

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

Lawrence, Kan. – The public is encouraged to comment on the draft Executive Summary of the Freedom's Frontier National Heritage Area (FFNHA) Management Plan. The Executive Summary, the first of several sections in the plan, will be posted online at the [www.ffnha-hosting.com](http://www.ffnha-hosting.com). The public will have 30 days to comment.

The Executive Summary will acquaint readers to Freedom's Frontier and give a brief overview of the management plan. 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 to 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 two months, the remaining six sections of the plan will be posted online for public comment. These sections include:

- *Power of Place*, exploring the natural history of the heritage area.
- *Power of Story*, relaying why this story is significant and how Freedom's Frontier is committed to telling this story.
- *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 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](http://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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