



# The Proposal and Alternatives



## INTRODUCTION

This draft general management plan contains two alternatives for management of Obed WSR. These two alternative "futures" for the Obed WSR were developed using the management objectives.

**"Alternative A: The Preferred Course"** constitutes the Park Service's proposed course of action. This alternative also represents the minimum actions and developments needed to make the Obed WSR operational in a way that provides for primary visitor use, park management, and resource protection.

**"Alternative B: The Existing Course"** is based primarily on continuing the present course of action which includes implementation of the *1978 Development Plan*, that has been guiding area development and management.

In many respects, Alternative A and B are very similar as there are very few major

differences between them. The similarities and differences are represented in the Summary of Alternatives chart at the end of this chapter. Although additional alternatives were considered, the WSR legislation and management objectives narrowed the range of appropriate options to these two alternatives.

Alternative A was selected as the Proposed Action because it:

- is more consistent with NPS Management Policies based on additional information and the management objectives;
- provides an overall direction for resource management and interpretation; and
- contains a management zone system based more specifically on resource protection and visitor experience.



## ALTERNATIVE A: THE PREFERRED COURSE

**Alternative A: The Preferred Course**, constitutes the NPS's draft general management plan for Obed WSR. This alternative focuses on achieving the intent of the management objectives. Actions are proposed and discussed for the following topics.

-Desired future conditions for specific areas of the Obed WSR are identified in **Land Use and Management**.

-Strategies identifying the principal projects needed to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the natural and cultural resources are discussed in **Resource Management**.

-**Visitor Use and Associated Facilities** addresses issues relating to the desired visitor experience and on the activities, levels of use, and appropriate development to be accommodated.

-Staffing levels are discussed and appropriate facilities proposed for effective administration of the Obed WSR in **Park Operations and Associated Facilities**.

-Proposed modifications to the existing boundaries are described in **Land Protection**.

-**Plan Implementation and Costs** contains implementation strategies and estimated total costs of implementing this alternative.

Maps and Development Concept Plans (DCPs) accompany some of the topics to depict the proposals. DCPs illustrate the general nature of development proposed for a site.

### LAND USE and MANAGEMENT

The Park Service uses a management zone system to indicate the management emphasis for specific lands and waters within a unit of the National Park System. The management zones used for Obed WSR are described below and are depicted on the Management Zoning maps.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542, charges that rivers included in the System "shall be classified, designated, and administered" as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river areas. The two river area classifications applicable to the Obed WSR are defined as follows.

**Wild river areas**--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

**Recreational river areas**--Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Through applying the legislatively based river classifications, purpose of the Obed WSR, and management objectives; assessing resource opportunities and constraints; and considering the desired visitor experience and established uses, desirable future conditions for the Obed WSR were described and became the basis for the management zones. The "desired future conditions" represent goals for each area and are stated in terms of what would actually be happening in the future, if these goals are fully realized. Accordingly, the management zones described below represent area specific application of the above noted considerations.

## WILD ZONE

*Desired Future Condition:* The primitive nature of the river corridor is being protected. Visitors are experiencing a vestige of primitive America--essentially primitive shorelines and unpolluted waters--by floating the river, viewing the river and gorge, hiking on trails, and camping along the river and trails without intrusions by motor vehicles or developments. Sensitive resources are being monitored and protected.

This Zone applies to most of the "wild" classified section of the Obed WSR corridor. Only non-mechanized means of transportation would be allowed on the river or trails in this zone except for emergency or administrative purposes. Alterations to the natural setting would be limited to hiking trails and walk-in or "boat-in" camping areas. Visitor use is controlled to preserve the specific ecologic, geologic, and cultural values for which the Obed WSR was established.

## DEVELOPMENT ZONE

The Development Zone addresses areas, both inside and outside Obed WSR boundaries, with concentrations of existing or proposed facility developments. Existing development areas contain facilities which substantially alter the primitive character such as roads and bridges. Proposed developments are limited to the minimum facilities needed to accommodate river access, associated activities, and administration. This zone has been subdivided into the following three subzones. The subzones were delineated based on resource protection, management needs, and the line-of-sight from the Wild Zone to existing facilities.

## DEVELOPMENT ZONE / Recreational Facilities Subzone

*Desired Future Condition:* Visitors are participating in a variety of recreational activities in a natural setting. Resource interpretation is enhancing visitor understanding and appreciation of the Obed WSR. Trails provide access to river and parking and other improvements may be available. These developments minimally intrude on the natural character of the landscape.

The Recreational Facilities Subzone applies to the area classified as "recreational" and to areas near existing bridge crossings, including the developed overlook at Lilly Bluff. Development of facilities would be limited to those needed to accommodate river access, associated recreational activities, and visitor appreciation of area resources and values and in order to control and minimize the resource impacts currently occurring from use of these areas. Access roads and parking areas are available. Trails would lead from parking areas to the river, long distance trails, or overlook destinations.

## DEVELOPMENT ZONE / Road and Rail Right-of-Way Subzone

*Desired Future Condition:* Visitors are driving through or accessing parts of the Obed WSR within existing road or rail rights-of-way. Although these lands are owned by others, they are being used in a manner compatible with resource values and visitor use.

This subzone is used to identify existing State and County road and railroad rights-of-way. Where appropriate, some recreational facility development would occur within this subzone. The Park Service would work cooperatively with the appropriate agency or company to accommodate any facility development. Developments could include parking and pedestrian

crossings within the road right-of-way, and trails and camping in the railroad right-of-way.

#### **DEVELOPMENT ZONE / Administrative Facilities Subzone**

*Desired Future Condition:* The Obed WSR is being administered from appropriate facilities in Wartburg. Visitors are being contacted and information is being provided from an easily reached, centralized facility in this city.

This zone applies to the facilities in Wartburg that are necessary for the administration and maintenance of the Obed WSR and would accommodate visitor contact.

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Strategies for managing the natural and cultural resources in the Obed WSR are presented in four categories: water resources, biodiversity, cultural resources, and landscape character. The current Resource Management Plan (RMP, 1993) reflects many of the following strategies.

### **WATER RESOURCES**

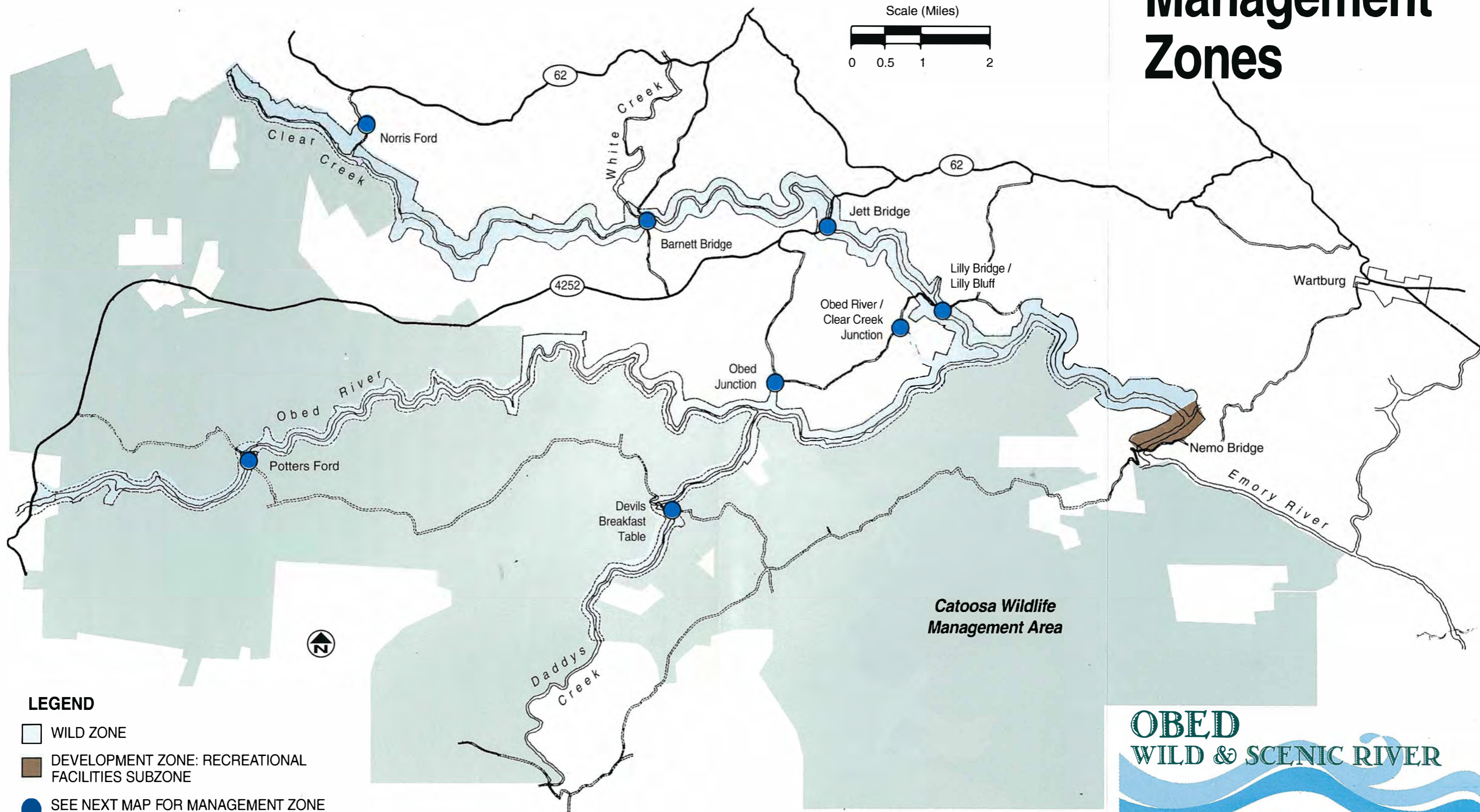
The quantity and quality of water resources are fundamental, complex, and highly dynamic resource management issues for the Obed WSR. In order to carry out the management objective--to achieve and maintain high water quality and natural stream flows that are beneficial to aquatic life and suitable for swimming--efforts would be made to address issues within the WSR boundaries as well as those within the broader scope of the watershed.

#### **Inside WSR Boundaries**




*Monitoring Program.* Current monitoring of Obed WSR waters does not provide sufficient information to satisfy the management objective. The existing monitoring program would be expanded to provide essential baseline data. For water quantity, this would include locating gauging stations in the Obed WSR to accurately record water levels. The number and type of upstream impoundments would be continuously monitored and their effects on stream flows documented. Based on resulting data, a strategy would then be devised to provide for and protect natural stream flows.

The expanded monitoring effort would also work to effectively document improvements in or degradation of water quality. This program is a critical first step towards managing water resources and would allow Obed WSR staff to work with the State--as they are responsible for enforcing water quality regulations--to respond quickly and appropri-

# Management Zones



## LEGEND

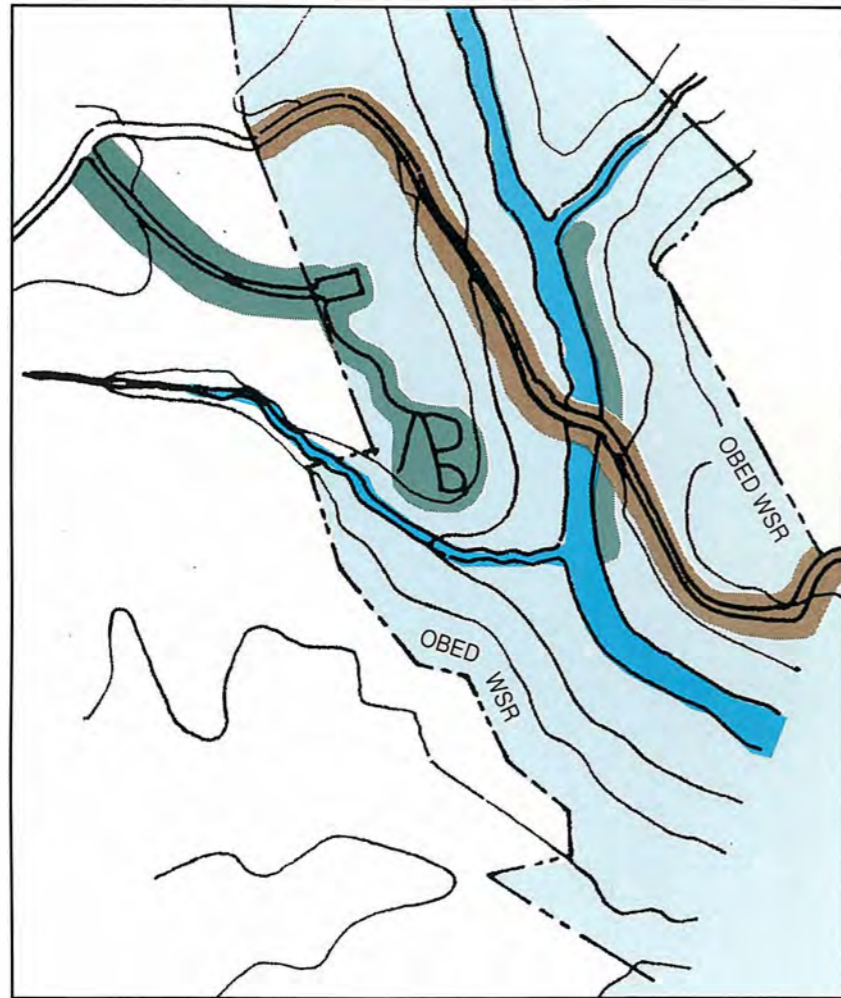
-  WILD ZONE
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE: RECREATIONAL FACILITIES SUBZONE
-  SEE NEXT MAP FOR MANAGEMENT ZONE DESIGNATIONS IN THESE AREAS

