

PUBLIC NOTICE

US-271 FOURCHE MALINE CREEK BRIDGE REPLACEMENT SECTION 4(F) DE MINIMIS IMPACTS TO WISTER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is proposing to replace a bridge on United States 271 (US-271) within the Wister Wildlife Management Area (WWMA). A truss bridge is located over Fourche Maline Creek located 26 miles north of the Pushmataha county line in LeFlore County. Right-of-way within the WWMA will be required in order to reconstruct this bridge. Due to the proposed transportation use of property located within the WWMA, Section 4(f) regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 apply to the project. Section 4(f) affords protection to publicly-owned recreation areas (resources) including city, state, and national parks, wildlife refuges and management areas and historic sites.

ODOT has coordinated with the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with regard to avoidance and minimization of impacts of this project on the WWMA and the ODWC and USACE are supportive of these measures. This will be accomplished in part by constructing the new bridge on a slightly offset alignment to the northwest with short detours (shooflies) at the tie-ins at both ends of the project. Any required additional right-of-way will be minimized as much as possible. Measures such as steeper slopes, reduced width utility corridor, and minimal offset will be implemented to reduce additional right-of-way. The existing US-271 roadway will be utilized to maintain existing traffic during construction. This allows for minimal use of property located within the WWMA and accommodates local traffic. ODOT is proposing to obtain approximately 11 acres of the 35,500 acre Wister WMA, which constitutes approximately 0.03 percent of the wildlife management area. The use of appropriate best management practices (including storm water, erosion and dust control, and chemical/fuel handling) will be conscientiously implemented.

Based on the avoidance and minimization of impacts to the WWMA as described above, the ODOT, in coordination with FHWA, are proposing a *de minimis* impact finding with regard to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act (1966). ODOT welcomes your comments on the effects of this project on the projected activities, features, and attributes of the WWMA (the Section 4(f) resource). Please mail or e-mail any comments you have by **April 12, 2013** to:

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