



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
Atlanta Federal Center
1924 Building
100 Alabama St., SW.
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

IN REPLY REFER TO:
A 3815

MAY 26 2015

The Honorable Richard Shelby
United States Senate
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0103

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your letter of May 14, 2015, to National Park Service (NPS) Director Jon Jarvis, asking the NPS to conduct a reconnaissance survey of various sites in and around Anniston, Alabama, that are associated with the May 1961 Civil Rights Freedom Rides. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Director.

I am pleased to inform you that the NPS will conduct the requested reconnaissance survey. The survey will determine if these sites merit further consideration as a potential unit of the National Park System through a Congressionally-authorized Special Resource Study. A summary report on the survey findings will be prepared and sent to your office once the review process is complete. Expenditures for such reconnaissance surveys by law may not exceed \$25,000.

We expect to begin the survey by this fall. We do not yet have a timeline for completion because the length of a survey project is dependent on the complexity of the site(s) and available staff resources. The NPS Southeast Regional Office will provide the overall direction of the study team assigned to this project.

Please contact Mr. Ben West, Chief, Planning and Compliance, NPS Southeast Region, should you have questions regarding the reconnaissance survey process. Mr. West can be reached via email at Ben_West@nps.gov or at 404/507-5700.

Sincerely,

Stan Austin
Regional Director
Southeast Region