**OBED**  
**WILD & SCENIC RIVER**

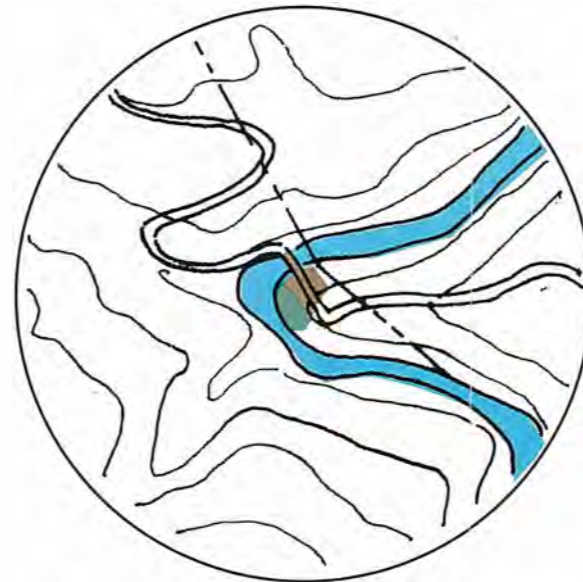
**TENNESSEE**

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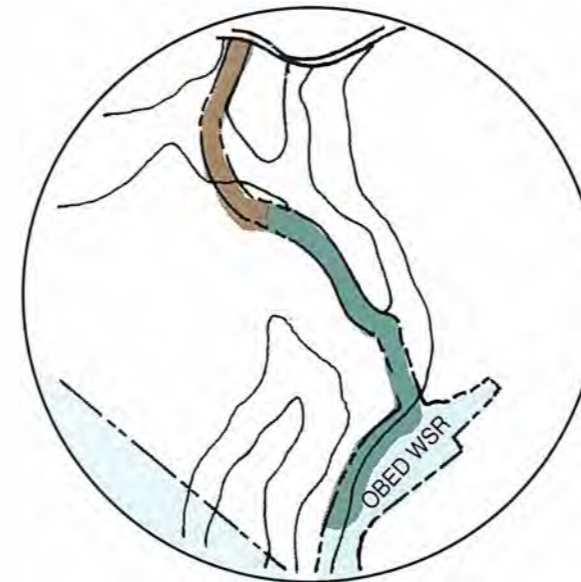
# Management Zones



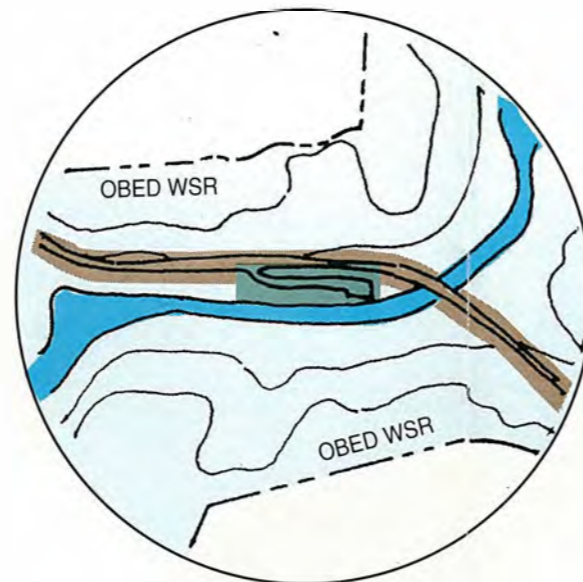
LILLY BRIDGE/ LILLY BLUFF



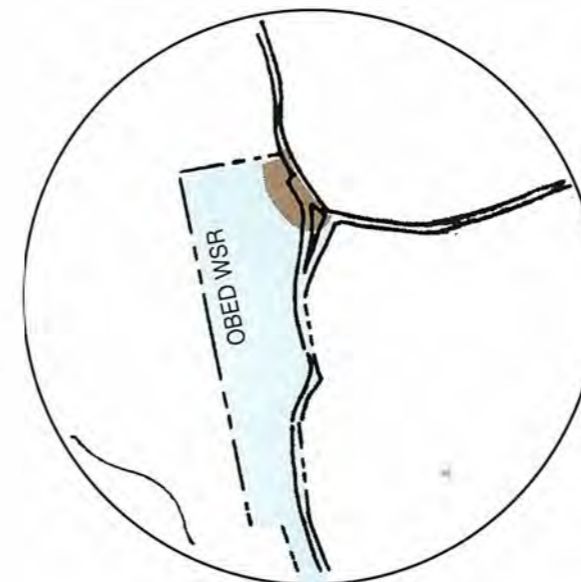
DEVILS BREAKFAST TABLE — CATOOSA WMA



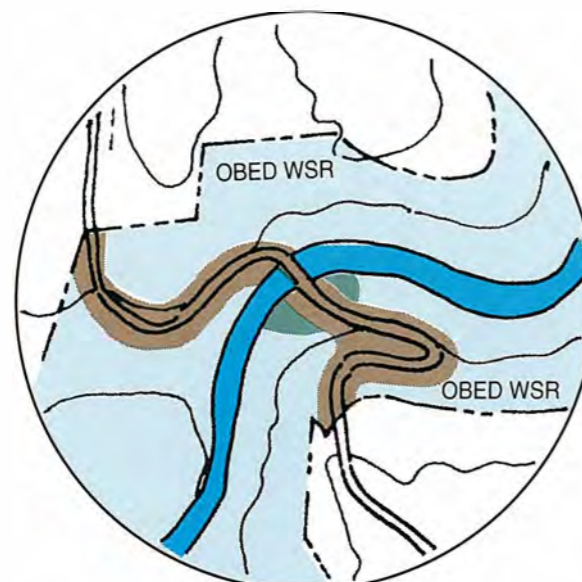
NORRIS FORD



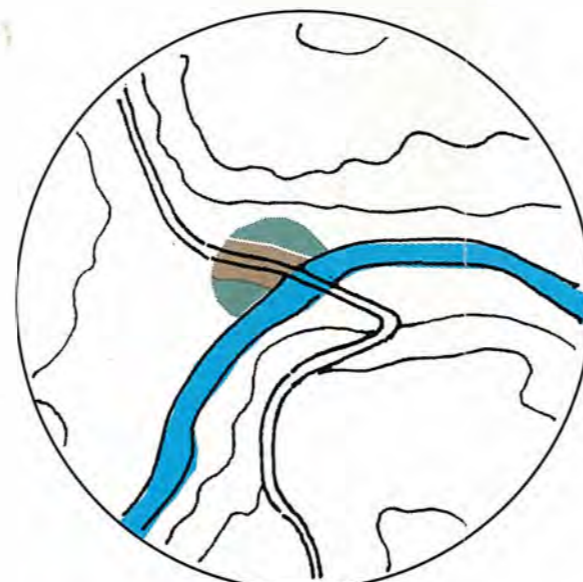
JETT BRIDGE



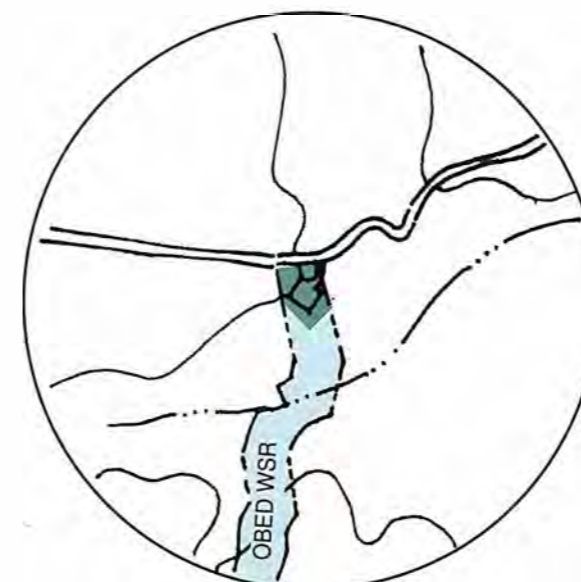
OBED JUNCTION



BARNETT BRIDGE







POTTERS FORD — CATOOSA WMA



OBED RIVER/ CLEAR CREEK JUNCTION

## LEGEND

-  RIVER
-  WILD ZONE
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE / Recreational Facilities Subzone
-  DEVELOPMENT ZONE / Road And Railroad ROW Subzone

No Scale

**OBED  
WILD & SCENIC RIVER**

**TENNESSEE**  
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ately to pollution events. Accordingly, the monitoring program must be designed in accordance with State regulations. This would include collecting and presenting data in accordance with regulations and utilizing State approved testing facilities.

**Management Plan.** A Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) would be prepared for the Obed WSR to present more specific strategies to deal with the variety and complexity of water resource issues.

**Other Projects.** Abandoned oil and gas wells and coal mines inside the Obed WSR would be stabilized and revegetated to reduce and mitigate the impacts from acid drainage and erosion. Where appropriate, these sites would be reclaimed and the natural character of the landscape restored.

Other eroded areas throughout the Obed WSR would also be stabilized and revegetated. These areas are subsequently discussed as part of related topics regarding trails, camping, and river access.

### **Within the Watershed**

#### ***Established State and Local Programs.***

The Park Service would work with established State and local water resource protection programs to help reduce the water quantity and quality impacts occurring from development and activities outside Obed WSR boundaries. Working with existing programs has been shown to be one of the most effective tools in dealing with water resource issues outside park boundaries.

One example would involve encouraging the State to add an "Outstanding Natural Resource Waters" (ONRW) designation to their existing stream classification system and apply it to the Obed WSR.

An ONRW designation would provide the Obed WSR with a State sanctioned means to encourage sensitive development practices in the watershed and help control the type and number of permitted discharges and impoundments upstream of the Obed WSR.

**Cooperative Efforts.** Because the watershed encompasses approximately 500 square miles of publicly and privately owned lands, a multi-disciplinary partnership effort is needed to deal with many of the water resource issues and impacts. The NPS would promote establishment of a work group or "committee" to set goals for and guide efforts toward water resource protection in the watershed. Federal, State and local agencies, and other interested public and private entities would be encouraged to participate in developing various projects and programs that would include the following.

1. Develop and implement a watershed protection plan. This plan would identify potential water quantity and quality threats and propose management strategies for dealing with them.
2. Involve and educate the community--private individuals, businesses, and public agencies--on the purpose and benefits of managing and protecting water quantity and quality including the need for the watershed protection plan.
3. Promote implementation of Best Management Practices for forestry, agriculture, and construction.
4. Promote rehabilitation of abandoned mines that threaten water quality in the Obed WSR.
5. Work closely with the State on results of monitoring and testing programs, enforcement of regulations, and establishing an ONRW designation.

### **BIODIVERSITY**

Insufficient data are available to adequately understand and protect the biological diversity within the Obed WSR. A proactive, comprehensive program would be established to gather baseline data on, monitor, and manage rare, threatened, and endangered species, critical habitats, exotic species, and air quality. Initial efforts would be made toward establishing a data gathering program that emphasizes an understanding and then provides a basis for protection of habitats or communities rather than individual species. Using an ecosystematic approach, such as mapping wildlife corridors and studying the interactions between species, habitats and communities, will require working outside the boundaries of the Obed WSR. As these issues are better understood, creative strategies can then be developed to provide the necessary protection and management.

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT**

A program would be established to collect baseline data on cultural resources since little information is available regarding the location and significance of area resources. As significant cultural resources are identified, appropriate management strategies would be developed and then implemented.

It is also important to understand the special features, traditions, and use patterns that specifically relate to the history of human use and development of this area. Oral histories would continue to be compiled and the results of this effort would be incorporated into the interpretation and management of the Obed WSR. The information can be an integral part of the interpretive program and, as appropriate, traditional names for features and areas can be re-established. Recently, the Park Service has reintroduced the traditional name of "Norris Bottoms" for the campground at Nemo Bridge.

### **LANDSCAPE CHARACTER**

The essentially primitive and inaccessible character of the natural landscape and the "solitude" associated with experiencing this landscape is a value that needs to be protected. The Park Service would conduct a study identifying existing visual and auditory intrusions in order to propose measures to mitigate significant impacts. Intrusions include visually obtrusive developments and noise from vehicular traffic, oil and gas drilling, timber cutting, and other activities. The study could provide a basis for cooperative measures regarding impacts from activities occurring on lands outside the Obed WSR boundaries.

## VISITOR USE and ASSOCIATED FACILITIES

Visitors come to the Obed WSR to participate in outdoor recreational activities or to explore a unit of the National Park System. There are an array of land and water based opportunities including white water boating, hiking, camping, rock climbing, hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, picnicking, and swimming. But, it is the wild, primitive setting for these activities that make the visitor experience so special.

Interpretation, overlooks, trails, camping, and river access are proposed to provide visitors the opportunity to experience the special values of the Obed WSR. The strategies, programs, activities, and appropriate developments for each of these five areas are described below.

### INTERPRETATION

Interpretation is a process of education designed to convey information to the visiting public, stimulate curiosity, and promote understanding and appreciation. This section describes the proposed interpretive program which is made up of interpretive themes and interpretive services. Interpretive themes provide the foundation for the "stories" and information to be conveyed to the visitor, and interpretive services describes how and where these stories and information would be provided.

#### Interpretive Themes

The values and significance of the Obed WSR provide the basis for the following four interpretive themes to be conveyed to the visitor.

*Natural Values.* The Obed WSR is one of the last remaining wild rivers in the Eastern United States and contains some of the highest water quality in the State. An outstanding example of a deep, sandstone gorge lines much of the river system. From the river bed to

the bluff tops, the area possesses great ecological diversity with a variety of habitats for many species of flora and fauna including a number of endangered and threatened species.

*Cultural Values.* The river system has served many people; from the prehistoric Indians who travelled here to hunt, fish and trade to the pioneers and "long hunters" who first settled the area. Coal mining, timbering, and oil and gas extraction have played a major role in the development of the region and have all taken place within the park boundaries.

*Protection and Preservation.* Because of its significant value, the Obed WSR was selected to be preserved in a free flowing condition and together with its environments, protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Management of the river system involves many different groups and organizations, including the TWRA, the NPS, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and private landowners. Activities both inside and outside the Obed WSR boundaries can greatly impact the values in need of protection including water quantity and quality, biodiversity, wildness, scenic characteristics, and recreational use.

*Recreational Values and Safety.* A wide variety of land and water based recreational opportunities are available and include fishing, hunting, boating, climbing, hiking, swimming, picnicking and camping. Generally inaccessible except by trail and a few road crossings, the river system provides boaters with a high quality white-water experience with varied levels of difficulty in a wild setting. There are many safety concerns due to the nature and difficulty of the white water, hunting, and the general remoteness and inaccessibility of most of the area.

### **Interpretive Services**

Information and orientation, onsite, and outreach services would be provided. The focus of each of these efforts and the facilities needed to accommodate these services are discussed.

*Information and Orientation Services.* Due to the nature of activities occurring in the Obed WSR environment, information and orientation would be provided in several forms in various locations. Visitors need easy access to information concerning the location, accessibility, and availability of water and land based activities and associated facilities. Safety would also be a major aspect of the information and orientation program so that up-to-date information on river conditions, weather, hunting seasons, and area closures could be provided.

