

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Obed Wild & Scenic River

By the Numbers

Mission:

Dedicated to preserving the free-flowing condition and the outstanding water quality of the Obed River System, while protecting its cultural and natural resources for the benefit and use of present and future generations.

Over **5,000** acres in two counties and two time zones.

Over **200,000** visitors, annually

100 volunteers contributing over **2,000** volunteer hours

18,623 museum objects/artifacts

78 archaeological sites

2 historic structures

4 threatened and endangered species

45 miles of rivers and streams

Over **400** named rock-climbing routes

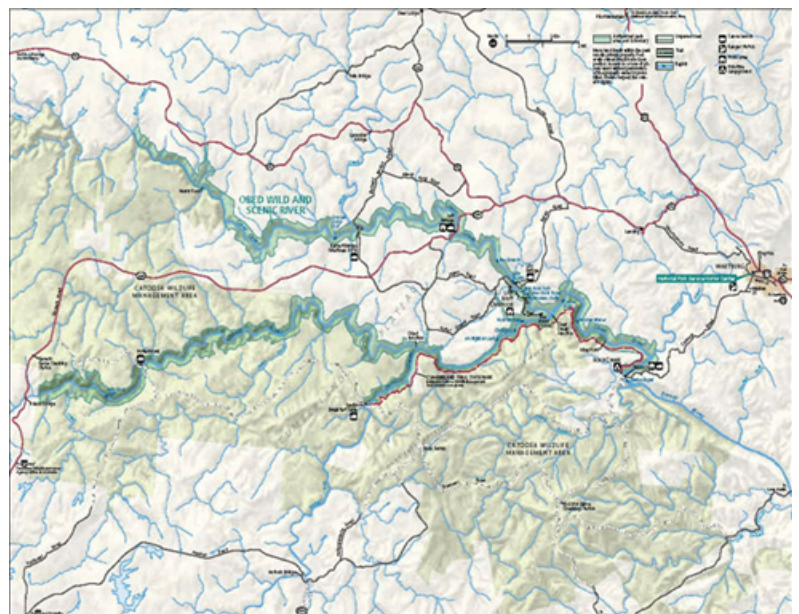
Over **20** miles of hiking trails

1 campground with **11** campsites

1 boardwalk overlook that is approximately **200** feet above the river

45 miles of contiguous forested riparian and upland habitat

Approximately **800** different plant species in the park



Destination: Wild and Scenic Recreation

Encompassing 5,000 acres of the Cumberland Plateau, Obed Wild and Scenic River protects the free-flowing Obed River, Clear Creek, Emory River, and its tributaries. The area boasts miles of scenic gorges and sandstone bluffs, rich with natural and historic features and has been developed to provide visitors with a wide range of outdoor recreational activities.

Visits to Dollars

Based on the peer-reviewed visitor spending analysis that was conducted by US Geological Survey economists for the National Park Service in 2012, Obed WSR had almost 250,000 visitors and contributed over \$3.5 million dollars to local economies. That spending supported 40 jobs in the local area, in addition to the jobs held by the park employees.

Obed Wild and Scenic River was added to the National Park System, in October 1976. The National Park Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency (TWRA) have joined forces to protect and manage this unique area. Through a cooperative agreement, lands within Obed Wild and Scenic River that are part of the Catoosa Wildlife Management Area will continue to be owned and managed by the TWRA. The goal is to preserve the river in a free flowing condition and preserve and protect the water quality, wildlife resources, and the primitive character of the area for present and future generations. In their way, visitors today and in the future can experience and appreciate this part of wild America.

There are four principle waterways of the park's watershed, the Obed River, Clear Creek, Daddy's Creek, and the upper Emory River. These creeks and rivers have been running their course for thousands of years carving into the sandstone and creating spectacular gorges with cliffs up to 400 feet above the streams below. Huge sandstone boulders in the rivers and creeks create challenging whitewater rapids enjoyed by whitewater enthusiasts from around the world.

The cliffs of Obed are world-renowned with over 400 named routes that vary in difficulty from 5.7 to 5.13.

For the fisherman, the park is home to many species of fish some of those are: large and smallmouth bass, bluegill, red eye, crappie, muskie, perch, drum, catfish, shad, suckers, and carp. Tennessee licensing rules apply.

A variety of wild life can be found. Along the banks of the stream you may spot signs of bobcat. Beaver, raccoon, mink, deer, or even a playful river otter. For the bird watchers there are over 100 species found in the park.

Obed contains a mixed forest of oak, hickory, poplar, pine, and hemlock. Shrubs, such as mountain laurel and rhododendron are common. In the spring, colorful wildflowers and berries can be found on the forest floor and along the streams

Contact Information

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Visit our website at:
www.nps.gov/obed for more information such as phone numbers, extensive trip planning materials, student and teacher resources, maps, and brochures.

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Niki Stephanie Nicholas serves as the Park Superintendent for Obed Wild and Scenic River. Nicholas, who had been serving as the Chief of Resources Management and Science at Yosemite National Park in California for the previous seven years, officially assumed her new duties on January 17, 2011.

Prior to working at Yosemite, Nicholas worked at the Tennessee Valley Authority. Her last position there was as senior manager for Environmental Impact Reduction Technologies.

