

OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED SECTION 4(f) DE MINIMIS FINDING

AT

FORT GIBSON LAKE PROJECT AREA

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is proposing to improve SH-80 from 0.85 miles south of junction SH-80/SH-51, extending north 0.5 mile on new alignment in Cherokee County, Oklahoma. The proposed improvements consist of constructing a new two-lane highway west of S. Wilson Lane. The west side was selected to avoid residences and archeological sites on the east side of S. Wilson Lane. The new alignment will be a two-lane highway with 12-foot-wide driving lanes and 8-foot-wide shoulders. The proposed span bridge over Double Spring Creek will provide a 40-foot-wide clear roadway.

New easement within US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Gibson Lake property will be required to reconstruct this new alignment. Due to the proposed conversion of recreational land to transportation use for the property located within USACE Fort Gibson Lake property, Section 4(f) regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 apply to the project. Section 4(f) affords protection to publicly-owned recreation areas including city, state, and national parks, wildlife refuges and management areas and historic sites. ODOT is proposing to convert approximately 11.43 acres of the 55,815-acre USACE Fort Gibson Lake property, 11.43 which constitutes approximately 0.02 percent of the Lake property area. Of the 11.43 acres needed for the construction of the SH-80 improvements, permanent easement consisting of 6.96 acres and temporary easement of 4.47 acres are requested.

ODOT has coordinated with the USACE with regard to mitigation of impacts of the project on the Fort Gibson Lake property. This will be accomplished by the following measures:

- 1) Limit removal of the closed sewage lagoon berms to only what is necessary for the bridge design and construction.
- 2) A new 80-foot by 80-foot gravel parking lot will be constructed south of Double Spring Creek to provide public parking for individuals that hunt in the area. The gravel will consist of 4 inches of Type E Traffic Bound Surface Course (TBSC). The area around the proposed parking lot will be graded to allow for drainage.
- 3) The drive to the proposed parking lot will be 40 feet long and 12 feet wide consisting of 4 inches of Type E TBSC.

Based on the avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to the Fort Gibson Lake property as described above, ODOT, in coordination with USACE, are proposing a *de minimis* impact finding with regard to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966). ODOT welcomes your comments on the effects of this project on the projected activities, features, and attributes of the Fort Gibson Lake property (the Section 4(f) resource). Please mail or e-mail and comments you have by (2 weeks after date of notice) to:

Environmental Programs Division Engineer
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