The Visitor Contact Station would remain in Wartburg and would continue to focus on providing information and orientation to the visitor. The facility would continue to provide and sell informational materials. Current information regarding such topics as safety, river conditions, program offerings, and regional availability of camping, lodging, and food, would be posted outside the facility when it is closed. General information would also be available at TWRA offices in Crossville. If visitor use and future demand warrant additional informational facilities, an interagency facility would be considered.

A recorded message would provide 24 hour information on river levels and weather conditions. A gauging station would be located in the park in order to provide accurate information regarding river levels. Due to the seasonal nature of activities on the river, river levels and weather conditions are critical information to river users including those fishing, swimming, camping, or white water boating.

Within the Obed WSR boundaries, information boards, sometimes referred to as "bulletin cases", would be located at heavily used river access sites, including those within Catoosa WMA, major parking areas, and along existing roads at key boundary locations. The boards would provide up-to-date information and also serve as central meeting places for onsite interpretive programs. They may have information dispensers attached for brochures or other materials.

Information boards would also be located outside the Obed WSR boundaries in conjunction with other Federal and State agencies. Boards would be placed at selected river access sites used to access or take-out of the Obed WSR and one board would be placed along I-40.

*Onsite Services.* The main interpretive thrust would be at reaching visitors and users at the resource. An audiovisual program and some exhibits would be located at the visitor contact station with the intent on luring visitors out to the Obed WSR to experience its special values.

A combination of interpretive waysides, information boards, trails, roving interpreters, and personally conducted interpretive programs would be used to deliver portions of the interpretive story onsite. These facilities and activities would be located at the developed overlook, along trails, and at river access sites. Information regarding the proposed location and number of these facilities is described in more detail in following sections on overlooks, trails, and river access.

*Outreach Services.* The existing emphasis on outreach services would be strengthened. Outreach efforts have proved to be a very effective means to reach and

inform area residents on the values of the Obed WSR and why it is so important to protect these resources. Programs would continue to reach school age children. Programs would also be designed to reach the adult population of the surrounding communities.

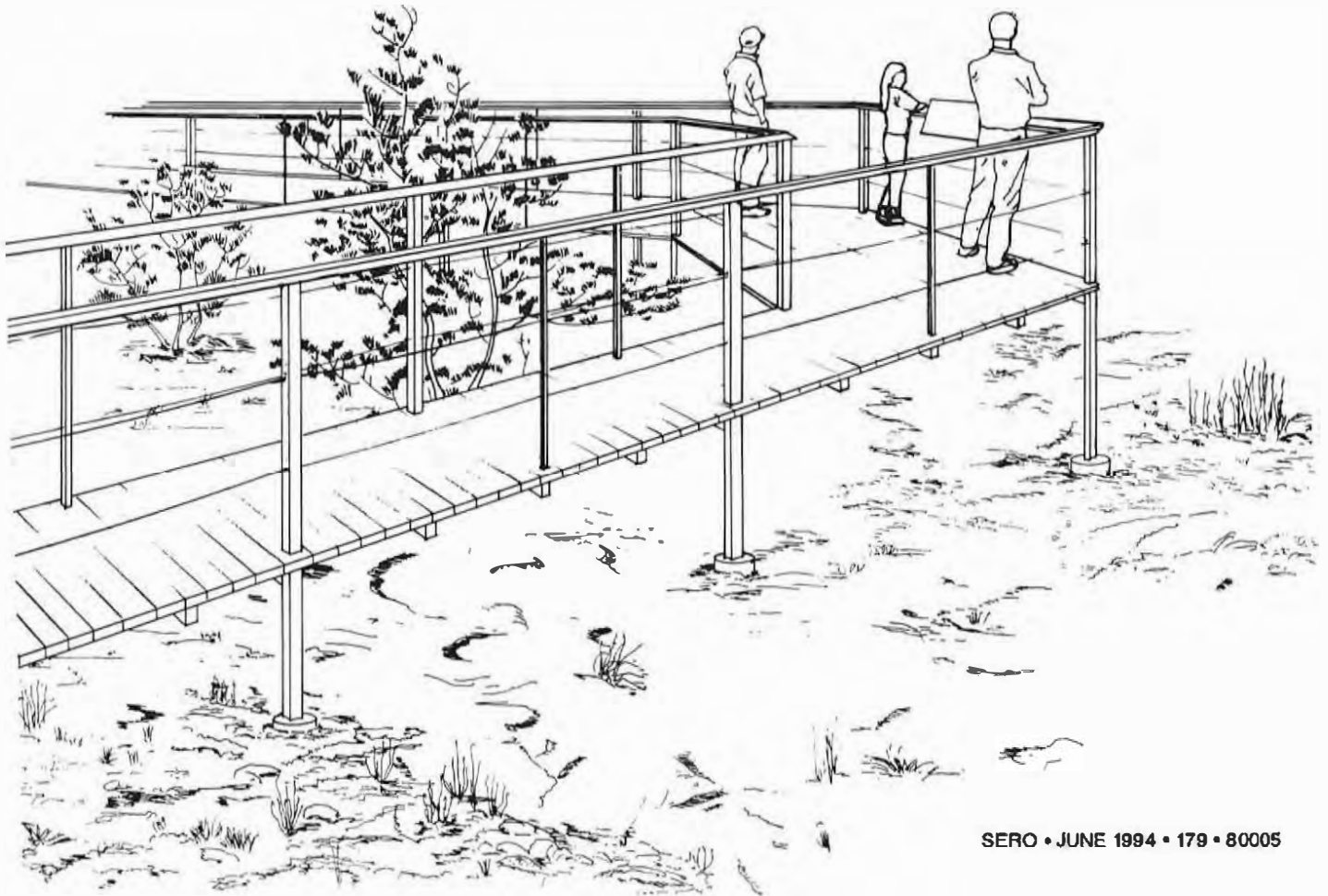
The Park Service would facilitate other agency or organization involvement in education and interpretation. This approach to outreach would help the NPS reach the greatest numbers of people with the smallest increase in staff. Park Service interpreters would train volunteers and area school teachers to present programs dealing with Obed WSR values to community clubs or organizations as well as school groups.

### OVERLOOKS

Views of the gorge, river, and surrounding landscape paint a vivid picture of the character of the Obed WSR. Because of the importance of the scenic characteristics, overlook experiences would be available to both visitors with ample time to explore and those who are limited by time or disabilities. Two types of overlooks would be available: undeveloped and developed.

#### Undeveloped Overlooks

Undeveloped overlooks are designated viewing locations with no development beyond what is allowed for in the Wild Zone. Designation of these overlooks provide visitors with clearly marked destinations containing spectacular views of the wild river environment in a primitive setting. Each designated undeveloped over-



look would contain, at most, the hiking trail leading to it, a sign or interpretive wayside marking its location, and may involve some clearing of vegetation.

Most of these undeveloped overlooks would be designated in conjunction with the Trail Layout Study described in the following section on Trails. Five undeveloped overlooks would be designated in the Obed River and Clear Creek Junction area and are depicted in the DCP. An approximately 0.75 mile (1206 meters) long hiking trail within the existing NPS owned right-of-way would lead visitors out to these overlooks and the confluence of the Obed River and Clear Creek. A 200 foot (70 meters) long access road would be improved leading to a 10 space gravel parking area constructed near a hemlock grove. The start of the trail, picnic tables, a sanitary facility, and trash receptacles would be placed under the canopy of the trees, creating an attractive trail head and picnic area.

**Developed Overlook**

A developed overlook provides the appropriate facilities to provide all visitors "visual access" to the Obed WSR; visitors would have easy access to experience a representative portion of the wild and recreational character of the river and gorge. A special effort was undertaken to identify the location and design for this overlook and is summarized in Appendix C.

A single, developed overlook would be located near Lilly Bridge at Lilly Bluff. This site was selected because the location:

- is consistent with the management objectives and management zone descriptions limiting development within the Wild Zone to existing bridge crossing areas;
- has been and continues to be severely impacted by inappropriate uses such as trampling by people and motor vehicles, campfires, litter, and vandalism; and

--satisfies objectives for a successful overlook (see Appendix C).

The Lilly Bluff Overlook DCP depicts the proposed development. A hard surfaced trail leads visitors from a 20 space parking area, out to an elevated boardwalk. The boardwalk directs visitors over the exposed bluff along two loops offering views, sounds, and interpretation of the river, exposed bluffs, steep gorge, surrounding landscape, river use, and plant and animal communities.

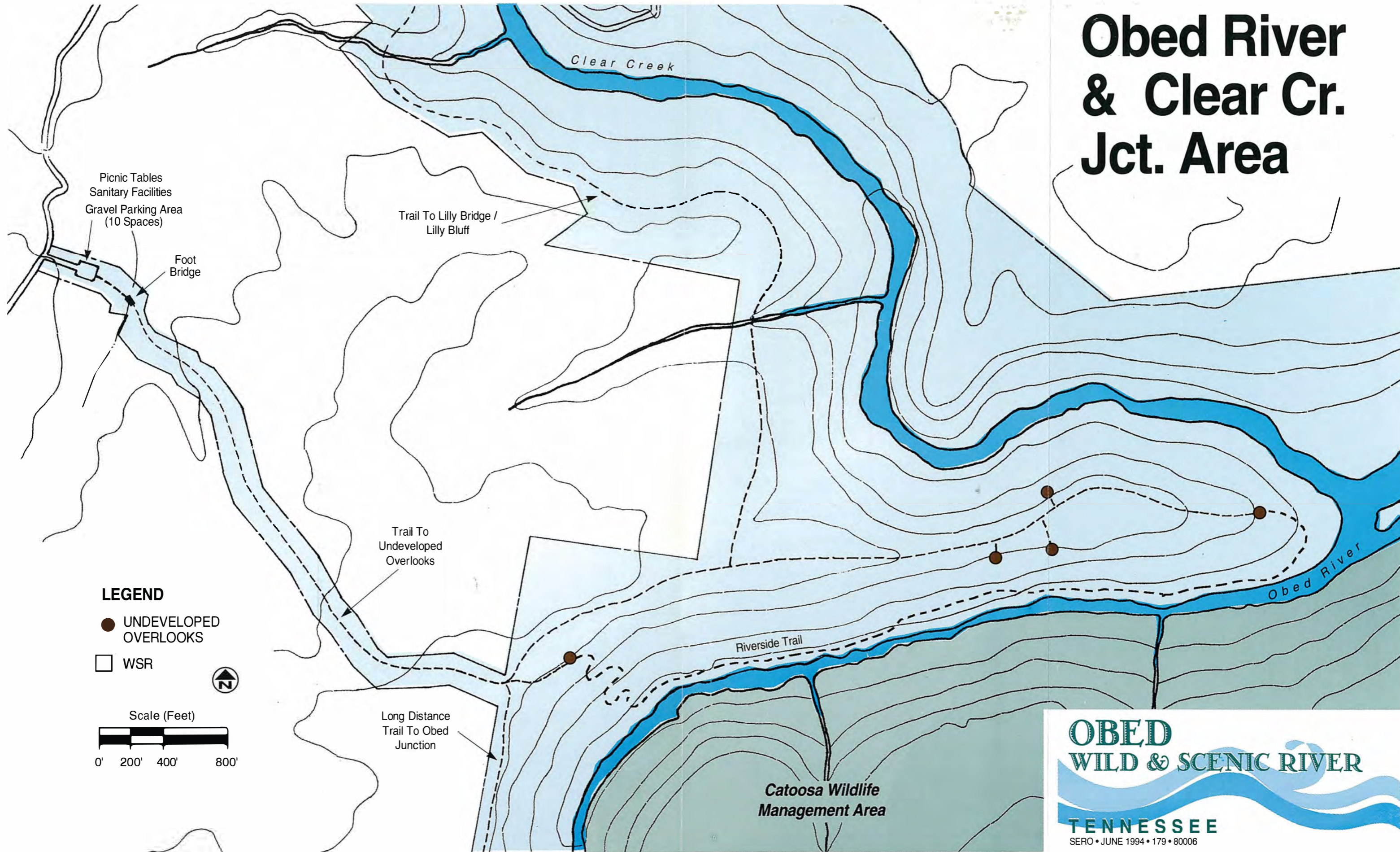
Visitors could also hike up to the overlook on a trail beginning at Lilly Bridge. This relatively steep trail traverses along the base of Lilly Bluff, climbs past rock shelters, and offers access to a waterfall. At the top, the trail joins a boardwalk which connects to the central boardwalk leading out to the overlook.

Many considerations went into the design of the Lilly Bluff Overlook. The boardwalk would be raised and railings are provided to keep visitors above the bluff to protect a large, highly developed example of a Cumberland Plateau bluff line plant community. This sensitive plant community is being heavily impacted by motor vehicles and people. The boardwalk would be carefully located on the bluff to avoid impacting the scattered pockets of sensitive plant community. Posts used to support the boardwalk would be anchored to the bluff with galvanized metal "H" brackets to minimally affect the natural drainage of water on the site.

The materials selected for the boardwalk would minimize its visual impact. A recycled polymer that resembles wood would be used for the decking and metal cables used for the railings to help the development blend into the site. The top rail would be larger providing visitors a place to lean.

