Appendix A – Summary of Historic Resources

The text that follows is excerpted from the 1994 Management Action Plan for the Oil Heritage Region and has been updated to reflect changes that have taken place in the intervening period.

This narrative, with accompanying maps, provides an overview of key resources in the Oil Region National Heritage Area.

The initial pages provide a listing of National Register listed and NR eligible resources, based on information available from the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission.
PHMC National Register listed and eligible resources

Lists are provided for Venango and the portion of Crawford County within the Oil Region NHA boundary, with items highlighted in red that have been added in 1994 and later (e.g. – since the completion of the original Oil Heritage Region Management Plan).

See Figures A-1 and A-2.
Figure A-1: Venango County, Extant Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

**National Historic Landmarks**

Drake Oil Well, Cherrytree Township

**National Register Historic Districts**

- Emlenton Historic District
- Franklin Historic District
- Oil City Downtown Commercial National Register Historic District
- Oil City North Side National Register Historic District
- Oil City South Side National Register Historic District

**Properties individually listed in the National Register**

- Site of Pithole City, Cornplanter Township
- Samuel Dale House, 1409 Elk Street, Franklin
- National Transit Building & Annex, Oil City
- Oil City Armory, Oil City
- Oil City U.S. Post Office, 270 Seneca Street, Oil City
- Allegheny Baptist Church, Pleasantville Borough
- Pithole Stone Arch Bridge, President Township
- Rockland Furnace, Rockland Township

**Properties determined eligible for the National Register**

- Drake Well Memorial Park, Cherrytree Township
- Jersey Bridge, Cherrytree Township
- Oil Creek Railroad (Pennsylvania Railroad) East Line, Cherrytree Township
- Coal Oil Johnny’s House, Cornplanter Township
- Franklin Rolling Mill & Foundry, Franklin
- 513 15th Street, Franklin
- 206 11th Street, Franklin
- Clarion Secondary Railroad Sections 5, 6a, 6b, 6c, Multiple Municipalities - Sandy Creek to Van
- Christ Episcopal Church, Oil City
- Imperial Works of the Oil Well Supply, Oil City
- C.F. Kramer Building, Oil City
- National Transit Pump & Machine Company, Oil City
- United Natural Gas Company, Oil City
- Oil City Library, Oil City
- State School and Hospital, Polk Borough
- Belmar Bridge, Franklin & Clearfield Railroad, Rockland & Scrubgrass Township
- Indian God Rock Petroglyph, Rockland Township
- James Anderson House, Scrubgrass Township
Figure A–2: Crawford County (Titusville and Oil Creek Township), Extant Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places

National Register Historic Districts
Titusville Historic District

Properties individually listed in the National Register
Titusville City Hall

Properties determined eligible for the National Register
Titusville Waterworks, Oil Creek Township
Titusville Jr.-Sr. High School
Titusville U.S. Post Office
Titusville

Titusville, the birthplace of the Oil industry, still possesses a substantial community infrastructure of residential and institutional fabric and uses. Initially settled by Titus and Kerr, surveyors of the Holland Land Company, with the intent of establishing lumbering activity in northwestern Pennsylvania, Titusville has historically been considered a stable community. Even after Drake’s strike and the initial oil boom that brought chaotic fluctuations of settlement to the Oil Creek Valley, Titusville stood in stark contrast to boomtown settlements such as Pithole, which saw dramatic population inflows and subsequent decline. Throughout this period, Titusville was perceived as a community in which to settle and raise a family. Key resources in Titusville are shown on Figure A-3.

A strong base of church congregations and schools prevented the town from being overtaken by the “undesirable elements” that the oil boom produced. The arts flourished in Titusville, as it became host to drama and music, and home to noteworthy individuals such as Edwin Drake, Ida Tarbell and John Mather; houses of the latter two still remain. Titusville is characterized by its extant educational infrastructure including: Elm Street Elementary, the first public kindergarten; McKinney Hall, the original building of the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville; community institutions such as the YWCA; religious institutions, including St. James Memorial Episcopal Church, the oldest church building in continuous use, the First Presbyterian Church, the Presbyterian Home, and multiple extant congregations and structures; and public recreational facilities including Scheide, Pioneer, and Burgess Parks.

Today, Titusville still boasts an extensive collection of Victorian residential architecture and some streets that still feature brick that is the result of the wealth generated by the oil industry. These fully intact neighborhoods, with outstanding examples of residential and institutional architecture and streets that still featuring brick paving, lie to both the east and west of Franklin street to the north of the central business district. Titusville’s downtown is part of a National Register Historic District with several blocks of intact commercial architecture with excellent examples of commercial and institutional architecture, including the City Hall. In the past decade, the Colonel Drake Hotel within this district was demolished in favor of a pharmacy with parking in front, creating a discontinuity within this setting.

The transition between the commercial district and the area south of Main Street in the immediate vicinity of the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad Perry Street station has some extant industrial fabric, but also suffers from some discontinuities. Many of the historic structures from the Route 8 entry and below Central Avenue -- the city’s "west side" -- have been lost. This area was the traditional site of the city’s refineries and industrial district. Demolition began with the 1892 fire and flood and then was completed through post-war urban renewal efforts. The city’s "east side" is still an industrial environment, with the Titusville Opportunity Park occupying a vast amount of acreage along Oil Creek. A stone retaining wall and structure located near
the convergence of Central and Main Streets recalls the original plant structures. Toward the eastern entrance to the city, the TransPenn Wax factory sits on the site of the first refinery on Oil Creek in Titusville.
Titusville National Register Historic District

Other properties related to oil heritage:

A. Presbyterian Home, former John L. Emerson House
B. Sheide Park
C. St. James Memorial Episcopal Church
D. YWCA/former Hyde/Fertig House
E. First Presbyterian Church
F. Site of Col. Edwin L. Drake home
G. Ida M. Tarbell Home
H. Celia McMullen home “leading business woman”
I. University of Pittsburgh J.C. Bryan/Carter/McKinney Hall
J. John Mather House
K. Towne Square Building
L. Caboose Motel
M. Perry Street Visitors’ Center/OC & T RR Station
N. Woodlawn Cemetery

Figure A-3

Titusville National Register listed and eligible properties & other sites related to oil heritage

0'  2000'
Oil City

Oil City, once called the "Hub of Oildom," still has much of the architecture associated with the corporate infrastructure that made it the center of gravity of the oil industry at the height of the region’s national importance. Extant resources and settings from the city’s financial, commercial and transportation history are in strong evidence. Figure A-4 indicates key resources in Oil City.

Perhaps most significant are Standard Oil’s National Transit Building and Annex and the city’s prominent rail and auto bridges that span the Allegheny River and Oil Creek. Following the relocation of Quaker State to Texas the company’s headquarters, in the heart of Oil City, was sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and is occupied by PennDOT and the CareerLink. The former corporate headquarters for Pennzoil now serve as City Hall. Sites of former commercial and industrial concerns include the Oil City Boiler Works, Joseph Reid Gas Engine Works, and the former United Natural Gas Company Building, now the Greenmont Building. Oil City also has intact settings that portray the heritage of working families and their ethnic affiliations, particularly on the Northside, in the vicinity of Emerald and Pulaski Streets, and with prominent resources such as St. Joseph’s Roman Catholic Church, an important visual landmark for the city. Bissell Street in the vicinity of Harriot Avenue contains excellent examples of Victorian residential architecture, though the Southside has a greater concentration of outstanding residences.

