

Highlighted Locations

BioBlitz! Oklahoma 2014

Black Kettle National Grassland, Washita Battlefield NHS, and City of Cheyenne

Washita River – Black Kettle NG Unit 20

The area surrounding this portion of the Washita River is mixed hardwood. There is plenty of parking available to check out this riparian area. County two track road, may not be suitable for low clearance vehicles. (approx. 45 min drive from Base Camp)

Rush Creek – Black Kettle NG Unit 51

This area gets its name from the 1500 gallon/minute spring-fed perennial creek. The Rush Creek zone is a stewardship project for turkey. This waterway is also a good place for those participants interested in fish. (approx. 30 min drive from Base Camp)

Skipout Lake – Black Kettle NG Unit 61

Skipout Lake is surrounded by a trail and has a marshy area on the west side. This area hosts an upland with mixed grasses as well as a hardwoods edge beside the lake. Anyone interested in observing aquatic invertebrates should make a stop here. Van accessible. (approx. 20 min drive from Base Camp)

Croton Creek – Black Kettle NG Units 68 & 69

Croton Creek is a wetland/bottomland riparian area. The wetland has a trail throughout which is ideal for viewing riparian birds. The uplands in Unit 68 contain the very visible doxey red shale soils as well as loamy soils which allow for the expression of mesquite trees. This area serves as a boundary distinction between sand and shale soils. Van accessible. (approx. 15 min drive from Base Camp)

Shinnery Pasture – Black Kettle NG Unit 71

Unit 71 is primarily shinnery habitat, with examples of historic deep root plowing for the removal of shinnery. Both shinnery and non-shinnery pastures may be observed here. Great place to examine differences between two distinct sites which started as the same. This zone has a riparian corridor at the south end with recent restoration work. Unit 71 is van accessible. (approx. 15 min drive from Base Camp)

Dead Indian Lake – Black Kettle NG Unit 85

This zone has a boardwalk trail that allows views to aquatic invertebrates as well as a beaver dam. Dead Indian Lake is a good place to locate a Flame Skimmer dragonfly. Van accessible. (approx. 15 min drive from Base Camp)

Cheyenne Nature Walk – Black Kettle NG Units 103, 104, 105, & 112

This 1200 acre area is composed of mixed grass prairie. The treeless areas of grasses and forbs are good for small mammal trapping, botanical specimen such as buffalo grass, birding, and have trails throughout. It is accessible by foot from Base Camp and hosts 5 silt retention structures which seasonally hold water. Unit 104 van accessible for most of the entire unit. (adjacent to Base Camp)

Washita Battlefield Site

With a self-guided trail and overlook of the Washita valley, this site is especially good for birding. The Washita Battlefield is open from dawn until dusk, but remember that no collecting is allowed as this is considered a sacred site. Please stay on the marked trails while visiting. (approx. 5 min drive from Base Camp)

Washita Battlefield Visitor Center

Open daily 8-5, the visitor center has an exhibit area depicting the clash of cultures leading to the attack and a theatre showing the park's 27 minute film, *Destiny at Dawn: Loss & Victory on the Washita*. Outdoors you can use the accessible path to visit the Washita Battlefield Native Garden that highlights plant and tree species significant to the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes for spiritual and practical uses. (approx. 5 min drive from Base Camp)