

For Immediate Release
August 24, 2020



Kansas Natural Resource Coalition

Bringing Voice and Environmental Decision-making to Local Government

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Distribution

KNRC Member Commissions
Affected Non-Member Counties
Kansas Congressional Delegation
DoI Agency Personnel
Western Caucus

Registration

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Policy Briefing

National Park Service Chisolm and Western National Historic Trails Designation Policy Briefing

When: Thursday, September 10, 2020, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Central Time.

Where: Secure Webinar Presentation on *Go-to-Meeting* Web Platform.

Who Should Attend: Affected KNRC members, and invited non-member county commissioners; the Kansas Congressional Delegation; administrative agency personnel; and, congressman/staff from the Congressional Western Caucus.

Registration: Registration is required; a webinar link will be sent to participants.

In 2009, Congress directed the Secretary of the Interior to evaluate potential designation of the Chisolm and Western Trails as national historic trails (NHTs) under the National Trails System Act.¹ The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a feasibility study and issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), concluding both trails meet federal criteria for potential, National Historic Trail designations.

The NHT designation process requires Congressional approval, which would then be followed by preparation of a Comprehensive Plan (CP) by the Department of the Interior and other, executive branch agencies. Legislation has been prepared by Kansas Senator Jerry Moran which would designate the Chisolm and Western National Historic Trails and appropriate funding for the process. As of August 24, 2020, that legislation has not been introduced for consideration by the Congress. KNRC has conducted a detailed policy and statutory review of the impacts that the proposed Chisolm and Western trails could have on KNRC member counties, the environment, and private landowners.

This policy briefing webinar will summarize the status of the designation process, present detailed maps of select counties affected by the trails and propose policy positions and issues for discussion by member and non-member counties.

The Kansas Natural Resource Coalition (KNRC) is an association of counties who maintain collective and participatory involvement in administrative government on behalf of its citizenry. The Coalition serves as a conduit between local, state and federal governments to promote balanced, necessary and effective administrative policymaking through the mechanism of government-to-government coordination. Our mission is to monitor, analyze, understand, communicate, and participate in those initiatives that materially affect the natural or human systems governed by individual member counties.

¹ 16 USC 1244 (a).