The North Side, or business section, of Oil City has a substantially intact setting along Seneca and Elm Streets, with minor intrusions of large-scale development toward Duncomb Street. Contemporary buildings characterize the entry to the city via Route 8 from the north, until the Art Deco Drake Building/Theatre. The steel complex behind the Drake is a powerful setting in relationship to the Northside residential district. Proceeding up Seneca Street, the buildings in the vicinity of the Venango Museum are interrupted by contemporary retail development and a large-scale parking garage. Along Elm Street, a relocated early service station initiates the run of largely intake commercial buildings down to Center Street. The entry to the city from the south via Main and across the Center Street Bridge is powerful as it provides a good sense of the relationship of the river, the railroad, and the mercantile section of the city. The river and the creek are highly visible at the corner of Center and Seneca Streets, an important setting with the presence of the National Transit Building and Annex. At the same corner is the site of the first Oil Exchange, now known as Cornplanter Square. The historic character of the section near the State Street Bridge in the vicinity of the City Hall and Arlington Hotel has been very adversely impacted by urban renewal, with extensive large-scale development.

The South Side of Oil City retains substantial intact residential and institutional areas that provide evidence of the wealth that was generated in the city in its 19th century heyday and continuing into the early 20th century. The area, which sits on the banks of the Allegheny and arrays around Central Avenue, provides a setting in which to understand the physical and social patterns of the four villages that joined
to form this portion of Oil City. The residential district along First, Second and Third Streets between Wyllis and Petroleum Streets is largely intact, with additional contributing buildings up to Fifth Street and below First to the river. The residential area bounded by Front, Division, West Third and Central is largely intact with numerous excellent examples of late 19th and early 20th century residential architecture. Several of the residential streets feature brick paving. The Oil City Public Library and two historic churches make the vicinity of Central and West First Streets an important setting, though there are large scale and contemporary developments, such as the YMCA, in close proximity. This setting extends through the Commercial District and arrays itself around First Street down to Wilson. The residential area to the east of Central also contains intact settings of varying quality. Entering the South Side via the Petroleum Street and State Street bridges provide distinctly different impressions: the entry from Route 8 over the Petroleum Street bridge provides a cohesive neighborhood context; entry via the State Street bridge provides a commercial context, views of the river, and the site of the Third Ward Landings. However, the view from State Street bridge provides a more contemporary and less interesting landscape.

In the time since preparation of the 1994 Management Action Plan for the Oil Heritage Region, considerable effort has gone into adding some of these resources to the National Register of Historic Places, including the Oil City Downtown Commercial Historic District, the Oil City North Side Historic District, the Oil City South Side Historic District, and designation of the Oil City Library, on Central Avenue, as eligible for National Register listing. Additionally, public entities have collaborated to achieve substantial rehabilitation of the National Transit Building as a center for community organizations and related uses, preserving what is arguably the most significant structure in the community, due to its association with John D. Rockefeller.
Figure A-4

Oil City

National Register listed and eligible properties & other sites related to oil heritage

0' 2000'

Oil City Downtown Commercial National Register Historic District

Oil City North Side National Register Historic District

Oil City South Side National Register Historic District

United Natural Gas Company (NR Eligible)

Oil City U.S. Post Office (currently Venango Museum) 270 Seneca Street (NR)

C.F. Kramer, Bldg (NR Eligible)

Oil City Library (NR Eligible)

Christ Episcopal Church (NR Eligible)

Oil City Armory (NR)

National Transit Building and Annex (NR)

National Transit Pump & Machine Company (NR Eligible)

Imperial Works of the Oil Well Supply (NR Eligible)

Other properties related to oil heritage:

A. Webo Industries, Inc. (former Oil City boiler works)
B. Former sites of Joseph Reid gas engine works - 2 sites
C. Railroad tunnel
D. Site for early incline railway to the top of Clark Summit
E. Early service station relocated to serve as visitor center
F. Site of early oil buyers' offices (pre-Standard Oil)
G. Jacob Vandergrift Historic Marker
H. 1860s Boat Landings
I. Sively Neighborhood of Workers Housing
J. Hasson Cemetery
K. Drake Theatre
Franklin

Franklin, the former frontier of the region, still possesses the political infrastructure that has made it strategically and politically important. Franklin’s strategic role is conveyed by its setting at the confluence of French Creek and the Allegheny River, prompting the construction of four colonial forts - the French built Fort Machault at 6th and Elk and the British built Fort Venango, also at 6th and Elk, and Fort Franklin at the corner of 13th and Franklin Ave. at French Creek. This latter site is now developed as a park. The remains of the last fort, built by the United States, and known as the "Old Garrison" are on the banks of the River at the base of 10th street in an intact residential setting. The Franklin line of the French Creek Feeder Canal, which originally extended over 22 miles to Meadville, also speaks of the city’s strategic importance.

The city’s elegant layout, conceived by Andrew Ellicott and inspired by L’Enfant’s plan for Washington D.C., includes broad, well planted boulevards and axial streets which provide dramatic view corridors punctuated by powerful architecture. Complementing the plan are impressive government structures, most notably the signature brick Italianate Venango County Courthouse and the Romanesque Venango County Jail. Figure A-5 indicates key resources in Franklin.

Franklin’s National Register Historic District is perhaps the most impressive in the region, including 35 blocks of the downtown area and approximately 200 structures. This district is a clear manifestation of the wealth that was generated through the oil industry, particularly in areas such as Miller Park and in the large Victorian Mansions that line Liberty and Elk Streets. The entry into the city via Route 8 from the south provides a sense of the relationship of the city to the natural landscape. The dramatic topographic drop into the city provides views of the hills and the valley in which Franklin is set. Historic residential structures in Franklin span an entire century from 1830 to 1930, representing a wide range of styles with exceptional examples of Victorian architecture, including Italianate, Second Empire, Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Residential neighborhoods clustered along Liberty and Elk Streets provide large areas of intact residential settings with a distinct character.

Franklin has a number of powerful settings, particularly along Route 8 (15th and Liberty Streets) as it travels through the city. Liberty Street provides a sequence of intact settings, with minor contemporary intrusions, such as the Quality Inn and some contemporary development at the corner of 13th street. The residential district extends back off of Liberty Street for several blocks. Pioneer Cemetery, site of the oldest graves in the City, sits at 15th and Otter Streets within the residential setting. The blocks between 13th and 12th Streets feature a very well secured commercial and retail district with some larger scale incompatible structures along 13th Street.

