

**NEWS RELEASE
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Public Encouraged to Comment on Freedom's Frontier Draft Management Plan

Lawrence, Kan. – The public is invited to comment on the draft Power of Story of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) Management Plan. The Power of Story will be posted online at the www.ffnha-hosting.com. The public will have 30 days to comment.

The Power of Story will acquaint readers with the nationally significant story of Freedom's Frontier and how partners in Freedom's Frontier are committed to telling their stories. Over the course of 2008 and early 2009, area volunteers worked with a consultant group to produce the Management Plan. Each section of the plan has been reviewed by committees and the organization's Steering Committee before posting or the public. As a whole, the Management Plan will reveal insights and information gleaned during the planning process and will guide the heritage area's activities for the next decade.

Over the next month, the remaining sections of the plan will be posted online for public comment. These sections include:

- Power of Action, offering tools for citizens and groups to manage the heritage area.
- Power of Partnership, offering recommendations for Freedom's Frontier's coordinating entity and its partners to shape the heritage area.
- Appendices, including acknowledgements and appendices about the planning process and background data.

The Executive Summary and the Power of Place are online, available for download and public review.

The management plan will be submitted to the National Park Service for approval in the spring of 2009. Once the plan is approved, the heritage area will partner with the Park Service for technical assistance and will qualify for federal funding. Additional information about Freedom's Frontier can be found online at www.freedomsfrontier.org.

Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area, consisting of 41 counties in western-Missouri and eastern-Kansas, is a grassroots effort to steward the cultural landscape and nationally significant stories about the struggle over freedom on the frontier.

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