

December 18, 2024

Mr. Jason Christy
East Zone Archeologist
& Acting Forest Heritage Program Manager
Ozark-St. Francis National Forest
Sylamore Ranger District
1001 East Main Street
Mountain View, AR 72560

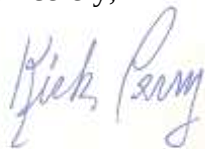
Dear Mr. Christy:

Thank you for the email notification, letter, and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Blanchard Springs Caverns Facility Renovation Project (PALS#58732) in the Sylamore Ranger District of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest. We understand a Memorandum of Agreement is still in progress and you are providing the draft EA which was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to see if we have any concerns or comments regarding the effects of the project on resources not covered by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106 process.

The Chickasaw Nation Historic Preservation Division does not complete reviews under NEPA; our office does complete reviews under NHPA. However, this specific project is outside of our area of interest. Therefore, we do not request government-to-government consultation on this project. While the Chickasaw Nation has no objection to the undertaking, we respectfully defer to the federally recognized First American tribe(s) that have identified a connection to the project area.

We appreciate your efforts to preserve and protect significant historic properties. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Karen Brunso, tribal historic preservation officer [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kirk Perry", is placed over a light yellow rectangular background.

Kirk Perry, Executive Officer
Division of Historic Preservation

cc: Jason.Christy@usda.gov; jan.franks@usda.gov