West Park, featuring the Civil War Monument, the Egbert Memorial Fountain, and the Courthouse provide another intact setting. Adjacent to the Courthouse within this setting are the Venango County Historical Society building, the oldest home in
the city, and the former Galena Signal Oil Company Headquarters, which has been rehabilitated for residential and office use and is now known as the Galena-Dockery Building. The city’s Third Ward across French Creek has a relatively intact residential setting with modest scale worker housing and institutional and commercial structures. Two structures that were associated with the Galena Signal Oil Company are located along Atlantic Avenue. The entry to the city from the north via Routes 8 and 62 reveals lost fabric and larger retail development. The setting directly on the Creek is largely industrial, featuring the city’s industrial incubator project and the former U.S. Steel plant, now Franklin Industries, along French Creek.
Other properties related to oil heritage:

A. Venango County Courthouse
B. Civil War monument
C. Egbert Memorial Fountain
D. Venango County Historical Society building
E. Mrs. Webber’s rooming house, where John Wilkes Booth stayed
F. Pioneer Cemetery
G. Ft. Franklin site marker
H. Johnny Appleseed (John Chapman) marker
I. Armory (antique mall)/Wild West Museum
J. Ft. Machault site
K. Diamond well site
L. Ft. Machault marker/Ft. Venango marker
M. Galena Signal Oil Company headquarters
N. Old Garrison marker
O. Old Garrison site
P. St. John’s Episcopal Church
Q. Galena Signal oil refinery
R. Former railroad station
S. Hildegarde Dolson Home
T. Analie Refinery
U. Third Ward Neighborhood of Workers’ Housing
V. General Miller’s home
Emlenton

Emlenton, nestled at a bend in the Allegheny River, still possesses the beautiful natural setting, extensive natural resources, and cohesive community setting which made it an important center of trade and production in support of the Oil industry. The borough’s relationship to the River provides a clear understanding of dependence of the settlement and its industry to the natural setting. The proximity to waterpower and vast supplies of lumber gave birth to the region’s iron industry - concentrated in Cranberry and Rockland Townships. Eventually, this industry came to serve the demands of the ever-growing oil industry, its raw materials flowing to final production at Emlenton. The borough’s mills, foundries and machine shops transformed these raw materials into the tools and well equipment that sustained the region’s oil production.

Emlenton soon became home to many wealthy industrialists and entrepreneurs, such as the Crawford family, who are credited with the progressive development of the area’s natural gas industry. This contained industrial culture nurtured the thirteen firms from which Quaker State Corporation was born, although the company has ceased its operations within the region. Figure A-6 shows key resources in Emlenton.

Today Emlenton maintains its strong association to the river and its natural setting. The borough is a popular vacation destination, with river based "camps", bed & breakfasts, canoeing, fishing and biking/hiking trails and parkland along River Street. Emlenton arrays itself along the Allegheny in a compact and cohesive setting. Its built environment, limited by its dramatic topographic setting, makes the community easily understandable. Entry into Emlenton via 38/208 traverses lovely natural and rural settings. Descending the hill into Emlenton and onto Main Street introduces a relatively intact historic fabric, with the Old Emlenton Mill to one side. The intact district proceeds down Main Street through a small retail/commercial district with a good collection of frame and brick commercial structures. Landmarks along Main Street include the classical Farmers National Bank building and the sites of a number of former residential, commercial and industrial concerns, including the first foundry in Emlenton and the Crawford house. Continuing down Main Street past the waterworks leads to the gate of the PetroWax plant, site of the original Quaker State Refinery. The former refinery and the adjacent worker housing known as Irish Town were closely related. Efforts are now underway to extend the regional trail along the Allegheny through the former refinery, achieving connection between Emlenton and Oil City, upriver.

Entering the city from 1-80 via the 5th Street Bridge affords a good vantage of the entire borough and its setting, but also exposes views of parking lots and incompatible contemporary development at the corner of 5th and Main Street. Proceeding up 5th Street at Hill Street is an interesting setting with a park and extant structures on all corners, including a Fire House and a former School, now converted to the Crawford Center, a multi-purpose building which includes exhibits on the oil industry as well as the Pumping Jack Museum. Several residential areas
march up the hill along Kerr Street, some with elaborate Greek Revival and Victorian architecture, others more modest. The home of H.J. Crawford sits at the corner of Hill and Seventh Streets, number 619. The Emlenton National Register Historic District, including many of the above resources, was designated in 1997.
Other properties related to oil heritage:

A. Site of early Emlenton business/Site of Joseph Weller home
B. Site of J.C. Porterfield and Co.
C. Site of early hotels
D. Site of Truby Warehouse
E. Earliest business section of Emlenton
F. Site of Emlenton planing mill, first site of Emlenton Presbyterian church
G. Site of Emlenton's early newspapers
H. Site J.C. Porterfield House
I. Site of first foundry in Emlenton
J. Pumping Jack Museum, Crawford Center
K. Site of Crawford House, Grand Hotel, stores, and Emlenton theatre
L. Site of historic Main Street homes and shops
M. Site of Maron House (best hotel in Emlenton)
N. Site of businesses, oil tanks, steam engines, iron works, woolen mill, livery stable, machine shop (standing)
O. Former Quaker State Refinery
P. Mineral Spring Park - Site of Crawford Well #1

Figure A-6
Emlenton
National Register listed and eligible properties & other sites related to oil heritage
Other Sites Related to the Oil Industry

The remnants of the oil industry are evident across the region. Sites of former boom settlements, oil farms, and inactive oil fields provide palpable reminders of ways of life and work in the region. The majority of these sites are located in the Oil Creek Valley, where there are areas of concentrated historic and cultural resources. However, such sites exist throughout the region. A survey of publications identified nine categories of these resources: historic remains, existing rigs, sites of famous wells, oil drilling equipment, collections of artifacts, archaeological sites (oil pits), oil boom settlements and farms, active oil leases, and refineries.

3.1 Historic Remains

A map of oil field resources, included in the 1994 Plan historic resource inventory, identified a number of sites which contain historic remains from the oil industry, from farmhouses to well site structures. Several hold greater interpretive potential, based on their proximity to concentrations of other resources and their accessibility, including the Brewer, Watson & Co. Lower Mill and the Pond Freshet Dam which is located within the Oil Creek State Park and along the route of the OC&T Railroad.

3.2 Oil Boom Settlements and Farms

In addition to Pithole, there are several sites of former settlements that also have a clustering of historic and cultural resources, from historic remains to the sites of famous wells. They are also accessible via the Oil Creek and Titusville Railroad. To be included: Petroleum Centre, currently managed by the State as part of Oil Creek State Park. This site is located at the center of the park and is highly accessible via road and the OC&T Railroad. Other sites include: (1) Wildcat Hollow, in close proximity to Petroleum Centre, which includes historic remains and the operating Dalzell lease, both with interpretive potential; (2) Miller Farm and the terminus/path of the Van Syckel Pipeline which connects it to Pithole; (3) Rynd Farm which is the current terminus of the OC&T RR and is on the proposed pedestrian/bicycle path and now includes Coal Oil Johnny’s home which was relocated to a site near the rail terminus.

3.3 Refineries

Although Pennzoil’s Rouseville Refinery was active in 1994 when the Management Plan was prepared, operations there have ceased and the facilities have been demolished or removed. Former refinery sites in both Titusville (TransPenn Wax) and Emlenton (PetroWax) also offer interpretive opportunities. The former Wolf’s Head/Atlantic Refinery, now the Bareco packaging plant, is presently inactive and owned by Calumet. Sites of other former refinery sites are identified throughout the region.