The trail and boardwalk are also designed to be accessible to visitors with disabilities. A surface stabilizer would be used on the

Development Concept Plan  
**Obed River  
& Clear Cr.  
Jct. Area**



**LEGEND**

● UNDEVELOPED OVERLOOKS

□ WSR



Scale (Feet)

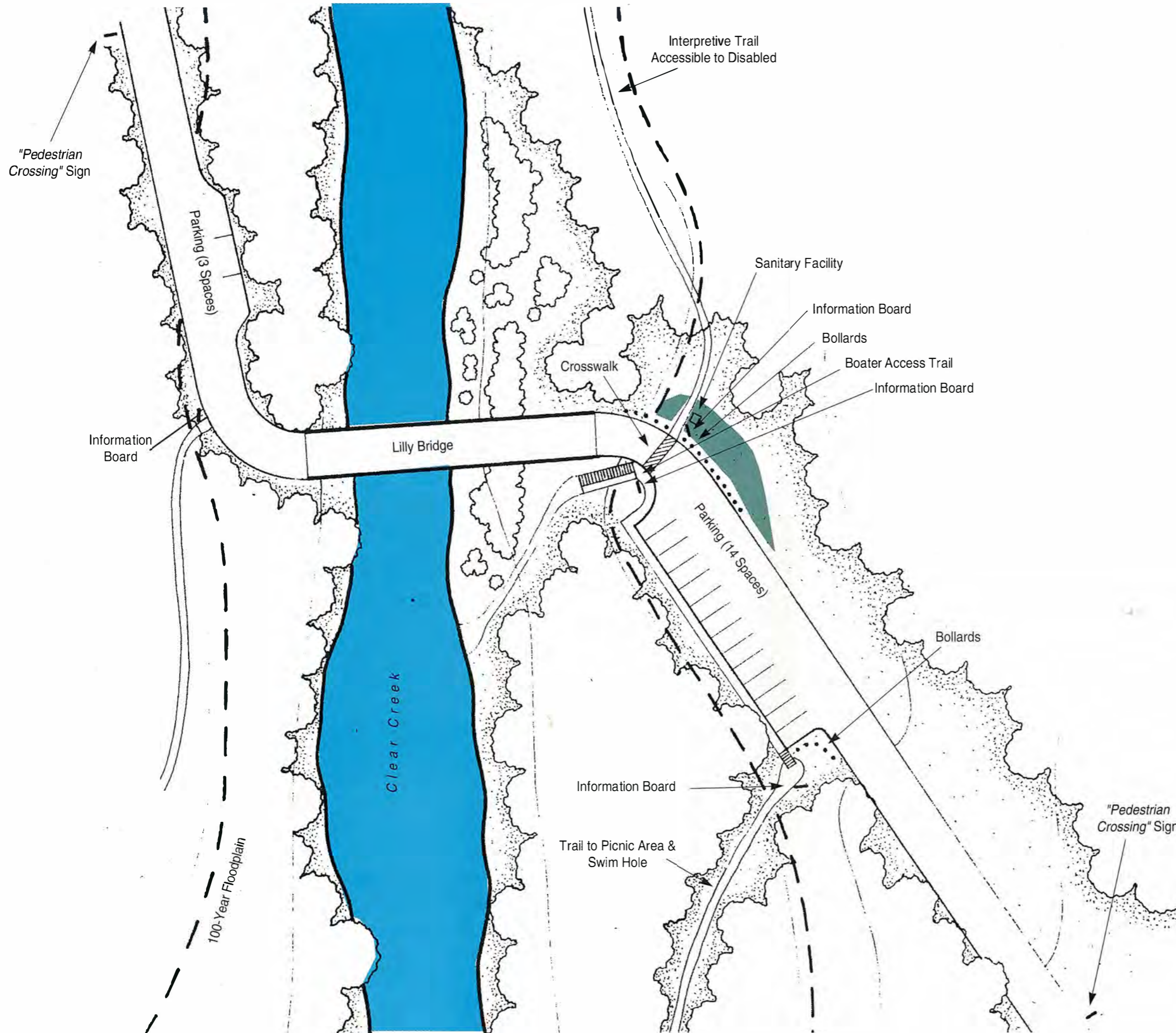


# Development Concept Plan Lilly Bridge

## LEGEND

 REVEGETATED AREA

 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN





trail leading from the parking area to the boardwalk. Surface stabilizers bond native aggregates with soil stabilization agents to form durable, dust-free, permeable, hardened surfaces that retain the natural color and texture of regional soils. These agents are nontoxic, environmentally safe materials, such as pine tar derivatives and complex protein molecules. The trail and boardwalk would meet the Americans with Disabilities Act Guidelines.

A monitoring program would be established to develop information on the plant community before construction begins, monitor the success of the design once installed, and mitigate any problems. Waysides and NPS staff would be used to educate visitors on the value and need to protect the plant community.

## TRAILS

A system of linear and looped trails would provide approximately 30 miles (48.3 kilometers) of hiking opportunities amidst both "wild" and "recreational" settings. The Long Distance Trail Map depicts the general location of these trails. The long distance trails connect segments of existing paths that have been created during many years of use. The Park Service would prepare a Trail Layout Study before construction of these trails. The study would delineate exact trail locations in order to accommodate visitor access to a variety of destinations along both river and bluff sections while providing for the protection of sensitive resources. Several shorter, more feature specific trails would also be developed and are described within the sections on Overlooks, Camping, and River Access.

### Linear Trails

An approximately 6.5 mile (10.4 kilometer) trail would connect Nemo and Lilly Bridges. Much of this trail currently exists having been formed during years of hunting, fishing, and hiking use in the area. Areas where hikers could cross the Emory, upstream of where it joins the Obed, needs

to be identified so hikers can travel the entire route.

### Loop Trail

A long distance loop trail, approximately 20.5 miles (33 kilometers), would follow the north side of the Obed River and the south side of Clear Creek. The NPS currently has fee title to much of this land. Additional interests may need to be purchased to permit public access and trail construction on lands where the NPS has only acquired easements. Along the western portion of this loop, the trail would follow a short section along the Catoosa WMA boundary, cross Genesis Road, and follow the Hawn Spring Branch back to the current Obed WSR boundary. Trail access along Hawn Spring Branch would be acquired as discussed in the section on Land Protection.

### Support for Additional Trails

Based on public interest and support, the Park Service would consider developing other trails that are consistent with NPS Management Policies, regulations, and the GMP. This could include the two trails described in the *1978 Development Plan*-- an extension of the existing Cumberland Trail and a trail traversing the southern portion of the Obed River between Devils Breakfast Table and (see Alternative B for further description of these trails).

Identification and support for trails on or through Catoosa Wildlife Management Area and other adjacent lands would be encouraged due to the limited, narrow land base along most of the Obed WSR. Also, significant portions of Obed WSR lands are not owned in fee by the Park Service.

## CAMPING

Two types of camping are proposed: "developed" and "undeveloped". Developed camping areas would provide for camping in a natural setting with some development of facilities and would only occur in the Development Zone/Recreational Facilities Subzone. Undeveloped

campsites would provide for a more primitive camping experience and could occur within any of the management zone designations.

Because some of the camp sites would occur in the 100 year floodplain, flood information would be made available to visitors by signs and pamphlets. A contingency plan for evacuating the developed camping areas during periods of flooding would be instituted. A permit or self registration system would be established for undeveloped camping. This system would include alerting visitors about inclement weather conditions and safety precautions to take if the river begins to rise.

#### **Developed Camping**

The Park Service would continue to provide one developed camping area at Norris Bottoms. The existing campground at Norris Bottoms would be increased from 6 to 10 sites. Each site would contain parking, fire rings, and picnic tables. The campground also contains centralized garbage and sanitary facilities.

A second camping area could be developed near the existing bridge crossing at Potters Ford in Catoosa WMA lands. This area is heavily used for camping but the activity is generally uncontrolled. If requested, the Park Service would assist with design development of this campground.

#### **Undeveloped Camping**

These campsites would offer a more wild experience and could only be accessed by boat or trail. At most, each site would remain virtually undeveloped containing only a sign marking its location and a fire ring.

Additional study is required to determine the appropriate number and location of campsites.

#### **RIVER ACCESS**

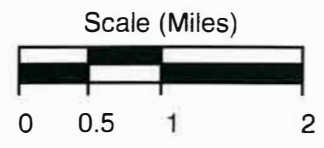
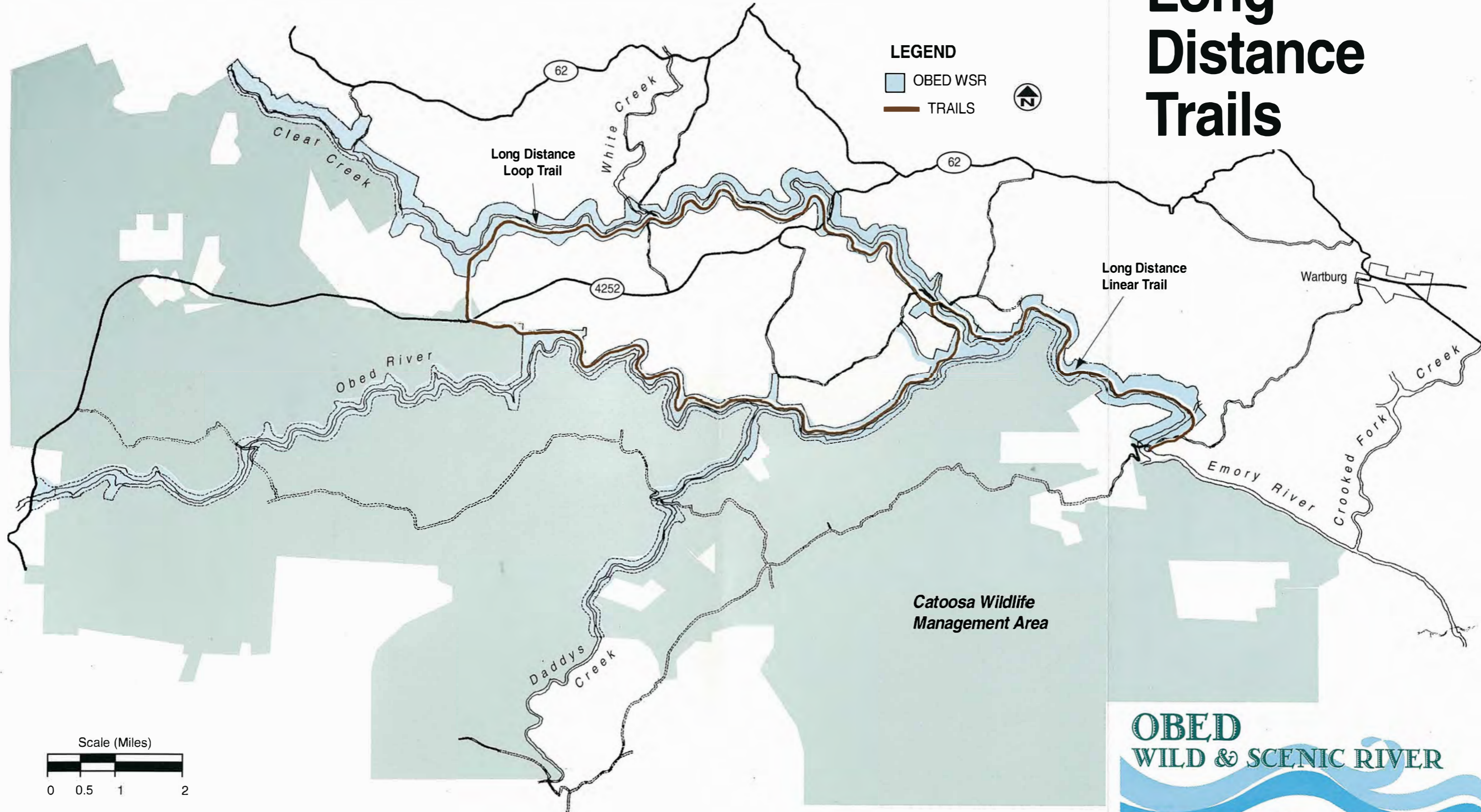
Most water and land based recreational activities require some means of access to the waters of the Obed WSR system. Boaters need places to enter (put-in) and exit (take-out) the water. Trails to the waters edge would accommodate fishing and swimming. Visitors also come to enjoy being near the water to picnic, sight-see, hike, camp, or simply rest.

Facilities for river access and associated uses would be provided in a manner consistent with management zone designations. Proposed developments are discussed below for the Wild Zone and Development Zone. Recommendations are also proposed for important, heavily used river access sites outside existing Obed WSR boundaries.

Parking for motor vehicles is one of the facilities described. Due to the steep terrain and limited land base, space to safely accommodate parking is very limited at the river access sites. The parking described in the following section, is designed to be safe while accommodating existing use patterns to the greatest extent possible. Parking has been expanded in some areas and, for safety reasons, reduced in other areas. In the future, the number of spaces proposed may be inadequate so alternative solutions for parking may need to be sought. These alternatives might include providing parking along the bluff or outside existing Obed WSR boundaries with trails leading to the river.

Where the terrain allows, trails would be made accessible to visitors with disabilities. Consistent with NPS Management Policies, fully accessible trails are located at the most developed areas--Nemo Bridge, Lilly Bridge, and Lilly Bluff.

# Long Distance Trails



### Wild Zone

Hiking trails, primitive overlooks, and undeveloped camping areas would be the only improvements for river access and use within this subzone. Minimal development maintains the primitive nature of the Obed WSR experience.

There are a number of popular river access areas within the Wild Zone and typically, motorized vehicles, such as ATVs and 4x4s, are used to reach these areas. Where appropriate, these created roadways would be removed or replaced with hiking trails. Gates, fences, posts or other facilities may be required to help prohibit vehicle use in these areas. Small parking areas could be developed at these gate areas with trails leading from them and on to the river. Vehicle users would be encouraged to access the river at Development Zones.

### Development Zone

The minimum facilities needed to accommodate river access would be provided. The Development Zone contains subzones that include the classified recreational river area, existing bridge crossing areas, and road and rail rights-of-way. Descriptions of proposed developments and DCPs are provided for the following: the Nemo Bridge to Turn Hole area; Barnett Bridge; Jett Bridge; Lilly Bridge including Lilly Bluff, Norris Ford, Obed Junction, the Obed River/Clear Creek Junction area, and Catoosa WMA sites.

Developments are consistent with the management zone designation and are designed to control and minimize the resource impacts currently occurring from use. Improvements for these areas could include access roads, small parking areas, put-in trails, sanitary facilities, picnic tables, garbage receptacles, interpretive trails, and information boards. The following descriptions and DCPs illustrate the general nature of the development proposed for these areas. Undeveloped camping areas are not shown on the DCPs since further

study is required to determine appropriate numbers and locations of campsites.

*Nemo Bridge to Turnhole Area.* This 0.95 mile (1.5 kilometer) long section of river corridor is classified as a recreational river area. Facilities would be provided to enhance opportunities for picnicking, hiking, sight-seeing, fishing, camping, boating, swimming, and other compatible uses. The Nemo Bridge Area DCP depicts the proposed developments. Morgan County is currently developing alternative locations for a new bridge at Nemo which may change the proposed DCP for this area. Downstream locations are being considered for the new bridge which may affect the existing boundaries and current use of the Nemo area. The Park Service will continue to work with the county on this issue and the DCP would be changed if necessary.

The existing parking, picnic, swimming, and campground areas would be expanded. An improved river access trail would lead from the parking area to the river and would be accessible to visitors with disabilities. Longer trails would be developed on each side of the river providing access to "Turnhole", other places along the river, and undeveloped camping areas. Both of these trails are part of long-distance trails: the Cumberland Trail which leads from Norris Bottoms Campground and the proposed linear trail connecting the Nemo area to Lilly Bridge.

Enhancements for these activities would also be made south of Nemo Bridge if the boundaries and recreational designation are expanded to Crooked Fork (see Land Protection). This area is currently outside existing boundaries and is impacted by heavy use and trash.

