st of each year, or at commencement of lease, as appropriate.
1.3 NOTICES.
All notices shall be in writing and considered properly given if mailed by certified mail, postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

LESSEE: (Address as shown above)

CLO:
MAIL LEASE PAYMENTS TO:
Commissioners of the Land Office
Lock Box Account
PO Box 248896
OKC, OK 73124-8896

MAIL ALL OTHER CORRESPONDENCE TO:
Commissioners of the Land Office
120 N. Robinson, Suite 1000 West
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73102

1.4 DELIVERY, CHANGE OF ADDRESS.
Notices and communications shall be considered effective on date delivered or refused. In the event of change of address written notice is required to be given to the other party.

II

RESERVATIONS

2.1 INTERPRETATION, VENUE, TRUST OBLIGATION.
This lease shall be interpreted in accordance with laws of the State of Oklahoma. Lessee agrees any dispute or litigation with CLO in relation to this lease contract shall be conducted in Oklahoma County, CLO's official residence. Terms and conditions of the lease contract shall be construed in favor of CLO as part consideration for this lease and in recognition of the obligation CLO has to protect Trust assets while maximizing economic return.

2.2 LEGAL SUBORDINATION.
This lease will be subordinate to and Lessee will comply with laws, Court Orders, policies, procedures and rules, existing and future, relative to the operation and management of the Oklahoma School Land Trusts.

2.3 SALE OF LAND/COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts the right to lease, exchange, sell or commercially develop all or part of the leased property. If all of the leased property is sold, exchanged or taken for commercial purposes, this lease shall terminate and Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. If part of the leased property is sold, exchanged or commercially developed, Lessee shall deliver possession of property to CLO as notified. CLO agrees to reduce annual rental
proportionately in relation to original appraisal of surface retained by Lessee for remainder of
lease term or, at the option of the Lessee, lease shall terminate. Adjustment in annual rental
will be made only if amount exceeds twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.4 MINERALS, ACCESS EASEMENT.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees and assigns an easement with right of
ingress and egress for purpose of exploring, drilling, developing and operating on the property;
including installation of pipelines, machinery, storage tanks and other equipment, necessary for
production, storage, transportation and marketing of oil, gas, coal, copper or other minerals of
any kind or nature and their components which may be produced from said property or from
other property owned by CLO, or communitized with Trust land.

2.5 DAMAGES.
Lessee may recover damages, if any, from the minerals lessees, permittees and assigns for the
remaining term of the lease contract as effected by paragraph 2.4. above. Lessor is entitled to
all other damages and compensation. No reduction of annual rental will be made beyond
original appraised value of surface permanently removed from use and no adjustment for less
than twenty-five ($25.00) dollars.

2.6 EASEMENTS.
CLO reserves and excepts to itself, its lessees, permittees, and assignes an access easement in
other CLO trust property. CLO reserves the right to grant easements for access and other
purposes across the leased property. Prior to granting an easement, CLO will notify lessee and
consider any impact to lessee's operations in negotiating the terms of the easement.

2.7 WATER RIGHTS.
CLO reserves all water rights. Irrigation, sale or release of water from lease property is
prohibited unless written permission is granted by CLO.

III

CONDITIONS

3.1 PERMANENT CONTRACT OBLIGATIONS.
Lessee cannot be released from contract obligations except as provided by this contract or
according to law. Debt cannot be reduced or canceled without full payment pursuant to
Constitution and laws.
3.2 PAYMENT, BOND, NON-PAYMENT.
All unpaid rent shall bear interest at rate of sixteen percent (16%) per annum until paid. If annual rent is not paid within 90 days of the due date or an adequate bond provided, the CLO may seek all available legal remedies.

3.3 TAXES.
Lessee is required to pay ad valorem property taxes on any improvements and structures on Trust land.

3.4 DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST.
Lessee shall notify CLO in writing within 5 days when any public official or employee or any official or employee of the CLO has acquired any direct or indirect interest in this lease.

3.5 HOLD HARMLESS; INDEMNITY.
Subject to the Oklahoma Tort Claims Act, and without waiving any rights, Lessee agrees to indemnify CLO against all claims arising out of the use of the property. Lessee shall promptly notify CLO of any claim.

