

LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
INTRODUCTION	
I. DESCRIPTION OF LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK	I-1
Location and Access.....	I-1
Park Land and Visitor Use Facilities	I-1
River Trail Segments	I-1
History of the Park Area.....	I-4
II. PARK PURPOSES.....	II-1
Mission Statement for the N.C. State Parks System	II-1
State Park Purpose Statement.....	II-1
III. SUMMARY OF INTERPRETIVE THEMES	III-1
Primary Interpretive Themes.....	III-1
Secondary Interpretive Themes.....	III-2
IV. PARK AND RECREATION DEMAND AND TRENDS.....	IV-1
Annual Visitation Trends	IV-1
Monthly Visitation Trends	IV-2
Visitor Information.....	IV-2
Outdoor Recreation Participation in North Carolina.....	IV-3
Priorities of Public Outdoor Recreation Funding	IV-5
Lumber River Natural and Scenic River Study Public Input.....	IV-6
North Carolina State University Survey Recommendations	IV-6
Lumber River State Park and State River Citizens Advisory Committee Recommendations	IV-7
V. SUMMARY OF LAWS GUIDING PARK MANAGEMENT.....	V-1
State Legal Mandates	V-1
Federal Laws	V-4
Local Laws.....	V-6
VI. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	VI-1
Natural Resource Management Policy.....	VI-1
Natural and Cultural Resource Management Issues.....	VI-2
Resource Inventory	VI-3

VII.	PHYSICAL PLANT INVENTORY	VII-1
	Facility Inventory and Inspection Program	VII-1
	Road and Utility Inventory.....	VII-2
	Road Inventory for Undeveloped Areas on Lumber River	VII-3
	Major Capital Improvement Priorities	VII-4
VIII.	OPERATIONS ISSUES	VIII-1
	Introduction	VIII-1
	Clearing a Boat Passageway	VIII-1
	Staffing Needs	VIII-2
	Radio Communications.....	VIII-3
	Road System	VIII-4
	Lack of Facilities/Pea Ridge Development	VIII-4
IX.	LAND ACQUISITION	IX-1
	Current Acquisition Status.....	IX-1
	Future Acquisition Needs	IX-2
	Acquisition Summary Table	IX-3

INTRODUCTION

Planning is an essential element of effective and efficient park administration and management. The North Carolina General Assembly acknowledged its importance by passing state parks system legislation that includes planning requirements.

The 1987 State Parks Act (G.S.114-44.7 through 114-44.14) stipulates that a State Parks System Plan be prepared. The first plan was completed in December 1988. It evaluated the statewide significance of each park, identified duplications and deficiencies in the system, described the resources of the system, proposed solutions to problems, described anticipated trends, and recommended means and methods to accommodate trends. The most recent update of the Systemwide Plan was completed in December 2000.

The State Parks Act also requires each park to have an individual general management plan. The general management plans are required to:

...include a statement of purpose for the park based upon its relationship to the System Plan and its classification. An analysis of the major resources and facilities on hand to achieve those purposes shall be completed along with a statement of management direction. The general management plan shall be revised as necessary to comply with the System Plan and to achieve the purpose of the [State Parks Act].

The general management plan (GMP) is to be a comprehensive five-year plan of management for a park unit. A GMP's function is to:

1. Describe park resources and facilities;
2. State the purpose and importance of each park unit;
3. Outline interpretive themes and propose locations for informational and interpretive facilities;
4. Analyze park and recreation demands and trends in the park's service area;
5. Summarize the primary laws guiding park operations;
6. Identify internal and external threats to park natural and cultural resources, and propose appropriate responses;
7. Identify and set priorities for capital improvement needs;
8. Analyze visitor services and propose efficient, effective, and appropriate means of responding to visitor needs; and
9. Review park operations and identify actions to support efficient and effective park administrative procedures.

The GMP for Lumber River State Park, developed with public involvement, is intended to serve these purposes.