3.4 Operating Leases
The region has a number of operating oil leases which have been in continuous operation since the region's boom days. These include the Beck and Baily Oil Leases in Pleasantville, Dalzell lease, operated by Charley Straub, and the Old Rynd Lease, which are in the vicinity of Petroleum Centre and Rynd Farm. Closer to Rouseville are the McClintock Lease and the Wallace Lease, operated by Donald Taylor, who inherited the lease from his father. The Drake Well Museum has, within its extensive collection of oral and video histories, documentation of all of these leases and conversations with their operators. The interpretive and educational value of these leases could be great if integrated in the overall Heritage Park program; however, they remain privately held, and any further discussion about their role would have to include the owners and operators.
Appendix B

Environmental Assessment
## Contents

1. **Purpose and Need** ........................................................................................................... 4  
   1.1. Introduction ................................................................................................................. 4  
   1.2. Project Location ......................................................................................................... 4  
   1.3. Background ............................................................................................................... 4  
   1.4. Purpose ..................................................................................................................... 5  
   1.5. Governing Regulations ............................................................................................ 5  
   1.6. Relationship to Other Planning Efforts ....................................................................... 7  
   1.7. Need .......................................................................................................................... 9  
   1.8. Environmental Assessment Scoping Issues ............................................................... 9  
   1.9. Impact Topics Retained for Further Analysis and Dismissed from Analysis .......... 10  

2. **Alternatives** .................................................................................................................. 11  
   2.1. Introduction ............................................................................................................... 11  
   2.2. Alternative 1 – No Federal Action (Retain Current Management Plan) ...................... 11  
   2.2.1. Recreation Elements of this Alternative .................................................................. 11  
   2.2.2. Interpretation Elements of this Alternative ............................................................ 12  
   2.2.3. Other Elements of the 2004 Update incorporated into Alternative 1 ..................... 12  
   2.3. Assumptions Common to All Action Alternatives .................................................... 13  
   2.4. Alternative 2 – Modify Current Plan to Expand Preservation and Economic Development Program to Address Opportunities Across the Region ........................................ 13  
   2.5. Alternative 3 – Modify Current Plan to Focus Preservation and Economic Development Activities on Historic District Communities and Corridors Linking Them ............. 14  
   2.6. Summary of Environmental Consequences and Benefits of the Alternatives .......... 15  
   2.7. Preferred Alternative ............................................................................................... 15  

3. **Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences** ........................................... 22  
   3.1. Introduction ............................................................................................................... 22  
   3.2. Summary of Key Differences Among the Alternatives ............................................. 22  
   3.3. Methodology for Assessing Impacts and Determining the Need for Impact Mitigation ............................................................................................................................................. 23  
   3.4. Natural Resources .................................................................................................... 24  
   3.4.1. Land Form and Physiography .................................................................................. 24  
   3.4.2. Water Resources ................................................................................................... 24  
   3.4.3. Air Quality ............................................................................................................. 26  
   3.4.4. Vegetation and Endangered Plant Species .............................................................. 27  
   3.4.5. Fish, Wildlife, and Endangered Animal Species ................................................... 28  
   3.4.6. Open Space and Recreation Resources .................................................................. 33  
   3.5. Socio-economic Resources ....................................................................................... 40  
   3.5.1. Area Demographics ............................................................................................. 40  
   3.5.2. Tourism and the Visitor Experience ...................................................................... 42  
   3.5.3. Land Use .............................................................................................................. 44  
   3.5.4. Transportation .................................................................................................... 46
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.6.</td>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.1.</td>
<td>Historic Resources</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.2.</td>
<td>Archeological Resources</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.6.3.</td>
<td>Other Cultural Resources</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.7.</td>
<td>Environmental Justice</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.8.</td>
<td>Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.9.</td>
<td>Relationship between the local short-term use of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.10.</td>
<td>Energy Requirements and Conservation Potential</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.11.</td>
<td>Secondary and Cumulative Impacts</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.12.</td>
<td>Unavoidable Adverse Impacts</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Consultation and Coordination</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.1.</td>
<td>Planning process</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.2.</td>
<td>Agency contacts</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Preparers</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.1.</td>
<td>Consultant Team</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.2.</td>
<td>Client</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Bibliography</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Figures

Figure 1: Alternative 1 - No Federal Action: Recreation Elements (Retain Current Management Plan)........................................................................................................18

Figure 2: Alternative 1 - No Federal Action: Interpretation Elements (Retain Current Management Plan)........................................................................................................19

Figure 3: Alternative 2 - Modify Current Plan to Expand Preservation and Economic Development Program to Address Opportunities Across the Region..............................20

Figure 4: Alternative 3 - Modify Current Plan to Focus Preservation and Economic Development Activities on Historic District Communities and Corridors Linking Them21

Figure 5: Existing Land Based Recreational Resources .........................................................36

Figure 6: Existing Water Based Recreational Resources........................................................37

Figure 7: Oil Creek State Park - Existing Land Based Recreational Resources ..................38

Figure 8: Two Mile Run County Park - Existing Recreational Resources ...........................39

Figure 9: National Register Sites and Districts ......................................................................51

Figure 10: Cultural Sites of Interest.......................................................................................55

List of Tables

Table 1: Summary of Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives ........................................17

Table 2: Plant Species List for the ORNHA from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Database ..................................................................................................................29

Table 3: Species List for the ORNHA from the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program Database ..........................................................................................................................30

Table 4: Basic Rank Codes and Definitions for Global, State, and Pennsylvania Status Listings for Plants, Mammals, Wild Birds, Fish, Amphibians, Reptiles, and Aquatic Organisms.31

Table 5: Pennsylvania Species listed in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Threatened and Endangered Species System ...........................................................................................................32

Table 6: Properties listed in or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places ................................................................................................................................................................50
1. Purpose and Need

1.1. Introduction

In 2004 the U.S. Congress enacted legislation to create the Oil Region National Heritage Area to recognize the historic, cultural and natural resources of this part of Northwestern Pennsylvania and their importance to the nation’s history. This region bears the imprint of the oil industry: from the town centers that were developed with oil profits to the oil leases and equipment that dot the landscape and are often plainly visible from the road. The Oil Region has functioned as a Pennsylvania State Heritage Area since 1994 and has an active cadre of individuals and organizations committed to the preservation, promotion, development and support of destinations within the Oil Region, interpretation of the themes of the region’s unique history at a variety of sites, as well as advancing quality of life improvements for its residents through increased activity in the region.

In order to take advantage of National Heritage Area (NHA) designation, the Oil Region’s current Management Plan must be updated to accommodate changes appropriate to the NHA status and the Secretary of the Interior must accept the plan. This Environmental Assessment has been prepared to consider the environmental impacts of such federal action, in compliance with relevant federal guidelines.

1.2. Project Location

The Oil Heritage Region includes 708 square miles that in 2000 had 65,591 residents in 33 municipalities. The area encompasses all of Venango County, plus the City of Titusville and Oil Creek Township in eastern Crawford County in rural northwestern Pennsylvania. The story of oil is interpreted in many venues, ranging from the state-operated Drake Well Museum, a National Historic Landmark on the site where the initial well was drilled, to small locally managed museums and collections. The area has a dramatic natural landscape oriented to the Allegheny River and its tributaries, including the Oil Creek Valley, the locus of “oil fever” in the second half of the 19th century.

1.3. Background

The initial plan for the Oil Heritage Region was prepared in 1994 (more commonly referred to as the Management Action Plan for the Oil Heritage Region) by a consulting team assembled by Lane, Frenchman and Associates, Inc. in collaboration with the Oil Region Heritage Park Council, County of Venango, and the State Heritage Park Interagency Taskforce. Since then, the Oil Heritage Region has incorporated, was classified by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, and has carried out or is midway through detailed planning of many of the studies and projects recommended in the 1994 Management Action Plan (MAP).