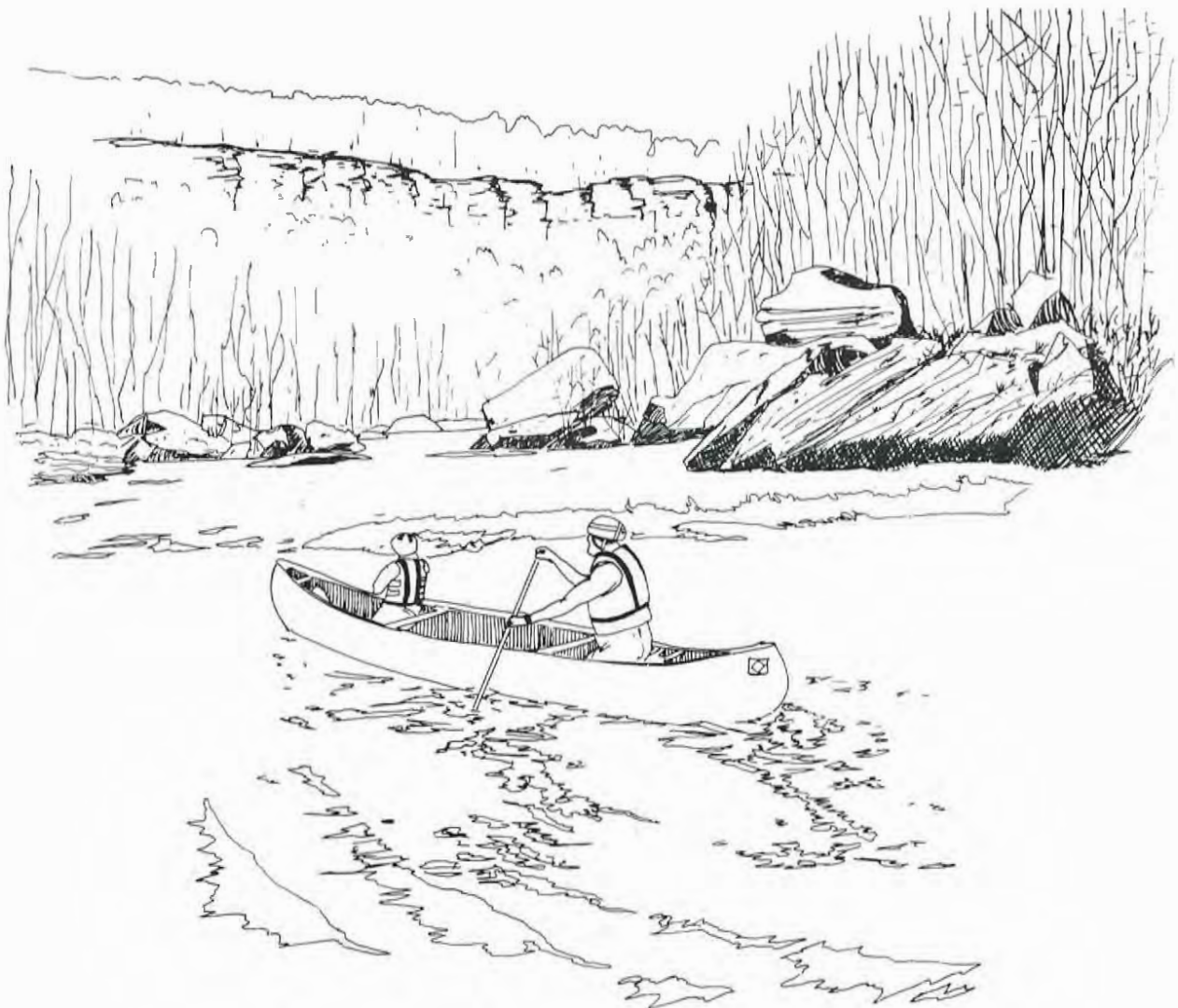
Vehicles and some pedestrians are currently using a narrow, dark abandoned railroad tunnel to access the

Obed WSR. The railroad company responsible for the tunnel has unsuccessfully attempted to block the entrance. Since the tunnel may be historically significant, the Park Service would work with the railroad company to determine if it is safe for use and then propose appropriate management recommendations.

*Barnett Bridge.* Facility enhancements would include four parallel parking spaces along the road, two trails to the river, an information board, sanitary facilities, a picnic area containing two picnic tables and trash receptacles, and undeveloped camping with trash recep-

tacles. Two signs along the road would warn motorists of pedestrian use in the area. Landscaping with native plants would also be done to prevent erosion.






*Jett Bridge.* TVA recently funded initial planning and development for improvements at the Jett Bridge area. The road was improved and a seven space parking lot, two picnic tables with concrete pads, and a sanitary facility were constructed. Additional enhancements are needed and include an access trail to the river and an information board to be located near the parking area. Undeveloped camping would also occur upstream from the bridge.

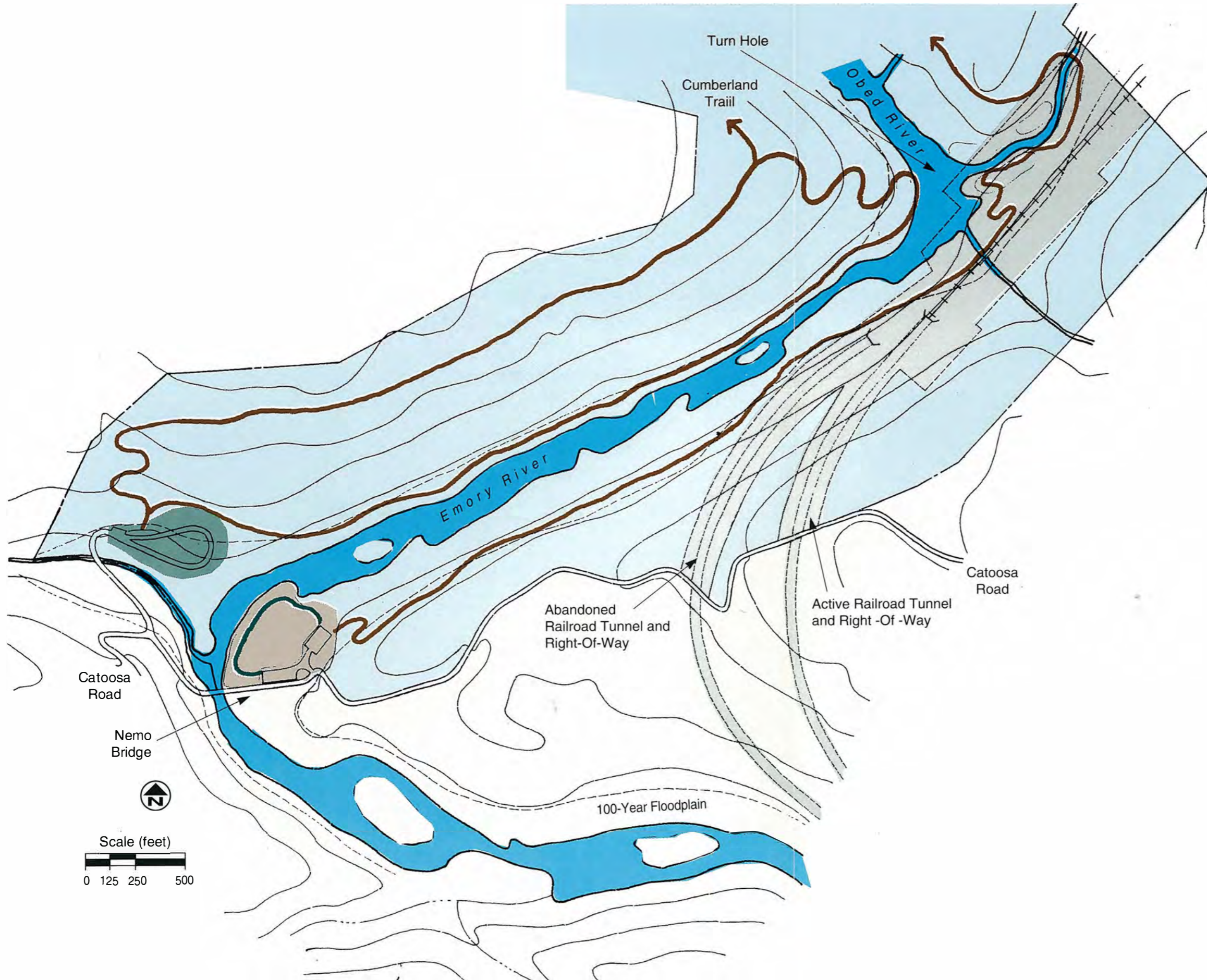


Development Concept Plan

# Nemo Bridge Area

**LEGEND**

-  HIKING TRAILS
-  TRAIL ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED
-  FLOODPLAIN BOUNDARY
-  DEVELOPED CAMPING AREA (10 SITES W/ FIRE RINGS, TABLES, & PARKING)
-  RAILROAD RIGHT- OF- WAY
-  EXPANDED PARKING, PICNIC AND SWIMMING AREA.
-  OBED WSR



Catoosa Road

Nemo Bridge



Scale (feet)



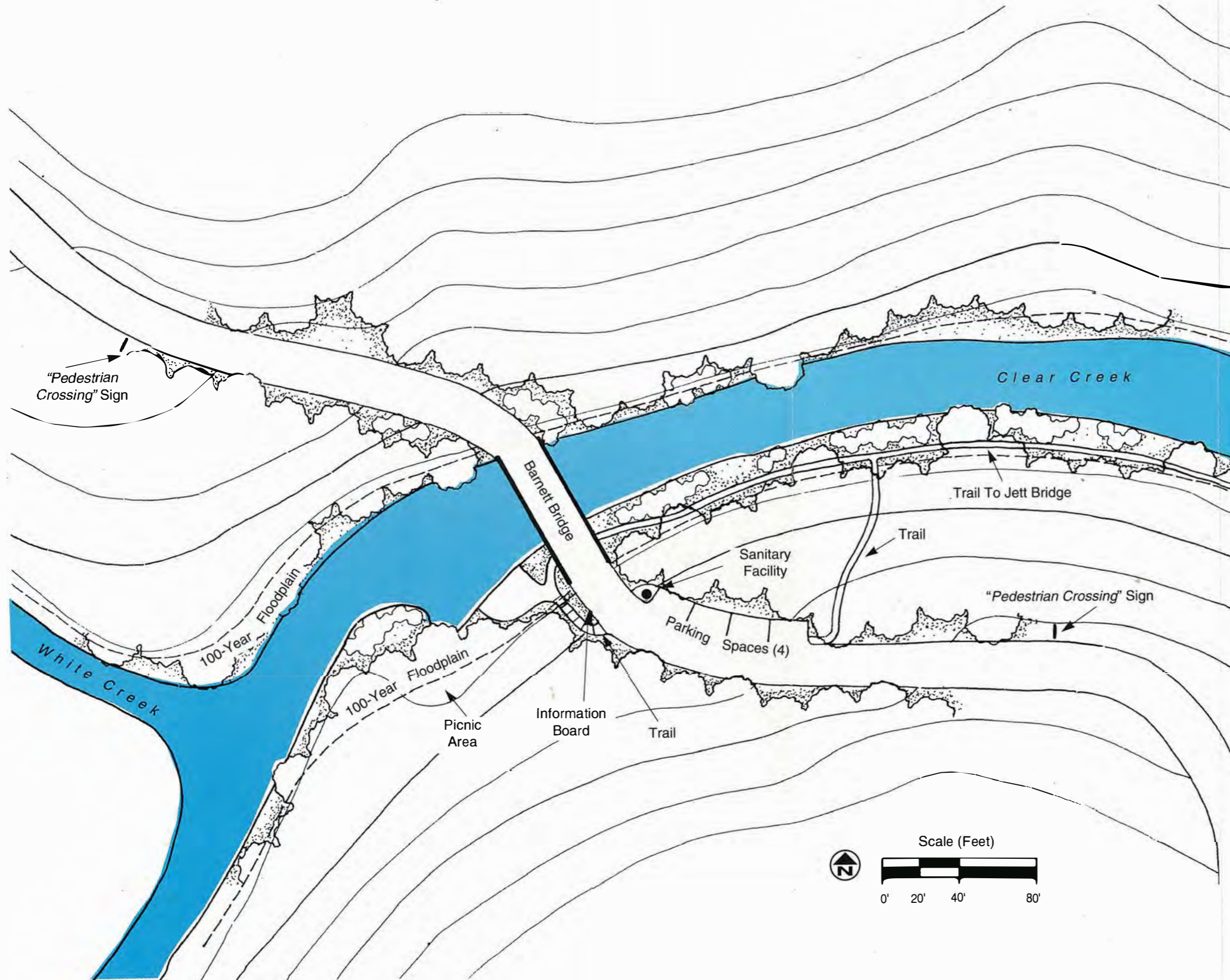
Abandoned Railroad Tunnel and Right-Of-Way

Active Railroad Tunnel and Right-Of-Way

Catoosa Road

100-Year Floodplain

# Barnett Bridge



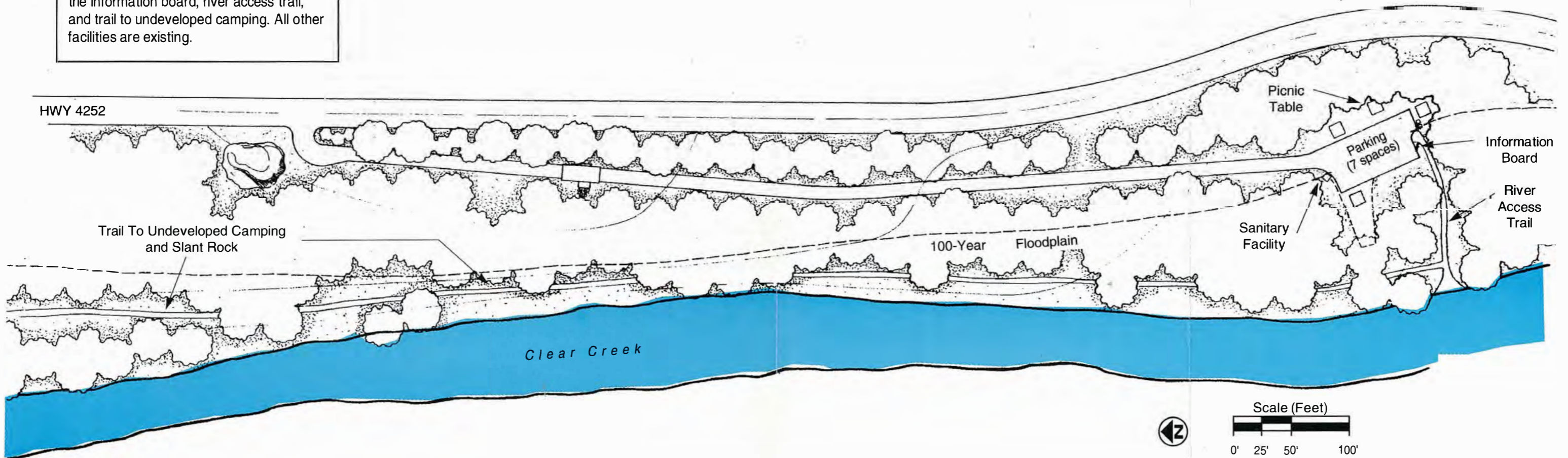
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# Jett Bridge

Note: The only new facilities proposed are the information board, river access trail, and trail to undeveloped camping. All other facilities are existing.





