

GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD COALITION

*Protecting the Santa Fe Trail and Civil War battlefield
within Pecos National Historical Park through preservation and public education*

Learn more from our website at www.glorietapass.org

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To: All Members, Friends, and Supporters of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition

Re: Update on Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail Project
Update on Project at the Texas and Colorado Monuments Within the Battlefield Area

1. Update on Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail Project

I am happy to provide this update and report on the status of our Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail Project. Working closely with the National Park Service and our partners the Friends of Pecos, and thanks to our members, friends and supporters, we have made significant progress since the launch at our 145th anniversary event in March. Below are the highlights:

- **Our 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Glorieta Pass event this year focused on the trail project launch.** Local, state and federal political representatives attended, as did a representative of the Civil War Preservation Trust. Historical presentations were made by two local historians (Don Alberts and John Taylor). We also co-sponsored with the Friends of Pecos a special dinner for the reenactors who attended the event. I am pleased to report great participation from both Confederate and Federal reenactors in New Mexico and Colorado. They came in uniform and marched the trail with us (despite snow earlier in the day). At the dinner, the reenactment community immediately responded to the fundraising match challenges given by GBC president Jim Houghton. The contributions of the various reenactment units in New Mexico and Colorado, plus later contributions from the Civil War Ladies League and the New Mexico Civil War Congress, combined with the match contributions of Houghton, gave us a \$2,000 kick-off.
- **A special thanks also goes out to GBC members Dennis and Pat Eker** for their generous contribution of gravel and rock for the road and trail. Dennis and Pat have made in-kind contributions of gravel and rock in excess of \$25,000 for our projects.
- Since the anniversary events, we have now raised close to \$20,000 from numerous sources. My special thanks to the members, friends, and supporters of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition both within the State and from beyond our boundaries for their generous support. Representative of the broad support of the project is a donation

we received from our friends with the George W. Lee Civil War Round Table in Michigan. I thank them for their contributed interest and support.

- Our fundraising goal is \$100,000 for the ridge trail project. The construction of the 2.2 mile trail project has been divided into two phases. We have used the funds raised to get the necessary road access improvements built to the trailhead and have made significant progress on clearing and laying gravel and preparing the Phase I portion of the trail. The Phase I work also includes clearing trees in the overlook to provide panoramic views over the Pigeon's Ranch phase of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. At the same time, we are working closely with interested groups on the design and construction of the Texas Vista, one of four vistas that are planned for the entire project. The other three vista projects will recognize the U.S. Regulars, Colorado Volunteers, and New Mexico Volunteers. Our target is to have the Texas Vista project (and Phase I of the trail) designed, funded, and built in time for the planned board meeting of the Civil War Preservation Trust in Santa Fe, New Mexico in February 2008.

2. **Project for Improvements to the Texas and Colorado Monuments Site**

I am also pleased to report that we are working with the National Park Service to develop site improvements related to two existing monuments near the Pigeon's Ranch phase of the battle. The first monument was placed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy – Texas Division on October 1, 1939 and honors the Texas regiments engaged in the Battle of Glorieta Pass. The second monument was placed by Colorado historical organizations in 1995 to recognize the actions of the Colorado Volunteers at the Battle of Glorieta Pass. For years the monuments have had poor visibility to visitors due to the distance from which they were set back from the road. In addition, erosion and other natural causes have damaged the parking areas available for visitors to safely park and view the monuments.

The monuments are next to a former museum we hope to see rehabilitated and utilized as a battlefield visitor's center. Such is part of our long-term planning with the National Park Service and the Friends of Pecos. In the meantime, I attach the proposed project for the monument site. Use of the split rail fencing will give the site a much better "Civil War" feel. The message board will be utilized by the Park Service to provide visitors and guests information on the battlefield site as well as directions to the existing visitor's center and the Ridge Trail. We are then having two interpretive plaques placed that will tell the story of the dedication of the monuments and recognize the groups who years ago chose to honor their ancestors.

The National Park Service has agreed to budget and take responsibility for necessary basic site improvements (grading, erosion control, etc.). The GBC has set a fundraising target of \$6,000 to address the remaining improvements, including the interpretive plaques, the signage board, and split rail fencing. Attached is a schematic drawing of the anticipated project.

As a final note, while the above two projects are receiving most of our attention, we have not ignored our other long-range objectives. We continue to work closely with our elected officials to secure the required Congressional support for a land exchange project in the Johnson's Ranch area that would add substantial acreage to help interpret that vital phase of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. We are working with and supporting our partners' efforts with the Civil War Preservation Trust to take advantage of private land acquisitions as they become available. We are continuing to support long-term studies that will make the actual battlefield sites more accessible and visitor friendly, exploring alternatives and mitigation efforts for the existing State Highway 50 that goes through the middle of the Pigeon's Ranch battlefield site.

My thanks for your help and support. Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions on developments. For members and supporters who are not in New Mexico, please let me know if you plan to be out this way and would like to see the projects that you are supporting. We had a wonderful event here in Albuquerque on the weekend of August 18, in which we celebrated restoration of two of the Confederate cannons which were buried during the Texan retreat. The celebration involved the extended family of Trevanion Teel, the Confederate chief of artillery. A good time was had by all. We continue planning for events over the next twelve months which we hope our members, friends, and supporters can join us if they are in the area.

Respectfully,

James P. Houghton
President