In 1998, the “Interpretive Prospectus for the Oil Heritage Region” was prepared by a consultant team assembled by Christopher Chadbourne and Associates in collaboration with the OHR, Inc. Board of Directors in order to provide an expanded interpretive framework and more detailed plans for the various interpretive projects and venues in “the valley that changed the world.”

In 2004, a major Update to the OHR MAP was prepared for the Oil Heritage Region, Inc. and its successor organization, the Oil Region Alliance, by ICON architecture, inc. Almost immediately following the completion of the 2004 Plan Update, the U.S. Congress designated
the Oil Region as a National Heritage Area, bringing some important new opportunities to the region, but also requiring some augmentation to its Plan to comply with federal requirements and to reflect its larger importance and potentials.

1.4. Purpose
The purpose of the Environmental Assessment is to evaluate the probable impacts of the proposed future actions recommended by the augmented plan. The Oil Region Alliance (ORA) is submitting the prior plans plus an augmentation to these documents, accompanied by this Environmental Assessment, for review and approval by the Secretary of the Interior and the Governor of Pennsylvania. The proposed federal action authorized by the Act is the Secretary’s review and approval of the plan, enabling a continued flow of federal funds and/or technical assistance pursuant to the approved plan.

1.5. Governing Regulations
Requirements of Public Law 108-447 establishing ORNHA

The legislation creating the ORNHA has several key requirements that must be met in this Plan Augmentation. In this section, the 1994 Plan, as modified by the 2004 Update, and as further augmented by the 2006 Plan Augmentation, are referred to collectively as the ORNHA Plan.

The ORNHA Plan must comply with procedural requirement of the National Park Service (NPS), must respond to specific requirements defined in Public Law 108-447 (also known as the Oil Region National Heritage Area Act or the “Act”), and must incorporate an Environmental Assessment that complies with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The broad purpose of the “Act” is to “. . . enhance a cooperative management framework to assist the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, its units of local government, and area citizens in conserving, enhancing, and interpreting the significant features of the lands, water, and structures of the Oil Region, in a manner consistent with compatible economic development for the benefit and inspiration of present and future generations in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the United States.”

The Act requires that the ORNHA Management Entity (ORA) produce a Management Plan that:

(1) Presents comprehensive strategies and recommendations for conservation, funding, management, and development of the Heritage Area;
(2) Takes into consideration existing state, county, and local plans and involves residents, public agencies, and private organizations working in the Heritage Area;
(3) Includes a description of actions that units of government and private organizations have agreed to take to protect the resources of the Heritage Area;

1 The text in this section is largely excerpted from a report commissioned by the National Park Service in 2000 that recommended support for designation of the Oil Heritage Region as a National Heritage Area.

2 Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, August 13, 2004
(4) Specifies the existing and potential sources of funding to protect, manage, and develop the Heritage Area;

(5) Includes an inventory of the resources contained in the Heritage Area, including a list of any property in the Heritage Area that is related to the themes of the Heritage Area and that should be preserved, restored, managed, developed, or maintained because of its natural, cultural, historic, recreational, or scenic significance;

(6) Describes a program for implementation of the management plan by the management entity, including plans for restoration and construction, and specific commitments for implementation that have been made by the management entity and any other persons for the first 5 years of implementation;

(7) Lists any revisions to the boundaries of the Heritage Area proposed by the management entity and requested by the affected local government; and

(8) Includes an interpretation plan for the Heritage Area.

The Act specifies that “. . . the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Governor of Pennsylvania, shall approve or disapprove such management plan not later than 90 days after receiving such plan. In approving the plan, the Secretary shall take into consideration the following criteria:

- The extent to which the management plan adequately preserves and protects the natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Heritage Area.
- The level of public participation in the development of the management plan.
- The extent to which the board of directors of the management entity is representative of the local government and a wide range of interested organizations and citizens.”

The substantial planning and implementation work that has been recently completed within the Oil Region over the last dozen years has addressed many of these concerns. The key topics that must be addressed in the Plan Augmentation include: (1) a definition of key resources, updating the information from the 1994 Plan; (2) amplification of the preservation element of the plan, building on the 1994 Plan and associated implementation actions since that time; (3) expansion of the partnership elements of the 2004 Plan, recognizing the potential for new partners with federal recognition and the relatively recent formation of the Oil Region Alliance (see Section 2.3), and; (4) adaptation of the action agenda, costs, and phasing of the 2004 Plan to reflect several significant changes since its completion as well as any changes necessitated by items (1) through (3).

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321-4347)**

This law requires the consideration of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of all federally funded projects. All federal agencies are required to prepare detailed studies of impacts and alternatives to large actions by the federal government. NEPA also requires that the interested and affected public be involved in the study process before decisions are made. This Environmental Assessment has been prepared under NEPA guidelines to determine if the proposal has the potential for significant impacts, and is expected to lead to the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).
Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470)
This section requires that federal agencies with direct or indirect jurisdiction over a federal, federally assisted, or federally licensed undertaking afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the state Historic Preservation Office a reasonable opportunity to comment on undertakings that affect properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places before the agency’s approval of such an action.

National Park Service (NPS) Director’s Order 2: Park Planning (1998)
This guidance describes the decision-making process that results in the goals and actions for the national park system and those units of the national trails system administered by the National Park Service.

This act requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Services on any federal action that may affect endangered or threatened species or candidate species, or may result in adverse modifications of critical habitat.

Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 regarding Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection
These orders direct the NPS to avoid, to the extent possible, the long-and short-term adverse impacts associated with modifying or occupying floodplains and wetlands. The orders also direct the NPS to avoid direct or indirect support of floodplain or wetland development whenever there is a practicable alternative.

Executive Order 12898 regarding Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations
This order directs federal agencies to assess whether their actions have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.

The AHPA addresses impacts to archaeological and historic resources by federal dam construction or any alteration of the terrain caused as a result of any federal construction project or federally licensed activity or program. The act directs federal agencies to notify the Secretary of the Interior when they find that a federal or federally assisted, licensed, or permitted project may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, prehistoric or archaeological data.

1.6. Relationship to Other Planning Efforts
The Oil Region Heritage Area has been a designated Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Heritage Area for a dozen years; the boundary of this area is identical to that established with the designation of the ORNHA. County, state, and municipal entities are all represented on the Board of ORA and on the Heritage Advisory Council, whose members are noted on the credits of this plan and whose functions are described in Section 4.1.1, below. Regional and local planning initiatives are well coordinated with the ORNHA because of this overlap and include the following:

• ORA Work Plan (2006 and ongoing) – ORA’s economic development group is placing significant emphasis on attracting new industry and supporting existing
businesses across the region. In the heritage group of ORA, several significant projects are underway, with assistance from the state as well as from private and other public sources, including several preservation initiatives (see Chapter 5) and improvement to recreational trails and resources, including interpretation. The Route 8 & 62 Corridor Project is an initiative that could cross-cut economic development and preservation, including an analysis of multiple buildings along a corridor including Franklin and Oil City and prototype proposals to encourage private owners to undertake adaptive reuse. The entity is undertaking a cooperative marketing plan to increase and supplement tourism, including a branding effort to increase the visibility of ORA and ORNHA.