Development Concept Plan

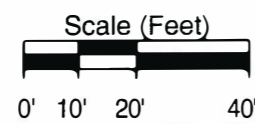
# Lilly Bluff

- INTERPRETIVE SUBJECTS**
1. The River System
  2. Exposed Bluffs
  3. Gorge Formations
  4. Surrounding Landscapes
  5. Plant/Animal Communities

Hard Surfaced Trail To Parking Area (See Inset)

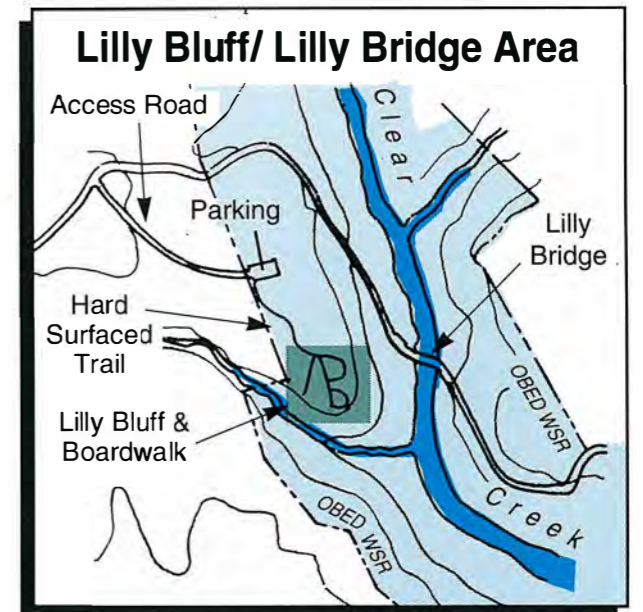
Sitting Area With Stone Bench

Trail To Lilly Bridge



**LEGEND**

- INTERPRETIVE WAYSIDE
- BOARDWALK
- VIEWING/ SITTING AREA
- BLUFFLINE
- GROUNDCOVER VEGETATION
- MIXED HARDWOOD/ PINE TREE STANDS



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*Lilly Bridge.* The Lilly Bridge DCP depicts facility developments in the Lilly Bridge and Lilly Bluff area. Proposed development at Lilly Bluff is previously described and depicted in the "Overlooks" section.

Two parking areas along the road would be improved: the primary parking area just downstream of the bridge would contain 14 spaces and the second area would contain 3 spaces, primarily serving one of the trails. Overflow parking would be accommodated at Lilly Bluff. The bridge serves as the starting point for four trails: a boater access trail with steps and a ramp to slide boats on, a separate trail leading to a picnic area and swimming hole, an interpretive trail along the river that would accommodate disabled visitors, and another interpretive trail leading up to Lilly Bluff. Information boards are needed at the start of each trail and would contain up-to-date information on river conditions, orientation to the area, and interpretive exhibits.

Due to the heavy use this area receives, a sanitary facility and at least six garbage receptacles are needed. Signs would be posted warning motorists of pedestrian use in the area. The heavily used land currently used for parking is unsafe. The area would be revegetated and bollards installed to keep vehicles from parking there.

*Catoosa WMA Sites. Potters Ford and Devils Breakfast Table.* Development of these areas would be consistent with the management zone designations and would be similar to other existing bridge crossing areas. With TWRA permission, the Park Service would install and maintain information boards at both Potters Ford and Devils Breakfast Table to provide consistent information regarding the Obed WSR at all river access sites. If requested, the Park Service would assist TWRA in developing plans

for these sites as they are heavily used and in need of some improvements.

*Norris Ford Right-Of-Way.* Morgan County maintains a road and right-of-way to the Obed WSR boundary which is depicted on the Management Zone map. A parking area would be developed at the terminus of this road. The existing unimproved vehicular trail would be converted into a hiking trail leading from the parking area into the wild corridor.

*Obed Junction Right-Of-Way.* A developed parking area with 10 spaces would occur along the public road right-of-way near Obed Junction and is depicted on the Management Zone map. The existing unimproved vehicular trail would be converted into a hiking trail leading from the parking area to the Obed Junction area.

*Obed River/Clear Creek Junction Area.* An access road, parking area, picnic area, and trail head would be developed to provide access to this area. The "Overlooks" section contains a description of and DCP for this area.

#### **External Access Sites**

*Lavender Bridge, Adams Bridge, Antioch Bridge and Camp Austin Bridge.* Many boaters put-in at Lavender, Adams, and Antioch Bridges and take-out in the Obed WSR. It is also popular to put-in at Nemo Bridge and take-out down river at Camp Austin Bridge. TVA currently owns lands at Lavender and Adams Bridges. A cooperative agreement would be pursued whereby the TVA would improve and, where necessary, acquire sites for river access. The NPS would be responsible for maintaining these sites. Developments would be consistent with river access areas inside the Obed WSR boundaries and would include parking, trails, picnic areas, sanitary facilities, signs, and information boards.

## **PARK OPERATIONS and ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

### **STAFFING**

Specific staffing requests will be addressed through an operations plan to be prepared after the general management plan is approved. A preliminary estimate follows projecting the total staff needed to fully implement this alternative. The Obed WSR currently has 5 full time equivalent (FTE) positions. An additional 11 to 13 FTEs would be required to satisfactorily administer the existing conditions as described in Alternative B. Another 2 to 3 FTEs would be needed to fully implement this alternative. The grand total of FTEs would be 18 to 21.

While there are needs in all divisions, it is recommended that at least one resource management specialist be assigned at Obed WSR due to the complexity of resource management issues and the immediate need to implement a water quality monitoring program. Strategies to augment park staff include use of volunteers to build trails, students to do studies, or area teachers to conduct interpretive programs for their students. Consideration would be given to separating the Obed WSR from Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area management as staffing and budget levels increase.

### **FACILITIES**

The City of Wartburg would remain the location for the administrative headquarters and maintenance facilities. Additional secured "caches" of maintenance and search and rescue equipment would be placed at specific locations in the Obed WSR.

One facility would continue to house the administrative headquarters and visitor contact station. To accommodate staff and functions, approximately 3,600 square feet of building space would be optimal for the visitor contact and administrative headquarters building and approximately 3,000 square feet for the maintenance facility. The chart in Appendix E provides a more detailed breakdown of the functions and space requirements.

## LAND PROTECTION

Easements and existing boundaries would be adjusted in order to carry out legislative mandates to protect Obed WSR values. These adjustments are consistent with the management objectives and would enhance resource protection, the visitor experience, and the capability to provide essential visitor services. The proposed adjustments are described below.

### EASEMENT ADJUSTMENTS

Where possible, the Park Service has acquired easements, or less-than-fee title, on lands within the Obed WSR. The easements are intended to provide for the protection of values and accommodate visitor use of the river floodplains while allowing current landowners to retain ownership. Some existing easements have not been effective. Some owners of land on which the Park Service holds an easement have ignored the terms of the easement. Their developments and activities adversely affect Obed WSR values. Buildings have been constructed along the edge of the bluff, some lands have been cleared of vegetation, and roads have been built providing private, vehicular access to the river.

Additional rights would be acquired to provide for adequate protection. As easement deficiencies are realized, they can be addressed in future easements. Coordination with landowners would be enhanced to help deter threats to Obed WSR resources and values and enforcement of easements would be increased.

### BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

The boundaries of the Obed WSR would be adjusted to provide for the protection of specific values. Three types of boundary adjustments are proposed: administrative adjustments, adjustments requiring additional legislative authority, and adjustments requiring additional study. The lands and reasons for adjustments are described

below and the areas described are depicted on the Boundary Adjustments Map. All of the proposed adjustments meet Park Service criteria for boundary adjustments.

### Administrative Adjustments

The following administrative boundary adjustments are considered to be minor and can be accomplished within existing legislative authority.

*Visible Tributary Mouths.* The mouths of several significant tributaries which flow into Obed River, Clear Creek, and Daddys Creek, are visible to users along portions of the "wild" section of the Obed WSR. Presently four tributary mouths are known to be visible--Muddy Branch, White Creek, Little Clear Creek, and Melton Mill Branch. Acquisition of sufficient rights in these areas--a total of approximately 25 acres (10.1 hectares)--would prevent incompatible uses that may affect the area's visual integrity, water quality, the wild character, and other Obed WSR values. These areas lie outside the Catoosa WMA and local zoning for protection is unavailable. Administratively, a boundary extension is the most effective approach to protection.

*North Side of Obed River.* Sufficient interest in a 200 foot (60.9 meter) wide strip of the 2.5 mile (4 kilometer) long bluff along the north side of the Obed River, between the confluences of Clear and Daddys Creeks, would be acquired to protect this area. This approximately 61 acre (27.4 hectare) parcel of land was thought to be owned by TWRA when the original boundaries were drawn. While the river corridor is within the Obed WSR boundaries, the top of the bluff is privately owned, being developed, and potentially available to additional developments. The same situation exists here as for the four tributary mouths which makes a boundary expansion appropriate.

*Trail Access.* Acquiring access to a 0.25 mile (0.4 kilometer) long corridor along Hawn Spring Branch, a tributary to Clear Creek, would complete a proposed 26 mile (41.8 kilometers) loop hiking trail (see "Trails"). Acquisition of sufficient interests--fee or easement--in a minimum of 6 acres (2.4 hectares) would help protect the wild character and provide hiking opportunities. While this parcel would adjoin TWRA lands, TWRA would not acquire interest in this land since wildlife management would not be a prime use.

*Access to Lilly Bluff.* Additional lands are needed to accommodate visitor access to the proposed overlook development at Lilly Bluff (see "Overlooks"). Sufficient interests--fee or easement--would be acquired involving up to 20 acres (8.1 hectares) providing for road access, parking, and trails.

#### **Adjustments Requiring Legislation**

The following actions would require amending the Obed WSR authorizing legislation. These actions involve detached parcels in Wartburg and several boundary extensions along the river system.

#### Detached Parcels in Wartburg

The legislation would be amended to allow the Park Service to own facilities in Wartburg for administrative purposes. Steep topography, location, and river classifications rule out construction of administrative facilities within the designated river corridor. Appropriate facilities would be acquired in Wartburg to centralize and accommodate necessary maintenance, administrative, and visitor contact functions. Ownership would allow the Park Service control over the size and layout of the facilities in order to provide essential visitor services and effective park management. Facilities are currently leased in the city which prohibits the Park Service from effectively using the space to meet visitor contact and administrative needs.

#### Boundary Extensions along River Segments

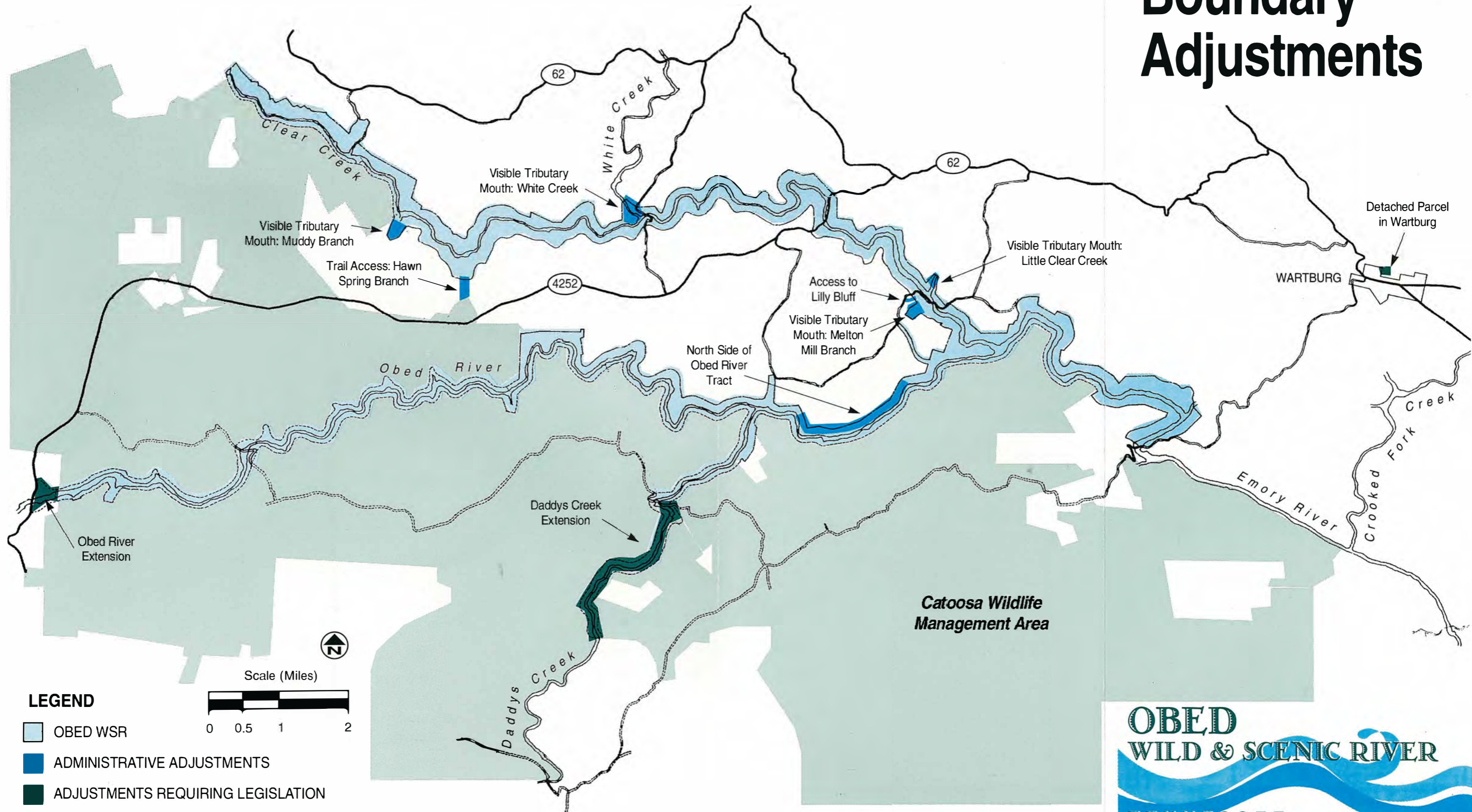
In the 1976 Final Environmental Statement, prepared as part of the original Wild and Scenic River Study, 100 miles (160.9 kilometers) of the river system met the criteria of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and were proposed for designation to protect the natural values of the corridor and provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Only 45.2 river miles (72.7 kilometers) were included in the establishing legislation (P.L. 94-486). Due to local objections at the time, the upstream boundaries stopped inside Catoosa WMA. The following boundary extensions are desirable because the remaining lands still contain the values necessary for inclusion and are being threatened by development or other actions. These extensions were requested by public and other agency participants during workshops and meetings held and are supported by Catoosa WMA.

