

**NEWS RELEASE
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Freedom's Frontier Board Approves Management Plan

Lawrence, Kan. – Freedom's Frontier Board of Trustees approved the final draft of Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) Management Plan. This plan was crafted with citizen input over the past year and a half. The plan was posted online in sections for public comment at www.ffnha-hosting.com.

This plan discusses the unique natural and human history that makes this region special. It offers “toolkits” for citizens and groups to assess and improve experiences offered in Freedom's Frontier. In-depth information and recommendations are included for the Freedom's Frontier coordinating entity and its partners to manage the heritage area.

Over the course of 2008 and early 2009, area volunteers have 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 for the public. As a whole, the Management Plan reveals insights and information gleaned during the planning process and will guide the heritage area's activities for the next decade. Additional information about Freedom's Frontier can be found online at www.freedomfrontier.org.

The Freedom's Frontier Board and stakeholders will celebrate the conclusion of the management planning process on June 18 at 2 p.m. at the Kansas City Central Library. The Board will formally present the plan to the National Park Service during this meeting. The public is

welcome to attend.

The next step is to gain approval of the Management Plan by the National Park Service after which it will be sent to the Secretary of Interior for final signature. Freedom's Frontier will then begin to implement recommendations in the plan.

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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