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To: Participants, Oil Region NHA Management Plan Augmentation

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Subj: **Initial Draft Concepts**
Preservation Element of the Management Plan and
Related Management Plan Alternatives

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The initial work on the augmentation of the Oil Region National Heritage Area (ORNHA) Management Plan Augmentation has focused on preservation approaches, coupled with alternatives that supplement the 2004 Plan Update.

These tasks are closely related, inasmuch as the 2004 Plan Update did not deal explicitly with preservation, which has been identified as a necessary element of such a plan as defined in the Oil Region National Heritage Act.

We have prepared draft materials on both the **preservation element** of the plan and to **define alternatives**. The alternatives are required for consideration as part of the **Environmental Assessment** that is necessary in order for the Secretary of the Interior to be able to ultimately approve the plan.

Alternatives

A chart is attached describing the approaches that are proposed for discussion and consideration by ORA, the Oil Heritage Advisory Council, and the public. Three alternatives are included:

- Alternative 1 assumes no federal action, keeping the basic 2004 Plan Update in place.
- Alternative 2 is a region-wide and highly discretionary approach to ORA's assistance.
- Alternative 3 is a focused approach that centers on the core urban areas and linkages.

Preservation

A listing is provided of the key elements suggested as part of an expanded preservation and economic development program. The applicability, in general terms, of each element to the Alternatives is noted.

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Comparison of Alternatives

	Alternative 1: No Federal Action	Alternative 2: Region-wide opportunities	Alternative 3: Core urban areas and linkages
Concept	Substantially the same as the 2004 Management Plan Update	Modify plan to develop regional technical assistance tools that will be widely useful to a broad area and to develop capability to provide catalyst assistance to partner projects that can attract private commitments, wherever they are located.	Modify plan to focus combined preservation and economic development assistance toward strategic investments in the region's core communities and linkages between them
Recreation, Interpretation, and Accommodations Elements	Same as the 2004 Management Plan Update		
Funding	As defined in 2004 plan, removing \$ to Weaver Building	Redirect scale of Weaver Building commitments to other preservation and economic development programs and projects	
Philosophy/Mission about Preservation and Economic Development	Broad grant program, highly discretionary	Region-wide emphasis on "best" projects, wherever they are located	Targeted to core urban areas and related linkages where technical or financial assistance will cause cumulative positive impact
Examples of difference between these approaches	Grants could be given to a wide range of potential recipients and projects; plan does not prescribe their emphasis	Region-wide technical assistance programs – public education about preservation and preservation ordinances that can be widely useful	Planning assistance and/or planning grants to core communities to "make the most" of heritage investments
		Write and circulate sample local historic preservation ordinance	Provide specific technical and financial assistance with local historic preservation ordinance to serve as demo.
		Sponsor educational programs on proper rehabilitation techniques open to the public	Rehabilitate strategic building in urban core area in This Old House program for value recapture
		Route 8 & 62 demo project in urban core areas, but would also consider Route 8/62 demo project along strip where owner prepared to make significant commitment	Route 8 & 62 demo project in urban core areas; grants could be given w/future income stream potential to ORA

Preservation and Economic Development Elements of Management Plan Alternatives

	Alternative 1: No Federal Action	Alternative 2: Region-wide opportunities	Alternative 3: Core urban areas and linkages
<p>Resource documentation assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resource Inventory/Recordation Programs Historic American Building Survey/Historic American Engineering National Register of Historic Places/Determination of Eligibility Programs Artifacts/Documents Cataloging and Conservation Program. Centralized Archives and/or Database 	<p>Any of the listed actions could be included in the existing 2004 Management Plan Update; however, no geographic focus has been specified, the amount of funds estimated is modest (\$250k in grants over ten years), and there are no stated priorities</p>	Broad flexibility for documentation	Flexibility for documentation; however, likely priority placed on core areas
<p>Planning assistance to communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Street Program Small Communities Initiative Visualization program or charrettes Preservation plans or comprehensive plans with a preservation component 		Planning assistance could be offered on a discretionary basis	This Alternative would emphasize planning assistance to core communities to achieve cumulative positive impact
<p>Building conservation technical assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code Enforcement Training and Technical Assistance Guidance on appropriate rehabilitation techniques <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exterior Paint Program Old Building Doctor Program Local Contractor/Building Professionals/Products Directory Old Building Fair or Expo 		These programs could be offered, but would probably be made available to all in central workshop formats	Central workshops could be offered, but targeted assistance would probably orient towards key venues where other initiatives are concentrated
<p>Education and recognition programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cemetery Preservation Program Marker/Plaque Program Other educational programs 		Programs might be developed in either action Alternative	
<p>ORA investment/partnership in rehabilitation projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Development Assistance AND Reuse feasibility studies This Old House program Loans and/or grants – with or without revenue recapture potential <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with historic building tax credits Specialty accommodations program 		Broad flexibility to offer these types of assistance	Programs would likely be targeted towards key venues where other initiatives are concentrated
<p>Regulatory tools to preserve cultural resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance in developing local ordinances and capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolition delay ordinance Local Historic District ordinance assistance Conservation and other historic easements 		Programs could be offered on a discretionary basis	Programs would likely be targeted towards key venues where other initiatives are concentrated