*Daddys Creek.* The boundaries would be adjusted to include approximately 6 miles (9.6 kilometers) of river along Daddys Creek, including Daddys Gorge, in the Obed WSR and would not extend beyond Catoosa WMA boundaries. This extension would also bring the Devils Breakfast Table area, an integral, heavily used river access site, into the Obed WSR boundaries.

The river and lands lie within Catoosa WMA. TWRA supports and encourages adding this portion of Daddys Creek into the Obed WSR to increase protection for this unique area, one of the most spectacular yet inaccessible and essentially primitive areas in the watershed.

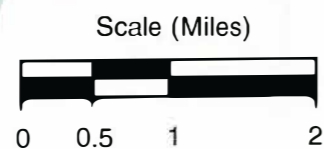
This segment would be managed in accordance with the legislation and the lands to the bluff and back 100 feet (30.4 kilometers) would be covered under the Memorandum of Understanding between TWRA and the Park Service. A Wild and Scenic River designa-

# Boundary Adjustments



## LEGEND

- OBED WSR
- ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUSTMENTS
- ADJUSTMENTS REQUIRING LEGISLATION



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tion would help TWRA protect the values in this area by increasing public awareness of the resource and the need for its protection. This adjustment would also increase protection of downstream values within the existing Obed WSR boundaries. Designation would also assist with management of the recreational use of this area, which contains a challenging (Class V) section of river for boaters.

*Obed River.* The Obed WSR boundary would be extended about 1/3 of a mile (536 meters) from the Catoosa WMA boundary to Adams Bridge. This extension would protect lands along the Obed River by allowing for managed access in order to reduce the erosion and impact occurring from the current heavy and uncontrolled use. Sufficient interest in lands visible from the thread of the river--approximately 95 acres (38.4 hectares)--would be acquired. Because these lands are outside the Catoosa WMA and would be managed for river access and resource protection, boundary expansion is needed.

#### Adjustments Requiring Further Study

Studies would be prepared on the following river segments upstream and downstream of current boundaries. These areas were either not included in the original Wild and Scenic River study, or were originally studied but now have more development pressures and public support for their inclusion. Based on conclusions of the studies, the authorizing legislation may need to be amended to add these segments into the Obed WSR system. Studies would address alternative means of river corridor protection.

*Emory River.* The river and lands along 3.75 miles (6 kilometers) of the Emory River, between Nemo Bridge and Crooked Fork Creek (a tributary to the Emory), would be studied for potential inclusion into the Obed WSR boundaries. This extension would enhance

recreational opportunities for boaters by providing access to a relatively easy stretch (Class II/III) of river that is one of the few stretches that can be floated during low water levels. It would also provide increased opportunities for camping and swimming and would allow control of the litter and unsafe vehicular access that is occurring in this area. Lands south of the river are currently under public ownership. Land acquisition north of the Emory would involve approximately 750 acres (303.7 hectares), on which 3 miles (4.8 kilometers) of railroad tracks and right-of-way run alongside the river.

*White Creek.* A major tributary to Clear Creek, White Creek was not part of the original 1976 suitability study and Final Environmental Statement. Portions of White Creek are heavily used by boaters and possess scenic and natural resource values which are threatened by logging and other activities. Many boaters put-in upstream of Lavender Bridge on the right bank, at a site owned by TVA, and take-out at Barnett, Jett, or Lilly Bridges--all within the WSR boundaries.

*Obed River and Clear Creek.* A study would also be prepared to determine if other upstream river sections along Obed River, Clear Creek, or major tributaries should be proposed for inclusion in the Obed WSR. A recent proposal to construct a dam, lake, and water treatment plant along the headwaters of Clear Creek has received much public interest and opposition. The increased awareness for the value of Clear Creek, which may contain the cleanest water in the Obed River system, could lead to support for its inclusion into the Obed WSR system.

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION and COSTS

### IMPLEMENTATION

Development and staffing additions proposed in this alternative would be implemented as funding becomes available. Some of these proposals would be implemented using cost effective strategies which could significantly lower Park Service costs. This would include the use of volunteers and existing TVA assistance programs which are described under the following sections regarding development and operational costs. The highest priority development actions are the Lilly Bluff developed overlook and the Lilly Bridge DCP.

Lands identified for acquisition would be acquired as funds become available. The existing 2,600 square foot Visitor Contact Station and Administrative Headquarters facility is leased from the City of Wartburg until 2003, under a 10 year lease. The Park Service would seek to acquire or develop a facility suited to its needs in accordance with Section 6 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Park Service would also seek to acquire the existing 3,000 square feet Maintenance Facility which is leased from a private individual until 1997.

The Land Protection Plan (LPP) would analyze alternative protection methods for lands to be acquired, including fee and less-than-fee acquisition, and establish priorities for action. Following the conclusions of the LPP, cost estimates would be prepared.

### COST ESTIMATES

The total development and operational costs for this alternative is approximately \$1,891,100 and is broken down below. (See Appendix D for more detailed figures.)

### Development Costs

The following costs are based on conceptual-type, or "Class C", cost figures developed by the Denver Service Center of the NPS for long-range budgetary planning. The costs do not reflect land acquisition as discussed above in "Implementation".

*Lilly Bluff Overlook.* Total costs for development of the access road, parking, trails, boardwalk, seating, and information board are estimated at \$301,100.

*Obed River/Clear Creek Junction Right-Of-Way.* Total costs for the parking, road, trail, and picnic area developments are estimated at \$83,400.

*Waysides.* Total costs for development of interpretive waysides at Lilly Bluff and Lilly Bridge is \$55,000.

*Long Distance Trails.* Total costs for the approximately 27 mile (43.4 kilometers) long trail system are estimated at \$583,605. The use of volunteers to construct these trails would lower these costs significantly.

*River Access.* Total costs for developments at Nemo Bridge, Obed Junction, Jett Bridge, Lilly Bridge, Barnett Bridge, and Norris Ford, including the information boards at Devils Breakfast Table, Potters Ford and along entrance roads, are estimated at \$270,120.

TVA currently operates a program to provide for and fund public access to navigable rivers. TVA can acquire lands and construct facilities for river access as long as another group or agency accepts responsibilities for maintaining them. Through this program, TVA designed and assisted with the construction of the existing facilities at Jett Bridge. This program provides a cost effective means to get access sites improved both inside and outside the Obed WSR boundaries.



**Operational Costs**

Obed WSR's annual base operating budget is currently \$166,000. Annual operations and maintenance costs are expected to increase as proposed staffing and development are implemented. These and other operational costs will be addressed in the Operations Plan to be prepared after approval of the GMP. For a preliminary estimate, adding the full range of FTEs plus 20%, to cover the need for additional vehicles, supplies, materials, travel, and training, would increase the budget an additional \$476,000.

## ALTERNATIVE B: CURRENT COURSE

Alternative B represents the ongoing implementation of the *1978 Development Plan* as modified and supplemented over the years by later information and specific program planning and available funding. Alternative B and Alternative A are alike or very similar in many ways. Examples include the strategies described in Park Operations and Associated Facilities and portions of many other sections. However, there are important differences between the alternatives regarding proposals such as boundary adjustments and management zones. The similarities and differences are discussed below and presented on the Alternative Summary chart at the end of this chapter.

### LAND USE and MANAGEMENT

The existing management zone system is described in the 1992 LPP and is based on ownership status, suitability of the land for proposed uses, and the nature of the resources. The zones are listed and described below.

#### NATURAL ZONE

Land outside the Catoosa WMA with the management emphasis to protect natural and cultural resources while permitting compatible recreational activities

#### HISTORIC ZONE

Lands which have historic or archeological significance will receive historical zone classification and be managed to preserve, protect and interpret their associated values.

#### PARK DEVELOPMENT ZONE

Lands intensively developed and used to meet needs of management and visitors.

#### Administrative Development-Visitor Services Subzone

This subzone applies to a parcel of land outside the existing boundaries for the construction of a visitor contact station, administrative offices, and a maintenance facility

#### SPECIAL USE ZONES

Lands within exterior boundaries that are managed by others.

#### Transportation Subzone

Lands used for State and local roads and railroads that are managed primarily, or exclusively for non-park purposes.

#### Scenic Easement Subzone

Lands where certain rights are purchased to restrict certain uses and includes areas in which present use is compatible with

river values, but uncontrolled use could be detrimental to those values.

**State-Owned Subzone**

Lands owned and managed by the TWRA and covered under a MOU with the NPS.

**Unmanaged Non-Federal and Non-State Owned Lands Subzone**

Private lands that are not currently associated with an identifiable land use and might be used for incompatible purposes.

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

A Resource Management Plan (RMP, 1993) has recently been completed during the GMP planning process. Most of the priorities and project statements in the RMP reflect the strategies outlined in Alternative A. These strategies are based on establishing a comprehensive program that is proactive in collecting baseline data and effective in addressing internal and external issues related to water quality, biodiversity, cultural resources, and landscape character.

Before the onset of the GMP planning effort, an overall strategy to guide resource management activities did not exist. The strategies in both alternatives provide guidance regarding the principal projects needed to protect, preserve, and perpetuate Obed WSR's natural and cultural resources.

**VISITOR USE and ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

As described in Alternative A, visitors come to the Obed WSR to participate in an array of land and water based activities including white water boating, hiking, camping, hunting, fishing, sight-seeing, picnicking and swimming.

The following programs and facilities for interpretation, overlooks, trails, camping, and river access would provide visitors the opportunity to experience the special values of the Obed WSR. The activities and appropriate developments for each of these five areas are described below.

**INTERPRETATION**

The interpretive themes would be the same as described in Alternative A. The park would continue programs and services as outlined in the 1992 Statement for Interpretation. A description follows of the existing interpretive services and additional services that would be implemented as proposed in the *1978 Development Plan*.

**Information and Orientation Services**

The visitor contact station in Wartburg would continue to provide visitors with information on the area's outstanding features and recreational opportunities. The facility would continue to provide general information on the park, recreation, safety, history, and flora and fauna of the area. More in depth information is available from staff, brochures, and publications for sale. The facility would serve as a contact point for floaters and would contain displays, guidebooks, and audio visual programs.

The Park Service is in the process of creating a slide program to introduce visitors to the Obed WSR. This audiovisual program is expected to be in place in 1993. A bulletin board for information is currently located at the Nemo Bridge area. The *1978 Development Plan* calls for other

information boards to be located at river access and overlook sites.

River use and hunting safety messages would be available through radio, newspapers, pamphlets and on the information boards.

### **Onsite Services**

Information would be provided by rangers on patrol and through interpretive devices. Currently, park rangers casually contact visitors to provide assistance and information. Interpretive devices, such as waysides, would be located at the developed overlook and several of the river access points.

### **Outreach Services**

Interpretive programs would continue to be done on request for area schools, parks, and community groups as staff is available. Topics requested on a regular basis include: Biodiversity, DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), Orientation to the Obed WSR, Pioneer/Longhunter (living history demonstration), Web of Life (the ecosystem and how things fit together), and White Water Canoe Instruction.

### **OVERLOOKS**

Two developed overlook sites are proposed in the *1978 Development Plan*: one near the Obed and Clear Creek Junction and one at Devils Breakfast Table. A road access corridor was purchased in 1972 to provide public access to the Obed/Clear Creek Junction site but no development has occurred due to lack of funding. Just recently, the park received funding to begin development.

An approximate 1.3 mile (2.1 kilometer) access road, with a concrete bridge spanning Melton Mill Branch, would be developed and lead to a 10 space parking area. A surface stabilized trail, accessible to visitors with disabilities, would lead to an overlook platform with railing. The trail would continue on to other undeveloped

overlooks in the area but would not be surfaced. Sanitary facilities, garbage receptacles, and waysides would be added to the site, and some select and limited clearing of vegetation would occur.

Presently, there are no plans to develop the second overlook at the Devils Breakfast Table site.

### **TRAILS**

Two linear trails would be developed providing 32.5 miles (52.3 kilometers) of hiking opportunities. A portion of the Cumberland Trail, on NPS lands, has been completed. No further progress has been made on establishing this trail as interest in the project by others has waned.

The second trail traverses the southern portion of the Obed River between Devils Breakfast Table and Adams Bridge. This trail would provide hiking opportunities when Catoosa WMA lands are open and an emergency route for boaters and hunters. To provide for wildlife management, Catoosa WMA lands are closed to all but hunters during managed hunts and to everyone in February and March.

### **CAMPING**

Primitive camping would be available at the Norris Bottoms Campground and at river access sites. Norris Bottoms Campground, located near Nemo Bridge, contains six sites with room for some expansion, parking, picnic tables, fire rings, garbage receptacles, and sanitary facilities. Additional campsites with similar facilities would be located at the river access sites.

### **RIVER ACCESS**

Opportunities for boating, swimming, fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, picnicking, and sight-seeing would be available at the river access sites. The following improvements to accommodate these activities would be provided at existing bridge crossings and NPS owned rights-of-way.

### **Existing Bridge Crossings**

Proposed developments discussed in Alternative A for existing bridge crossings at Lilly, Nemo, Barnett, and Jett, would be the same for this alternative. The *1978 Development Plan* proposed facilities for these areas but allowed for them to be refined.