3.6 SUBLLEASES AND ASSIGNMENTS.
This lease may not be subleased or assigned without prior written consent of CLO.

3.7 LEASE INSPECTION.
CLO may enter upon lease property at any time for inspection and exercise of rights reserved to CLO. If locks are placed on gates, keys will be furnished to CLO or its representative upon request, or CLO reserves the right to remove locks.

3.8 LEASE IMPROVEMENTS.
If deemed necessary by CLO, Lessee, at Lessee's expense, agrees to enclose the leased property with appropriate fencing. Lessee will pay all costs incurred in use of the property, including establishment of ingress and egress. Lessee understands and agrees CLO cannot pay Lessee for any lease improvements made by Lessee. Improvements of any nature shall not be placed on or removed from lease property without prior written consent of CLO. Lessee agrees to maintain with CLO a current and complete list of all Lessee installed improvements.
3.9 REMOVAL OF IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to remove their improvements at Lessee's expense within sixty (60) days after contract terminates or improvements are deemed abandoned and become CLO’s property. Additional time for removal of improvements may be granted by CLO upon prior written request. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be beneficial become property of the Land Office without further notice. Improvements which are abandoned and are determined to be a detriment to the lease will be disposed of by the CLO without further notice and Lessee will be indebted for the cost incurred for disposal beyond the deposit in escrow.

3.10 MAINTAIN IMPROVEMENTS.
Lessee agrees to maintain and repair CLO's and Lessee's improvements at Lessee's sole expense. At termination of the lease, Lessee shall, at Lessee's sole expense, refill and render level the surface of the property as well as reestablish grasses in accordance with the directions of the supervising CLO field representative.

3.11 INJURY TO LAND.
With the exception of that provided for herein, Lessee will not, without written permission from CLO: irrigate; cut trees or timber; remove soil, stone or minerals; permit waste, trespass, trash disposal, littering, erosion or pollution. Lessee will promptly report damage to leased property or minerals to CLO.

3.12 NO POLLUTION.
Lessee shall carry on the development and/or operation of the lease in a workmanlike manner, and shall not commit or suffer to be committed, waste or pollution upon the lands in its occupancy or use. Lessee shall preserve the lands, and upon the termination of this lease, promptly surrender and return the property to the CLO. Lessee shall bury and maintain all pipelines below thirty-six (36) inches unless written permission to the contrary is obtained from the CLO pursuant to their rules and regulations. Lessee shall obtain the consent of the CLO on the location of any tank batteries and/or lease roads, which consent will not be unreasonably denied.

3.13 DEPOSIT.
As evidence of the Lessee's intentions to abide by the terms and provisions herein stated, the CLO may require that Lessee provide a cash escrow refundable at the conclusion of the Lease provided all terms and provisions have been fulfilled, in an amount as determined by the CLO.
REMEDIES

4.1 MITIGATION, RELET.
CLO may relet the property to mitigate Lessee's damages (including rent) without prejudice to or waiver of its rights to hold Lessee liable for all costs, damages and entire contract rentals less amounts realized from mitigation.

4.2 REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.
Lessee agrees to meet CLO's representative on request.

4.3 BREACH OF CONTRACT.
Violation by Lessee of any provision of this lease constitutes material breach.

4.4 BIND, BENEFIT, COMPLETE AGREEMENT, CHANGES.
All terms and conditions of this lease shall be binding on CLO and Lessee, its heirs, devisees, administrators, executors, successors and assigns. This lease document contains the complete agreement between the parties; any changes to the lease must be in writing and agreed to and approved by the parties.

4.5 SEVERABILITY, SAVINGS.
If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid or unenforceable to any extent, the remainder of the provisions will not be affected and will be valid and enforceable to carry out, to the fullest extent possible, the original intent of the parties as permitted by law.

V

NON-COLLUSION

5.1 NON-COLLUSION STATEMENT.
Lessee states as a material consideration of the contract (s)he has not 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 obtaining this Lease. Furthermore, (s)he did not conspire or collude with, give or receive anything of value to, or agree to give or receive anything of value to any bidder or potential bidder relative to obtaining this Lease.