

# GLORIETA BATTLEFIELD COALITION

*Protecting the Santa Fe Trail and Civil War battlefield  
within Pecos National Historical Park through preservation and public education*

Learn more about our coalition on the web at [www.glorietapass.org](http://www.glorietapass.org)

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## President's Report: January 2007

**Significance of the Glorieta Battlefield:** The Battle of Glorieta Pass actually covers three significant phases that took place March 26-28, 1862. Called by some historians the "Gettysburg of the West," it was here Federal forces checked Confederate dreams of territorial expansion. After enjoying early successes and setting up the Confederate Territory of Arizona, the vanguard of the Texan invasion marched out of Santa Fe determined to seize Fort Union – the major supply base in the Southwest. At Glorieta Pass they met a mixed force of U.S. Regular troops, local militia, and Colorado volunteers equally determined to stop the Confederate advance.

After an inconclusive skirmish on March 26 in Apache Canyon, on March 28, 1862, the Texans marched into the Glorieta Pass on the Santa Fe Trail. The opposing forces clashed near Pigeon's Ranch. The Confederates drove the Federals back and held the field at the end of the day, only to learn a Federal flanking force had fallen on their rear and destroyed the Confederate wagons and supplies. Thereafter, the Confederates began a long and arduous retreat back to Texas. The Confederate hopes for a Southwest territory that would stretch to the Pacific Ocean, and gaining control of the gold fields in Colorado, came to an end.

**Threat:** Currently, two units covering portions of the battlefield are under NPS control. Potential development threatens unprotected areas. Efforts are being made to acquire additional land within the units to better preserve the battlefield and make it more accessible to visitors.

The battlefield is further threatened by a state highway that runs through the battlefield within feet of historical structures that were part of Pigeon's Ranch at the time of the battle. The Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, together with support from the Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT), support studies and efforts to relocate the highway away from the battlefield or implement other mitigation measures. Such is necessary to restore the battlefield site and allow visitors to tour the battlefield safely.

CWSAC classified Glorieta Pass as a Priority I, Class A Battlefield – its highest designation.

The Civil War Preservation Trust has designated Glorieta Pass as one of the ten most endangered battlefield sites in the country.

### **Current Goals of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition:**

- Continue efforts to relocate New Mexico Highway 50 away from battlefield or implementation of other mitigation measures.
- Support and assist in the acquisition of further lands critical to the battlefield.
- Encourage, advocate and otherwise support the design and construction of trails and parking areas with interpretive markers to allow visitors to gain a greater understanding and visual experience of the battlefield, with emphasis on the significance of the battle, the events leading up to the battle, and the long term results to both sides and the surrounding territory. Support efforts for separate Visitor's Center for Pigeon's Ranch area.
- Educate the public on the significance of the battle and importance of preservation efforts pertaining thereto.
- Support Senate Bill S.216 – land swap of excess U.S. Forest Service land for private land within the Canoncito (Johnson's Ranch) unit of the Glorieta Battlefield Park, substantially increasing public ownership within that unit. Key acquisition. Contact Jim Houghton for further information.
- See attached January 17, 2007 memo with respect to 2007 GBC objectives.
- Reach out and engage various groups and organizations to participate in planning, design, and construction of trails, visitor's center, and other improvements to the battlefield. (Friends of Pecos and other interested groups or organizations.)

### **Other significant information:**

- A study performed by Dr. Frank Ward of New Mexico State University determined economic benefits under the scenario that Glorieta Battlefield were fully restored and made safe for public visitation. The study demonstrated that opening Glorieta Battlefield to public visitation had numerous positive economic benefits, including providing a sustainable, stabilizing force in the rural economy of both the Pecos area and the broader tourism economy of New Mexico. In short, Dr. Ward's data demonstrated that tourism associated with a restored battlefield would generate over \$3.1 million in annual income in San Miguel and Santa Fe counties and 182 new jobs within ten years of the battlefield being restored and open to the public. Copies of the study are available from the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition.
- The Glorieta Battlefield has been recognized by the Civil War Preservation Trust as one of the 10 most endangered battlefield sites in its report issued March 1, 2006. The Civil War Preservation Trust is dedicated to the preservation of battlefield sites and has recognized both the importance and significance of the Battle of Glorieta Pass. In listing the site, the Trust has expressed concern over neglect and public indifference that is allowing

perhaps irreparable damages to structures of historical significance within the Pigeon's Ranch Unit of the Battlefield

**Overall President's Report for 2006.** Though not all our 2006 objectives were fulfilled, we made significant progress on most of them. Where we fell short, we are renewing our efforts and focus for 2007 to achieve the desired results.

Below are listed the significant events for us in 2006 as tied into our 2006 Objectives:

- **Improve Public Awareness/Public Support. Work with other interested groups and other related organizations (Friends of Pecos, reenactor groups, Civil War Roundtables, CWPT, UDC, SCV, SUV, OSC, etc.)**

We were present at the two major annual events (battlefield anniversary event in late March; battle reenactment at Los Golondrinas Village south of Santa Fe in May) to improve public awareness and public support for our various goals at Glorieta. We expanded contacts and improved networking with key support organizations (Civil War Preservation Trust; Friends of Pecos; local reenactment groups, the United Daughters of the Confederacy, the Order of the Southern Cross, the Military Order of Stars and Bars, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Civil War Roundtables, the Texas Historical Commission, and numerous historians).

