

PLANNING PROCESS

The outline of the management plan and the overall planning process is prescribed by the requirements of the legislation and the National Park Service in compliance with federal regulations. The planning process is composed of six primary tasks:

Task 1:	Project Initiation	April, 2009
	Initial meeting and tour of the heritage area	
Task 2:	Vision and Goals	July-September, 2009
	Initial vision and goals for the heritage area based upon the 2002 Feasibility Study and 2006 legislation.	
Task 3:	Existing Conditions and Resource Assessment	May-July, 2009
	Review and assessment of existing conditions based upon background materials, inventories of resources, consultations with stakeholders, and field review. Historic, cultural and natural resources will be assessed; organizations and programs will be reviewed; stewardship issues will be identified; heritage tourism potential will be outlined; and community development issues will be considered. More>	
Task 4:	Development and Analysis of Alternatives	August–February, 2009/10
	In accordance with National Park Service planning processes, a series of alternatives will be developed with varying organizational, interpretive, heritage development, and stewardship strategies. These alternatives will then be evaluated with respect to their potential impacts, benefits, and potential for success. Draft alternatives will be developed for partner and public review and comment in mid-November. The draft alternatives will be further developed and refined and issued for public review in February, 2010. A preferred alternative will be selected. More>>>	
Task 5:	Draft Management Plan and Environmental Assessment	March–September 2010
	With selection of a preferred alternative based upon stakeholder and public input, a draft management plan will be prepared. From June through September plan must go through a series of formal NPS and public review processes.	
Task 6:	Final Management Plan and Environmental Assessment	October-January, 2010/11
	The final management plan and environmental assessment will be prepared between October 2010 and January 2011 incorporating changes and refinements from comments received during the NPS	

and public reviews. The final plan must then approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and the management plan process is complete. The heritage area is organized and set in motion as the planning process evolves. Early actions can be identified and implemented during the planning process. By the time the management plan is officially approved, the heritage area will be well on its way to implementation.