- **Drake Well Museum (DWM) rehabilitation plan** (ongoing) – In compliance with the 2004 Plan, but fulfilling a long-intended desire of the state, planning and design is underway for a multi-million dollar expansion and rehabilitation of the exhibits and museum facility at DWM. This effort will incorporate proposals of the 2004 Plan to increase boomtown interpretation at this major regional destination, ranked 7th in visitation out of the 26 sites and museums that PHMC administers.

- **Venango County Comprehensive Plan (2004)** – This plan was undertaken by the county and deals with large scale infrastructure (water, sewer, and transportation), general land use, housing needs, community facilities, and the inter-relationships of the multiple entities engaged with these services and/or facilities. The key actors are the Venango County Commissioners and the Venango County Planning Commission; the plan is consistent to the maximum extent possible with the existing municipal planning documents. The plan recognizes the role of ORA in dealing with industrial and business development, preservation, and several of its other recommendations. The plan explicitly supports the implementation of the Oil Heritage Region’s Management Action Plan to more fully utilize cultural resources in the county as an economic development resource.

- **Crawford County Comprehensive Plan (2005)** – This plan, recently updated from a 2000 version, has a similar topical coverage to the Venango County Comprehensive Plan, but proposes a preferred land use pattern that emphasizes a “centers” concept that encourages more concentrated development in order to reduce sprawl and strip development, encourage community formation, coordinated land use and services development, and conservation of open space. As Titusville and Oil Creek Township (the only parts of Crawford County within the boundary of the ORNHA) are located at the southeastern corner of the county, no specific recommendations are included in this broad document that deal with ORNHA, excepting a call for coordinated inter-governmental action and coordination with adjacent jurisdictions.

- **Oil Creek Region Comprehensive Plan (2000)** – This plan was prepared by a common effort of the City of Titusville, the Boroughs of Centerville, Hydetown, and Pleasantville, and the Townships of Allegheny, Cherrytree, Oil Creek (Crawford County), Oil Creek (Venango County), and Southwest. This group includes portions of Crawford, Venango, and Warren Counties and partially overlaps with the boundary of the ORNHA. The intent was to undertake coordinated planning for communities that share a set of resources that are centered on Titusville (which has approximately half the population of the study area) and to encourage cooperative action from the many municipal and special purpose entities within this area. Oil Creek, Route 8, and
railroad connections link these areas and are topics of common concern. The plan generally supports the improvements proposed to DWM, encourages more effective historic preservation and related ordinances, supports rehabilitation of historic properties in Titusville, and incorporates reference to the recreational and regional bike trail linkages referred to in the OHR Management Plan Update.

- **River Management Plan (1996) --** This plan was prepared by the Allegheny National Forest within the U.S. Department of Agriculture with extensive public input prior to its adoption. Three distinct sections of the Allegheny River are officially classified as “Recreational,” which is defined as areas “that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment in the past (U.S.P.L. 90-542, 1968).” The two recreational segments located within the Oil Region are from Franklin downstream to the former refinery at Emlenton, a 32-mile stretch; and from Alcorn Island just north/upstream of Oil City proceeding upriver to the Hunters Station Bridge at the Forest/Venango County line, a river distance of approximately 7 miles. The plan explicitly supports the implementation of the Oil Heritage Region’s Management Action Plan and identifies possible project partners for specific endeavors ranging from river safety improvements to increased public recreational access, to cultural preservation of historic sites and oil artifacts, to promotion of river resources.

Other concurrent planning activities in process include: (1) study of a possible white water installation along the Oil Creek in Oil City; (2) downtown marketing strategies for Oil City and Franklin; (3) potential reuse of the former Rouseville refinery property for a bio-diesel plant; (4) expansion of the regional recreational trail system by a combination of non-profit and public entities; and (5) various improvements to the OC & T RR rolling stock and facilities.

1.7. **Need**

The plan update will enable ORA to strengthen its capacity to carry out the activities mandated in the 2004 Act. Submission of the plan for review by the Secretary of the Interior will allow ORA continued access to federal heritage support funding until fifteen years after the initial provision of federal funds to ORA under the Act.

1.8. **Environmental Assessment Scoping Issues**

On December 14, 2005, ORA staff hosted a public meeting at Parish Hall, Christ Episcopal Church, in Oil City, Pennsylvania at which staff from ICON presented the work plan for the Management Action Plan Augmentation for the Oil Region NHA and solicited comments to identify environmental issues of concern that should be addressed in the Environmental Assessment. Over the course of the meeting, citizens shared ideas about the preservation and partnership aspects of the Plan Augmentation and identified three environmental topics of concern:

- Riparian zones on rivers & creeks – a concern was expressed about protection of water quality. The concern was for projects that adjoin rivers and/or creeks to insure that proper methods to protect the environment are used. These might include erosion control, protection of water quality from run-off, and adherence to any state permit requirements.
• Landscape preservation – a concern was expressed that landscape quality along riverfronts be protected, as well as visual character of ridgelines to protect views from intrusion from inappropriate structures, such as cell towers.

• Public access to key resources – a concern was expressed that public access be maintained particularly along edges of area rivers and water bodies.

1.9. Impact Topics Retained for Further Analysis and Dismissed from Analysis

The Oil Heritage Region has been in the process of implementing its plans for over ten years; during that time, there have been a number of implicit concerns expressed by citizens, including preservation of key resources, encouragement of positive economic development, and reinforcement of existing cities and towns across the region. In general, the plans and development projects resulting from this ongoing heritage planning process have been well received with few, if any, environmental concerns expressed about implemented projects. This Plan Augmentation is the first effort requiring an environmental assessment, so there is not a long history on topics of concern.

Further, as a broad-based Plan Augmentation dealing with many efforts that are already underway, the actions immediately specified in document are general and programmatic in nature, meaning that specific project based impacts at a site level cannot at this point be determined at this time. Further, only three environmental topics were touched upon in the scoping meeting of December 14, 2005. Accordingly, this document takes a broad brush and inclusive approach to environmental assessment topics, without removing any such topics from consideration at this time.
2. Alternatives

2.1. Introduction

The alternatives described in this Section take the recent 2004 Management Plan Update for the Oil Region as a point of departure. Three alternatives are proposed, including a “No Action” approach that assumes that the federal government does not take the action to approve a revised Management Plan. The purpose of the No Action option is principally to provide a basis of comparison to which the action alternatives can be compared. The social, economic, and environmental impacts of the three alternatives are compared in the Environmental Assessment at a broad conceptual level commensurate with the scale of the actions defined in the Management Plan.

2.2. Alternative 1 – No Federal Action (Retain Current Management Plan)

In this alternative, the existing Management Plan would be unchanged without further response to the requirements of the Oil Region National Heritage Act. If elements of the Management Plan are not developed to respond to the Oil Region NHA Act, further federal funds for coordination, interpretation, preservation, and development purposes will be doubtful. Despite taking no federal action, this alternative would include considerable action by non-federal entities – the state, region, localities, private entities, and ORA – to follow through on implementation of the 2004 Plan Update recommendations. This cooperation would be consistent with what has taken place over the last decade. Key aspects of this alternative include:

- No further Department of the Interior federal funding support would be assumed.
- Funds external to ORA would have to be sought from the same types of sources that have been used in the Oil Region in the past.
- ORA will continue to coordinate implementation through conventional sources, and the existing partnership arrangements in the region would continue.
- The action agenda as defined in the 2004 Plan Update would remain unchanged except that, in this option, the Weaver Building implementation elements would be removed from the program, eliminating a significant new attraction in Oil City as well as projected costs of over $5.4 million.
- This alternative, described in depth in the 2004 Management Plan Update, includes significant improvement actions regarding recreation, interpretation, and accommodations in the region.