- **Increase Active Membership.** In addition to our core membership and supporters in New Mexico, we welcomed this year new members and supporters who joined us from the Civil War Preservation Trust, as well as the incoming President of the Order of the Southern Cross (Dr. Anthony Hodges, Chattanooga, TN) and the G.W. Lee Civil War Roundtable from Howell, Michigan. WELCOME!
- **Specific Projects at the Battlefield:**
  - Relocation of State Road 50 – publication of study report.
  - Passage of Senate Bill S-47 (land exchange for Johnson Ranch). Though the bill died for lack of final action in the House after passing the Senate, we got it farther than previous efforts and received assurances from the Democratic Senator in New Mexico to get it done during the next Congress. Our Democratic Senator (Sen. Jeff Bingaman) has already submitted new legislation (Senate Bill S-216) to get the land swap done.
  - Visitor's Center/Battlefield Ridge Trail – see below.

### Significant Events during 2006:

- **March 24-26, 2006:** GBC (Jim Houghton and Rod Baker) participated with informational table at the anniversary recognition of the battle on March 25, 2006 at Koslowki's Ranch. Provided excellent opportunity for educating the public and created bonds with some of the local populace interested in preservation efforts at the GBC (in particular Jim Taylor).
- **Civil War Preservation Trust conference in Memphis, Tennessee on April 20-23.** Jim Houghton, President of the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition; Dennis Ditmanson, Pecos National Park NPS Superintendent; and John Taylor, local historian, participated in and made a presentation at the Civil War Preservation Trust annual conference in Memphis, Tennessee on April 20-23, 2006. In addition to the formal presentation during the first day of the Conference, a booth was set up to educate and encourage members of this critical national organization about the needs and concerns with respect to the Glorieta Pass Battlefield. Our participation was a major success. Not only did we add membership to the GBC, but established important contacts with the CWPT Board and its membership and are currently utilizing those contacts to support efforts to achieve the land swap in the Johnson's Ranch Unit (SB-47).
- **May 5-7, 2006.** Reenactment of Battle of Glorieta Pass and other living history events occurred at Los Golondrinas, a historical restored Spanish village south of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The GBC (through Jim Houghton) joined forces with the President of the Friends of Pecos (Bill Zunkel) and manned an informational booth during both days of the event. Developed more contacts for support and participation in GBC goals.
- **August 2006.**
  - **Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail.** Jim Houghton has been working closely with NPS and the Friends of Pecos to design, interpret, fund, and construct the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail. Watch our website.
  - **Glorieta Battlefield Visitor's Center.** Jim Houghton also brought a contractor and a structural engineer to inspect and give a preliminary report to the NPS and Friends of Pecos on the "Sleepy Eye" building (next to current Texas/Colorado monuments) as a possible site for Visitor's Center for the battlefield. The building is structurally sound (though it needs immediate protective measures (primarily re-roofing)) and offers excellent interpretive opportunities for the battlefield site. We convinced the NPS to proceed with temporary re-roofing and wall patching to preserve the structure until funds can be raised for more permanent improvements.
- **August 3, 2006.** The United Daughters of Confederacy (Colorado and New Mexico chapters) held a conference at Glorieta. The GBC and Friends of Pecos welcomed this group back to Glorieta. This organization placed the first monument to the battle in the Pigeon Ranch area in 1939. Efforts are being made to continue to involve UDC in various projects at the site.

- **September 14-16, 2006.** GBC welcomed the Order of the Southern Cross, a prestigious Confederate heritage organization, who held a conference at the Glorieta Conference Center. Members of this organization have expressed an interest in engaging and assisting with the various projects at this site, particularly the Battlefield Ridge Trail.
- Efforts are continuing to engage historians, reenactors, and various other interested organizations (including CWPT, Civil War Round Tables, Sons of Union Veterans, Sons of Confederate Veterans) in the projects being planned over the next three years. The enthusiasm and excitement is building a momentum and cooperative spirit that is getting stronger by the day. Please contact us and join us in our campaign to expand and improve the battlefield experience.
- **Tours of the battlefield** are given in accordance with schedules published on the NPS Pecos website at [www.nps.gov/pecos](http://www.nps.gov/pecos).
- NPS study on possible relocation of Highway 50. Additional hearings will be scheduled in Pecos, New Mexico. Report was issued (May 2006) on the study and the possible relocation of New Mexico Highway 50. Please contact the National Park Service, c/o Christine Beekman, (505) 757-6414 for further information on the next scheduled meeting or hearing, or contact the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition through its website for further information.
- See attached 2007 GBC objectives.

**Please join the Glorieta Battlefield Coalition. Assist us in our mission and goals in honor of the hundreds of American soldiers who put their lives on the line and made the ultimate sacrifice for what they believed in at the Battle of Glorieta Pass.**

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## 2007 GBC Objectives

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### **Continue Improved Public Awareness/Public Support:**

- Participation in anniversary event at the Battlefield Site in late March, 2007.
- Participation at Los Golandrinas Civil War Weekend (May 2007).
- Presentations at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.
- Partner with Friends of Pecos in support of Civil War Preservation Trust meeting in Santa Fe, January 2008.

### **Increase Active Membership**

**Work with Other Interested Groups and Other Related Organizations (Friends of Pecos, reenactor groups, Civil War roundtables, CWPT, UDC, SCV, SUV, OSC, etc.)**

### **Specific Projects at the Battlefield:**

- Design, fund, and construct the Glorieta Battlefield Ridge Trail with related interpretative and parking needs.
- Passage of Senate Bill S-216 (land exchange for Johnson's Ranch unit).
- Relocation of State Road 50 or other mitigation efforts – under study through NPS.
- Investigate and develop costs and plans for construction of a Visitor's Center at Pigeon's Ranch site with related issues (location, cost of improvement, cost of operation, other park issues).

### **Fundraising Events**