

◆ MEDIA ALERT ◆

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MEETING TO ESTABLISH 20-YEAR VISION, GOALS FOR REGION

LAWRENCE, Kansas – To set a vision for 2028, representatives from around the region will participate in an afternoon workshop to outline a foundation of goals, objectives and principles that will help guide the growth and sustainability of the 41-county region designated as Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA). The regional vision is a requirement of the heritage area's general management plan and will serve as a roadmap for the region's year-long planning process. The visioning forum is scheduled:

Date:	Monday, March 31, 2008
Time:	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Location:	The Eldridge Hotel Lawrence, Kansas
Reservations:	Debbie White, 785/865-4499 (Required by 3/25/08)

This visioning forum will be open to any person that participated in the FFNHA Visioning Forum held in Olathe on March 13 or completed an online survey by March 28 at:

www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=JoH4WEWjhvwkPzk%2fCxfwPw%3d%3d

Reservations are required. The findings from the session will be presented at a follow-up meeting with the FFNHA Steering Committee and Board of Directors on Tuesday, April 1.

Following acceptance of the 20-year vision, the statement – along with a set of defining principles, outline of major goals, and list of management challenges – will be posted on Freedom's Frontier Heritage Area website, www.freedomfrontier.org, for reference. The vision statement will be revisited during the final phase of the planning process (October 2008 – February 2009) to help set performance benchmarks for the Heritage Area. The final plan is scheduled for submission to the National Park Service in February 2009.

The President signed the enabling legislation designating FFNHA on October 12, 2006 as one of 10 new National Heritage Areas; there are currently 37 designated regions across the nation. FFNHA – comprising the 41-county region of Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri – is recognized for its distinctive history, culture, and landscape that tell the stories about the quest for national and individual freedoms. Enacted by a bill signed by the President, National Heritage Areas are living landscapes recognized through a partnership with the National Park Service.

For more information about Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area and its management planning process, e-mail info@freedomfrontier.org or call 785-865-4499

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