2.2.1. Recreation Elements of this Alternative

The 2004 Management Plan Update recommended an ambitious program of recreational trail and facility improvements, intended to strengthen regional linkages and to enable cross-marketing of heritage resources to the significant number of visitors drawn to the region’s excellent recreational attractions. Key recommendations of the Update that would remain part of this Alternative, as shown in Figure 1, include:
• **Continued expansion of the recreational trail system.** The highest priority actions of the Update were completion of the trail gaps between Petroleum Centre and Oil City and the trail connection to Emlenton, which will require agreements to traverse the former Rouseville and Emlenton refinery sites. Additionally, the Update recommended extended connections of the trail system to activity centers at the edges of the OHR boundary and beyond, including linkages to Spartansburg in Crawford County, Clarion County, Mercer County, along the Allegheny River, and to Foxburg. Another element of the trail system was the addition of spur trails to connect to destinations, such as Two Mile Run County Park, area downtowns, and other destinations of interest. In combination, trail completions, extensions, and spurs could add as many as 100 miles of additional trails over time, and should be supplemented with trailheads, support services, and scenic overlooks.

• **Improvements to enable more intensive use of the Allegheny River for boating and fishing.** These improvements included additional river access points in Emlenton, Kennerdell, and Oil City and new community castways in core communities to expand recreational opportunities close to existing centers of population and recreational activity.

2.2.2. Interpretation Elements of this Alternative
The emphasis of the 2004 Plan Update was to build upon the strengths of these core attractions and to build linkages among attractions in the region, including the following major recommendations that would remain part of Alternative 1, as shown in Figure 2:

• **At Drake Well Museum,** large-scale changes to improve interpretation were recommended and are being implemented by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. These will include a Boomtown installation within the museum, reorganization of exhibits, a new audio-visual experience, and supplemental site interpretation.

• **Enhancement of other core interpretive sites** with supplemental exhibits, audio interpretation, and supplementary guide materials, including Rynd Farm, Perry Street Station, the Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad, the Petroleum Centre area, and Oil Creek State Park. Relatively modest cost improvements at each of these venues could improve the visitor experience and take advantage of the inherent quality of these sites and their existing interpretation.

• **A feasibility study is recommended for a natural gas museum or exhibit.** The collection of artifacts from the United Natural Gas Company offers significant interpretive potential, and the study will determine the most effective approach to develop exhibits and archives for these resources.

Additionally, the 2004 Update recommended strengthening the **brand and identity of the region** and expanded regional signage.

2.2.3. Other Elements of the 2004 Update incorporated into Alternative 1
The 2004 Update considered several other actions that should be considered part of Alternative 1. These included: (1) a feasibility study for supplemental archive space in the region; (2) a series of measures to interpret the Boomtown history of the region; (3) creation of an accommodations initiative for specialty accommodations to increase the region’s supply
by approximately 60%, including technical and financial assistance; (4) a broadly defined, unspecified grant program for preservation and educational projects, and (4) management support for the foregoing activities.

2.3. Assumptions Common to All Action Alternatives

In comparison to many other National Heritage Areas that have prepared Management Plans, the Oil Region starts with a relatively recent Plan Update (2004) and a twelve-year history of effective planning and resource analysis, going back to the first Plan for the state heritage park in 1994. Moreover, the Oil Region has implemented many recommendations from these predecessor plans in a systematic way, due to the leadership of Oil Heritage Region, Inc. (OHR) and its recent successor, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism. (ORA)

The following assumptions apply to the action alternatives (Alternatives 2 and 3, below) in the Plan Augmentation:

1. ORA will continue to increase its effectiveness in integrating heritage planning and implementation with economic development and tourist support activities and programs.

2. Federal funding from the Department of the Interior will be provided over time, up to limits defined in Public Law 108-447 (the “Oil Region National Heritage Area Act”).

3. The following key recommendations of the 2004 Management Plan Update remain valid and will continue to be major elements of the ORNHA agenda:
   a. Regional recreation and trail improvements, at the scale and approximate location defined in the 2004 Plan Update.
   b. Interpretation improvements, generally defined in the 2004 Plan Update, including the assumption that major exhibit and museum expansion plans for the Drake Well Museum will be funded and implemented.
   c. Aggressive implementation of accommodations recommendations, including the interim goal of additional specialty units and a coordinated program of incentives and technical assistance to reach the goals defined in the 2004 Plan Update.

4. The funds allocated to the Weaver Building would be redirected into other preservation and economic development initiatives.

2.4. Alternative 2 – Modify Current Plan to Expand Preservation and Economic Development Program to Address Opportunities Across the Region

This Alternative incorporates all common assumptions cited in the preceding section and represents an opportunistic approach to preservation and economic development that would orient towards potential projects across the entirety of the NHA where ORA would partner with willing owners or cooperating public entities who are prepared to commit funds to preservation and rehabilitation projects that meet the guidelines defined in Section 5. The idea would be to support the “best” projects that have willing partners, wherever they are located. The intent of this Alternative is shown in Figure 3.

This approach would modify the current plan by developing regional technical assistance tools and methods that would be widely useful across the region. Additionally, this approach would
include the capability to provide catalyst assistance to partner projects that can attract private commitments across the region.

In this option, all elements from the Recreation, Interpretation, and Accommodations parts of the 2004 Update would be included. Examples of preservation programs and project types that would be consistent with this approach might include:

- Resource documentation assistance to notable properties across the region, potentially with a special focus on sites that are particularly linked to the oil and/or gas industry.
- Building conservation technical assistance emphasizing making expertise and information about techniques and services accessible to owners and contractors in the region.
- Education and recognition programs that provide assistance to large and small communities, as well as to other entities in developing innovative curricula, marker programs, etc. ORA investment/partnerships in rehabilitation projects – potentially including loans and/or grants that emphasize assistance to private owners and/or public entities who are willing to partner with ORA communities to make significant investments in properties. For example, in this scenario, investment in buildings along the Route 8 & 62 corridor where owners are prepared to partner with ORA might be encouraged, even if these sites are not within designated historic districts.
- Regulatory tools to preserve cultural resources – development of sample ordinances for local historic districts, demolition delay, and/or easement protection that could be applied by localities across the region.

2.5. **Alternative 3 – Modify Current Plan to Focus Preservation and Economic Development Activities on Historic District Communities and Corridors Linking Them**

Similar to Alternative 2, Alternative 3 would incorporate all common assumptions cited in Section 2.3, but would modify the 2004 Plan to add significant preservation and economic development assistance focused on strategic investments in the region’s core communities, along Oil Creek State Park, and towards the linkages that connect these resources. The idea of this alternative is to target preservation and related economic development assistance to core areas where such technical and/or financial assistance will achieve cumulative positive impact and reinforcement. Although these areas are strongly linked to the oil industry and its evolution, the focus of this approach might be more urban in nature, particularly compared to that of Alternative 2. The intent of this Alternative is shown diagrammatically in Figure 4.