The *1978 Development Plan* also proposes developments for Potters Ford and Devils Breakfast Table. Improvements would include parking, put-in trails, sanitary facilities, camping, and picnicking. As in Alternative A, the Park Service would assist TWRA in developing plans for these sites as they are heavily used and in need of some improvements.

### **NPS Rights-Of-Way**

Improvements for the rights-of-way at Obed Junction and Norris Ford would include improved roads, parking areas, and put-in trails.

## **PARK OPERATIONS and ASSOCIATED FACILITIES**

### **STAFFING**

Specific staffing requests would be addressed through an operations plan to be prepared after the general management plan is approved. A preliminary estimate follows projecting the total staff needed to fully implement this alternative. The Obed WSR currently has five FTEs. An additional 11 to 13 FTEs would be required to satisfactorily administer the existing conditions as described in this alternative. The grand total of FTEs would be 16 to 18.

As in Alternative A, it is recommended that at least one resource management specialist be assigned at Obed WSR and strategies to augment park staff be utilized. Consideration would be given to separating the Obed WSR from Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area management as staffing and budget levels increase.

### **FACILITIES**

The approved *1978 Development Plan* called for two Visitor Contact Stations with exhibits and audiovisual programs. The facility in Wartburg has been established. A 2600 square foot building is currently leased and contains the administrative headquarters as well as the visitor contact function.

A second visitor contact station was proposed to be located along the I-40 corridor. The facility at Wartburg has been considered sufficient, and no plans exist to pursue a second facility.

## LAND PROTECTION

The Obed WSR boundaries would remain as described in the *1978 Development Plan* and Land Protection Plan (LPP, 1992).

As identified in the LPP and discussed in Alternative A, approximately 61 acres (24.7 hectares) along the top of the 2.5 mile (4 kilometer) long bluff on the north side of the Obed River, between the confluences of Clear and Daddys Creeks, would be acquired to protect this area. Also, the current legislation would be amended to allow the Park Service to own detached parcels in the vicinity of Wartburg. An estimated 1.1 acre (0.44 hectare) of land would be acquired and would be used for administrative purposes.

As described in Alternative A, changes in the current use and management of easements would be made. These adjustments would include acquisition of additional rights, enhanced coordination with land-owners, and increased enforcement.

## PLAN IMPLEMENTATION and COSTS

### IMPLEMENTATION

As in Alternative A, proposed development and staffing additions would be implemented as funding becomes available. When possible, cost effective strategies such as the use of volunteers and existing TVA assistance programs would be utilized as described under appropriate sections regarding development and operational costs.

Lands identified for acquisition would be acquired as funds become available. As in Alternative A, the NPS would seek to acquire or develop a Visitor Contact Station and Administrative Headquarters facility suited to its needs, in Wartburg. The NPS would also seek to acquire the existing Maintenance Facility which is currently leased from a private individual.

As discussed in Alternative A, cost estimates for the 61 acres (24.7 hectares) of proposed boundary adjustment outside of Wartburg would be based on the conclusion of the LPP which would analyze alternative protection methods, including fee and less-than-fee acquisition, and establish priorities for action.

### COST ESTIMATES

The total development and operational costs for this alternative is approximately \$ 2,274,000 and is broken down below. (See Appendix D for more detailed figures.)

#### Development Costs

The following costs are based on conceptual-type, or "Class C", cost figures developed by the Denver Service Center of the NPS for long-range budgetary planning. The costs do not reflect land acquisition as discussed above in "Implementation".

*Obed River/Clear Creek Junction Overlook.*

Total costs for the access road, parking,

trails, overlook platform, and information board are estimated at \$1,068,600.

*Waysides.* Total costs for development of interpretive waysides at Obed River/ Clear Creek Junction Overlook and Lilly Bridge is \$55,000.

*Long Distance Trails.* No NPS development costs are anticipated since the proposed trails would occur on Catoosa WMA.

*River Access.* Total costs for developments at Nemo Bridge, Obed Junction, Jett Bridge, Lilly Bridge, Barnett Bridge, and Norris Ford are \$730,920. This estimate includes the cost for improving roads at Norris Ford and Obed Junction.

As described in Alternative A, the TVA program would be utilized when possible as it provides a cost effective means to get access sites improved both inside and outside the Obed WSR boundaries.

#### **Operational Costs**

Obed WSR's annual base operating budget is currently \$166,000. Annual operations and maintenance costs are expected to increase as proposed staffing and development are implemented. These and other operational costs will be addressed in the Operations Plan to be prepared after approval of the GMP. For a preliminary estimate, adding the full range of FTEs plus 20%, to cover the need for additional vehicles, supplies, materials, travel, and training, would increase the budget an additional \$409,000.

Action Topics	Alternative A: The Proposed Action	Alternative B: The Current Course
<b>LAND USE and MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>The management zones represent area specific applications of the management objectives, legislation, and river classification. Desired future conditions are described and represent a future goal for each area.</p> <p>There are 2 zones and 3 subzones which are defined and depicted in the document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Wild Zone</li> <li>-Development Zone:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Recreational Facilities Subzone</li> <li>-Road and Rail Right-of-Way Subzone</li> <li>-Administrative Facilities Subzone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The management zones are based primarily on ownership patterns, and to a limited extent, suitability of land for proposed uses and the nature of the resources.</p> <p>Zones and Subzones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Natural Zone</li> <li>-Historic Zone</li> <li>-Park Development Zone:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Administrative Development-Visitor Services Subzone</li> </ul> </li> <li>-Special Use Zone:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Transportation Subzone</li> <li>-Scenic Easement Subzone</li> <li>-Unmanaged Non-Federal and Non-State Owned Lands Subzone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>RESOURCE MANAGEMENT</b>	<p><i>Strategies inside Obed WSR boundaries:</i> Expand monitoring program to document changes in water quantity and quality. Prepare a Water Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>Other projects including stabilizing and revegetating abandoned oil and gas wells and other eroded areas.</p>	<p>The 1978 Development Plan did not address resource management. The Resources Management Plan (1993) reflects many of the strategies proposed in Alternative A.</p>
<b>Water Resources</b>	<p><i>Within the watershed:</i> Work with established State and local water resource protection programs. Seek "Outstanding Natural Resource Waters" designation. Promote establishment of a work group to set goals and guide water resource protection efforts in the watershed by: developing and implementing a watershed protection plan; involving and educating the community on purpose and benefits of watershed protection; promoting Best Management Practices and stabilization of abandoned mines and oil/gas wells; and working with the State on monitoring, testing, and enforcement.</p>	
<b>Biodiversity</b>	<p>Establish program to gather baseline data and monitor and manage the following: critical habitats, listed species, exotic species, and air quality. Develop protection strategies as information is gathered and resources are better understood.</p>	<p>As stated previously, the RMP reflects the need and importance of baseline data.</p>



Summary of Alternatives (Continued)

Action Topics	Alternative A: The Proposed Action	Alternative B: The Current Course
<i>Resource Management (continued)</i>		
<b>Cultural Resource Management</b>	<p>Develop program to gather baseline data since little information is available. As significant cultural resources are identified, develop appropriate management recommendations as part of RMP.</p> <p>Continue oral history study and incorporate results as appropriate.</p>	<p>As stated previously, the RMP reflects the need and importance of baseline data.</p>
<b>Landscape Character</b>	<p>Protect essentially primitive and inaccessible character of the landscape and the associated "solitude" by identifying intrusions, impacts, and appropriate mitigation.</p>	<p>This topic is not reflected in the RMP and no efforts to address landscape character have been made to date.</p>
<b>VISITOR USE and FACILITIES</b>	<p>Programs and facilities are proposed to provide visitors the opportunity to experience the special values of the Obed WSR in natural and primitive settings, as follows:</p>	<p>Existing and proposed programs and facilities would be provided as identified in the <i>1978 Development Plan</i> and <i>1992 Statement for Interpretation</i>, as follows:</p>
<b>Interpretation</b>	<p>Enhanced public information and education programs are proposed based on revised interpretive themes. Services include:</p> <p>Enhanced information and orientation through a Visitor Contact Station in Wartburg, a recorded message on river levels and weather conditions, use of information boards at NPS and Catoosa WMA managed river access sties, the Lilly Bluff overlook, and along roads at key entrances.</p> <p>In the field, an emphasis on reaching visitors and users at the resource through the information boards, rangers on patrol, and interpretive programs, trails, and waysides.</p> <p>Expand outreach efforts.</p>	<p>The Visitor Contact Station in Wartburg would continue to provide limited information and orientation services. One bulletin board for information exists at the Nemo Bridge area and others are proposed for the river access sites and overlooks.</p> <p>Limited onsite services would continue and include contact by Park Rangers on patrol and proposed waysides at the several access sites.</p> <p>Continue outreach efforts.</p>
<b>Overlooks</b>	<p>One developed overlook at Lilly Bluff to include: 20 parking spaces, sanitary facilities, 0.2 total miles of trail (from parking area and Lilly Bridge), 0.2 miles of boardwalk, 3 seating areas, 5 waysides, and an information board.</p> <p>Five undeveloped overlooks along the trail leading to Obed River/Clear Creek Junction. Facilities would also include: 10 parking spaces, 4 picnic tables, 2 miles of trails, and 2 waysides.</p> <p>Additional undeveloped overlooks along other trails may also be added as appropriate.</p>	<p>One developed overlook near the Obed River/Clear Creek Junction to include: 10 parking spaces, picnic tables, sanitary facilities, 1.3 miles (2.1 kilometers) of improved roads, 500 feet (152.3 meters) of surface stabilized trail, a platform, and 2 waysides. An un-surfaced trail would continue from this overlook to several undeveloped overlooks in the area.</p>

Summary of Alternatives (Continued)

Action Topics	Alternative A: The Proposed Action	Alternative B: The Current Course
<b>Visitor Use / Facilities (continued)</b> <b>Trails</b>	<p>A system of linear and looped trails is proposed primarily on NPS lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-a linear trail connecting Lilly and Nemo Bridges (6.5 miles)</li> <li>-a long distance loop trail following the north side of the Obed River and south side of Clear Creek (20.5 miles)</li> <li>-several shorter trails as described in the DCPs</li> <li>-other trails based on public interest and support and in accordance with NPS policies and the GMP.</li> </ul>	<p>Two linear trails are proposed on Catoosa WMA lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-an extension of the Cumberland Trail, a portion of which has been constructed on NPS lands starting near the Norris Bottoms Campground,</li> <li>-a trail paralleling the southern portion of the Obed River between Devils Breakfast Table and Adams Bridge.</li> </ul>
<b>Camping</b>	<p>Developed camping at Norris Bottoms would be expanded to 10 total sites. Limited facilities would be available which, at most, would include parking, fire rings, garbage receptacles, picnic tables, and sanitary facilities. The Park Service could assist in design development of a second developed camping area at Potters ford in Catoosa WMA.</p> <p>Undeveloped sites would be designated along trails and rivers, could only be accessed by boat or trail, and at most, would contain a sign marking its location and a fire ring.</p>	<p>Norris Bottoms Campground contains 6 campsites and limited facilities as described in the Proposed Action. Room for expansion exists. An undetermined number of additional campsites with similar facilities would be located at select river access sites.</p>
<b>River Access</b>	<p>Access and provision for associated uses is provided consistent with appropriate management zone designation.</p> <p>Wild Zone. Improvements limited to hiking trails, undeveloped overlooks, and undeveloped campsites.</p> <p>Development Zone. Concentrates river related activities near existing bridge crossings and in the recreation designated section of the Obed WSR. Improvements could include trails, parking, sanitary facilities, picnic tables, trash receptacles, waysides and information boards.</p> <p>External Access Sites. NPS would manage sites developed for river access by TVA at Lavender, Adams, Antioch, and Camp Austin Bridges.</p>	<p>Developments proposed under Alternative A for existing bridge crossings at Lilly, Nemo, Barnett, Jett, Potters Ford, and Devils Breakfast Table are the same for this alternative.</p> <p>Improvements identified in the 1978 <i>Development Plan</i> for rights-of-way at Obed Junction and Norris Ford would include a total of 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) of improved roads, 15 parking spaces, and 1000 feet (364.7 meters) of river access trails.</p>

Summary of Alternatives (Continued)

Action Topics	Alternative A: The Proposed Action	Alternative B: The Current Course
<b>PARK OPERATIONS</b>		
Staffing	To fully implement Alternative A, a total of 18 to 21 "full time equivalent" employees would be required. (Note: this figure includes the number of FTEs required to fully implement the existing conditions.)	To fully implement Alternative B, 16 to 18 "full time equivalent" employees would be required.
Facilities	Administrative headquarters would remain in Wartburg. Additional secure "caches" of maintenance and emergency equipment would be stored in the field.	The same as for Alternative A.
<b>LAND PROTECTION</b>		
Easement Adjustments	Changes in current use and management of easements would be made to protect values and accommodate visitor access and would include: -purchasing additional rights, where needed, on existing easements, -increasing enforcement, and -enhancing coordination with landowners.	The same as for Alternative A.
Boundary Adjustments	<p><i>Minor Adjustments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Visible tributary mouths (25 acres)</li> <li>-North Side of Obed River (61 acres)</li> <li>-Trail Access (6 acres)</li> <li>-Access to Lilly Bluff (up to 20 acres)</li> </ul> <p><i>Those requiring legislation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Detached Parcels in Wartburg (1.1 acre)</li> <li>-Extension along Daddys Creek on TWRA owned lands (6 river miles)</li> <li>-Extension along Obed River (95 acres)</li> </ul> <p><i>Areas proposed to be studied for potential inclusion:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Emory River from Nemo Bridge to Crooked Fork</li> <li>-White Creek</li> <li>-Other upstream segments along Daddys Creek, Obed River, and Clear Creek.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Minor Adjustments:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-North Side of Obed (61 acres)</li> </ul> <p><i>Those requiring legislation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Detached Parcels in Wartburg (1.1 acre)</li> </ul>
<b>IMPLEMENTATION and COSTS</b>		
Implementation Strategy	Actions would be implemented as funding becomes available. Cost effective strategies such as use of volunteers and the existing TVA assistance program would be utilized as appropriate.	The same as for Alternative A.
Total Costs	<p>Proposed Development: \$ 1,415,100            Operations Increase: \$ 476,000</p> <p>(Note: The operations figures represents a preliminary estimate that would be addressed in an Operations Plan.)</p>	<p>Proposed Development: \$1,865,020            Operations Increase: \$ 409,000</p> <p>(Note: The operations figures represents a preliminary estimate that would be addressed in an Operations Plan.)</p>