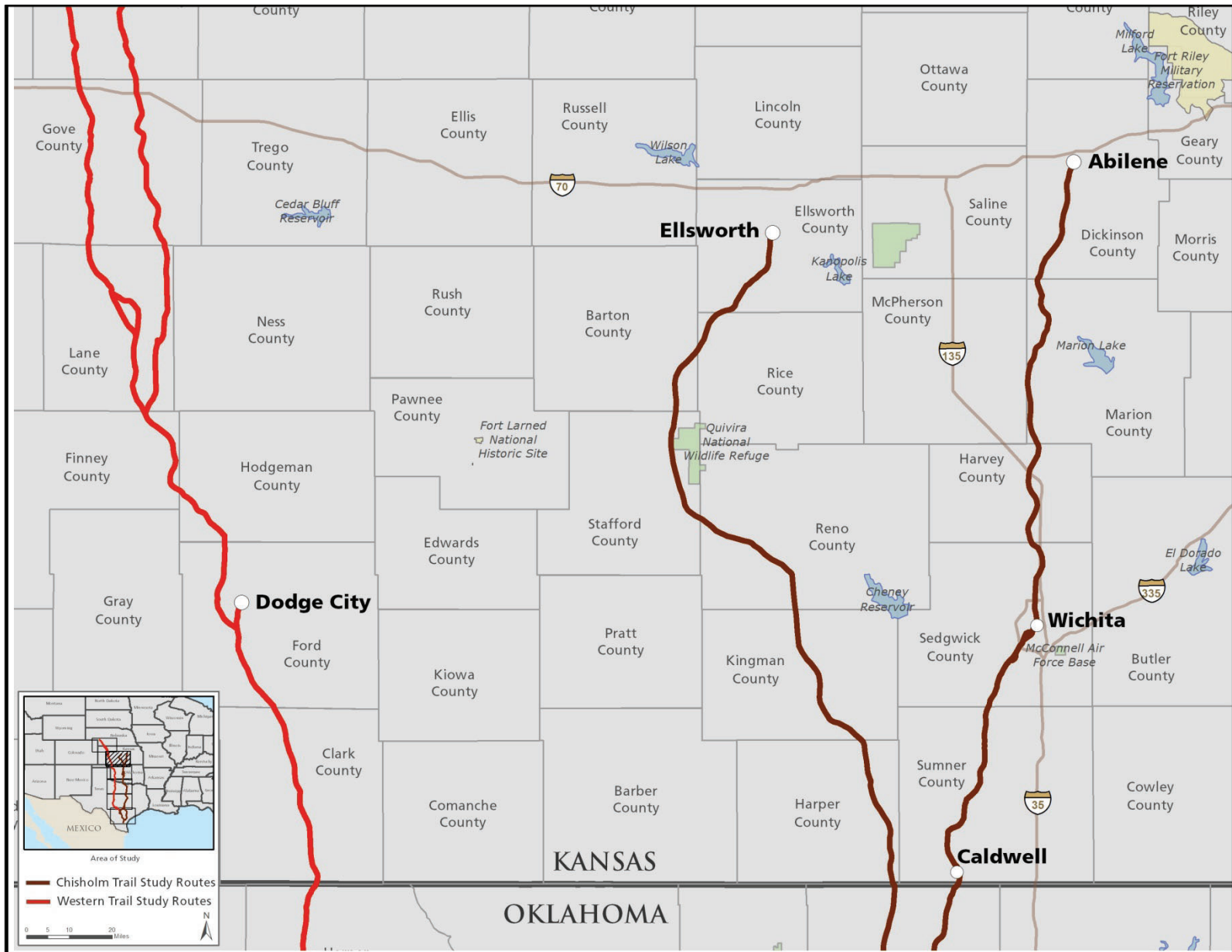


FIGURE 7. PROPOSED CHISHOLM NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL AND WESTERN NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL STUDY ROUTES – MAP 5 (OKLAHOMA AND KANSAS)

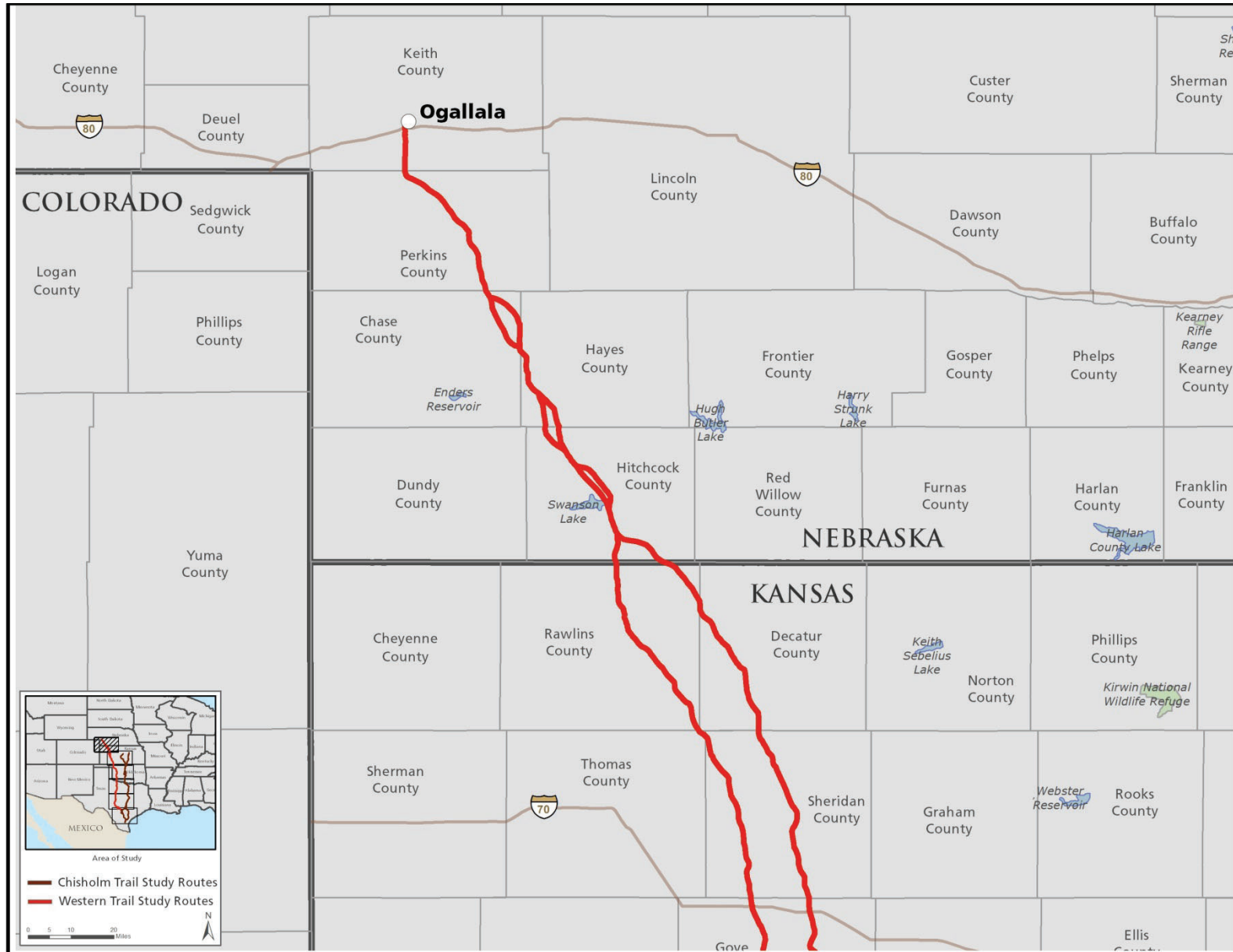


FIGURE 8. PROPOSED CHISHOLM NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL AND WESTERN NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL STUDY ROUTES – MAP 6 (KANSAS AND NEBRASKA)