This approach would modify the current plan to provide planning assistance and/or planning grants, as well as financial assistance to core communities to “make the most” of heritage resources as a means to achieve community revitalization.

In this option, all elements from the Recreation, Interpretation, and Accommodations parts of the 2004 Update would be included. Examples of preservation programs and project types that would be consistent with this approach might include:

- Resource documentation assistance targeted to the core regional communities of Titusville, Oil City, Franklin, and Emlenton.
• Emphasis on planning assistance to core communities, including Main Street efforts, charrettes, and/or preservation and revitalization plans. A specific initiative towards smaller communities – perhaps on a demonstration basis in one locale, would be consistent with this approach.

• Building conservation technical assistance focused on specific implementation projects within the core communities, but with parallel efforts to communicate findings and results of these efforts, in order to make lessons learned available to other comparable projects.

• Education and recognition programs that provide assistance to large and small communities, as well as to other entities in developing innovative curricula, marker programs, etc.

• ORA investment/partnerships in rehabilitation projects – potentially including loans and/or grants that are tied to specific revitalization strategies within the core communities. Examples would include projects comparable to the Towne Square effort in Titusville in other communities (potentially those identified in the Route 8 & 62 Corridor Project), support for unique accommodations facilities in core areas, and a “This Old House” program within a NRHP district. Direct grants to individual owners might be accompanied by downstream revenue recapture efforts, potentially contributing a long-term revenue stream to ORA.

Regulatory tools to preserve cultural resources – consistent with this approach, it would make sense for ORA to provide specific technical assistance within a core area to develop a specific ordinance or to provide related public education support, with the expectation that a positive outcome would be beneficial to other jurisdictions finding this approach of interest.

2.6. Summary of Environmental Consequences and Benefits of the Alternatives

Table 1 summarizes the long-term environmental impacts of the alternatives on the affected environment. In some cases, potential short-term adverse impacts may occur during construction of future projects; such impacts are noted in the detailed discussion of impacts in Chapter 3.

2.7. Preferred Alternative

Nearly all the recommendations from the 2004 Management Plan Update, which constitutes Alternative 1 and serve as a base line for all the alternatives, received detailed review and discussion during the preparation of that document. The approaches described in Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 have been presented to the public and discussed in depth by the Board of the Oil Region Alliance.

Based on this consideration, the Board has clearly expressed a preference for Alternative 3: Modify Current Plan to Focus Preservation and Economic Development Activities on Historic District Communities and Corridors Linking Them, for the following reasons:

• Alternative 3 incorporates the recommendations of the 2004 Plan Update.

• The emphasis of Alternative 3 on the core communities will enable a focus on areas where resources and economic activities are concentrated, as compared to Alternative 2, which does not articulate a geographic focus. The idea of focusing energy on key venues took
very high priority in the Board’s deliberations, inasmuch as, in the absence of such focus, there is a risk that efforts of ORA will be too scattered and will not have the cumulative positive impact that the Board desires.

- Alternative 3 recognizes that the linkages among the core communities are important and will enable some assistance to resources within smaller communities along these routes.
Table 1: Summary of Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environmental Consequences and Benefits</th>
<th>Alternative 1 (No Federal Action (Retain Current Management Plan))</th>
<th>Alternative 2 (Modify Current Plan to Expand Preservation and Economic Development Program to Address Opportunities Across the Region)</th>
<th>Alternative 3 (Modify Current Plan to Focus Preservation and Economic Development Activities on Historic District Communities and Corridors Linking Them)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Form and Physiography</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation and Endangered Plan Species</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fish and Wildlife and Endangered Animal Species</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Space and Recreational Resources</td>
<td>Major beneficial impacts</td>
<td>Major beneficial impacts</td>
<td>Major beneficial impacts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio-economic Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area Demographics</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism and the Visitor Experience</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
<td>Major beneficial impact</td>
<td>Major beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
<td>Negligible impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural Resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Resources</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate beneficial impact</td>
<td>Major beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archeological Resources</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
<td>Minor beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Cultural Resources</td>
<td>Moderate to major beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate to major beneficial impact</td>
<td>Moderate to major beneficial impact</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ORL Recreation Program Initiatives

- Inform travel and outdoors writers of recreational events and activities
- Coordinate marketing of region at large recreational venues outside of region
- Encourage and be involved in implementation of master plans for region's recreational venues
- Co-sponsor fishing tournaments or multi-activity festivals
- Help coordinate extension of OC & T RR into Oil City and Franklin
- Monitor privately funded construction of trail to Foxburg
- Administer low interest small business loans for outdoor recreation businesses
- Expand winter sports and archery
- Increase environmental education programs
- Link park trail to Allegheny River Trail & OCSP
- Pave lakeside trail at minimum for bicyclists
- Watchable Wildlife Platforms

Figure 1

Alternative 1 No Federal Action:
Recreation Elements

Oil Region National Heritage Management Plan Augmentation and EA

Prepared by:
Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism

Prepared by:
ICON architecture, inc
in association with
Vanasse Hangen Brufkin, Inc.

Date: February 2006
Interpretation Elements

Federal Action:

Alternative 1 No

Pre test proposed exhibits and programs

Post test current exhibits and programs

Venango County Historical Society Museum

interpreter-led tours

Highlight walking tours with occasional walking and driving tours

Enhance orientation at Perry Street Station

Best attracts riders

Updated marketing strategy to determine media that

Prepare self-guided illustrated booklet for sale

Update brochure racks to connect sites on a map

Interpretive plan for train ride and stations

OC & T RR

Oil Creek State Park

Complete planned interpretive exhibits and programs

Develop 3-D film with recreated boomtown area in museum interior

CD/DVD audio tour of entire museum property

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Pre test future exhibits

Rynd Farm

Prop test interpretive plan for entire site

Prepare exhibit to accommodate a small number of people

Provide more panels unable to accommodate larger groups

Present story of Rynd Farm and association with railroad on outdoor panels near station

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Allegheny River Trail

Install interpretive signage at interesting sites

Install interpretive signage for key sites on tour

Allegheny River Trail

Oil Country Trail

Install interpretive signage for oil-related sites

Develop visitor center introductory video

Upgrade interior exhibits to tell more provocative stories about the people

Develop new marketing to highlight regional oil history and local events

Install and show Visitor Center introductory video

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Emlenton

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Pithole City

Drake Well Museum

Complete planned interpretive exhibits and programs

Develop 3-D film with recreated boomtown area in museum interior

CD/DVD audio tour of entire museum property

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Pre test future exhibits

Oil Heritage Route

Develop self-guided tour booklet

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Post test exhibits

Oil Region Alliance

Establish supplementary archive

Perform feasibility study for a natural gas museum

Pre test current exhibits and programs

Develop exhibits that focus more attention on oil and gas history and local people and events possible

Install OHR linking kiosk to advertise other regional attractions

Implements interpretive plan for entire site

Join Oil Heritage Route

Prop test future exhibits

Oil Region National Heritage Management Plan Augmentation and EA

Prepared for

Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism

Prepared by

ICON architecture, inc

in association with

Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc.

Date: February 2006