

LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK

GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



N.C. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION
JANUARY 2006

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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.

I. DESCRIPTION OF LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK

LOCATION AND ACCESS

Lumber River State park is located in southeastern North Carolina in Robeson, Columbus, Scotland and Hoke Counties. The park headquarters is located at Princess Ann Access in Robeson County, approximately 18 miles south of Lumberton off State Road 2246.

The park's address, telephone and fax numbers are:

Lumber River State Park
2819 Princess Ann
Orrum, NC 28369-0010
(910) 628-9844 – Office
(910) 628-5643 – Fax

The park headquarters and other park areas along the river are easily accessed by Interstate 95, US 74 and other roads. (Figure I-1)

PARK LAND AND VISITOR USE FACILITIES

Lumber River State Park contains 8,008 acres of land. Much of the acreage is low-lying swamps and other wetlands, although some higher ground and sand ridges are included. Much of the park land is located along the lower river between Lumberton and Fair Bluff.

Most of the visitor use facilities at Lumber River State are clustered at the Princess Ann Access, where the park office is located. One 12-table picnic shelter, restrooms, a boat ramp, fishing pier, observation platform, primitive campsites and a 3/4 mile trail are available for visitor use. Upstream from Princess Ann, at various locations along the river, there are primitive canoe-in campsites for river users seeking one or more nights along the river.

RIVER TRAIL SEGMENTS

Approximately twenty roads and highways cross the 115-mile long river. These bridge crossings, as well as other access points, serve to divide the river into segments that allow numerous options for long or short excursions on the river. Before setting out on the river, visitors are advised to contact the park office for advice on river conditions and for suggested canoe trips. A list of access points and river segments, as well as the approximate miles and paddling time between accesses, is shown on page I-3.

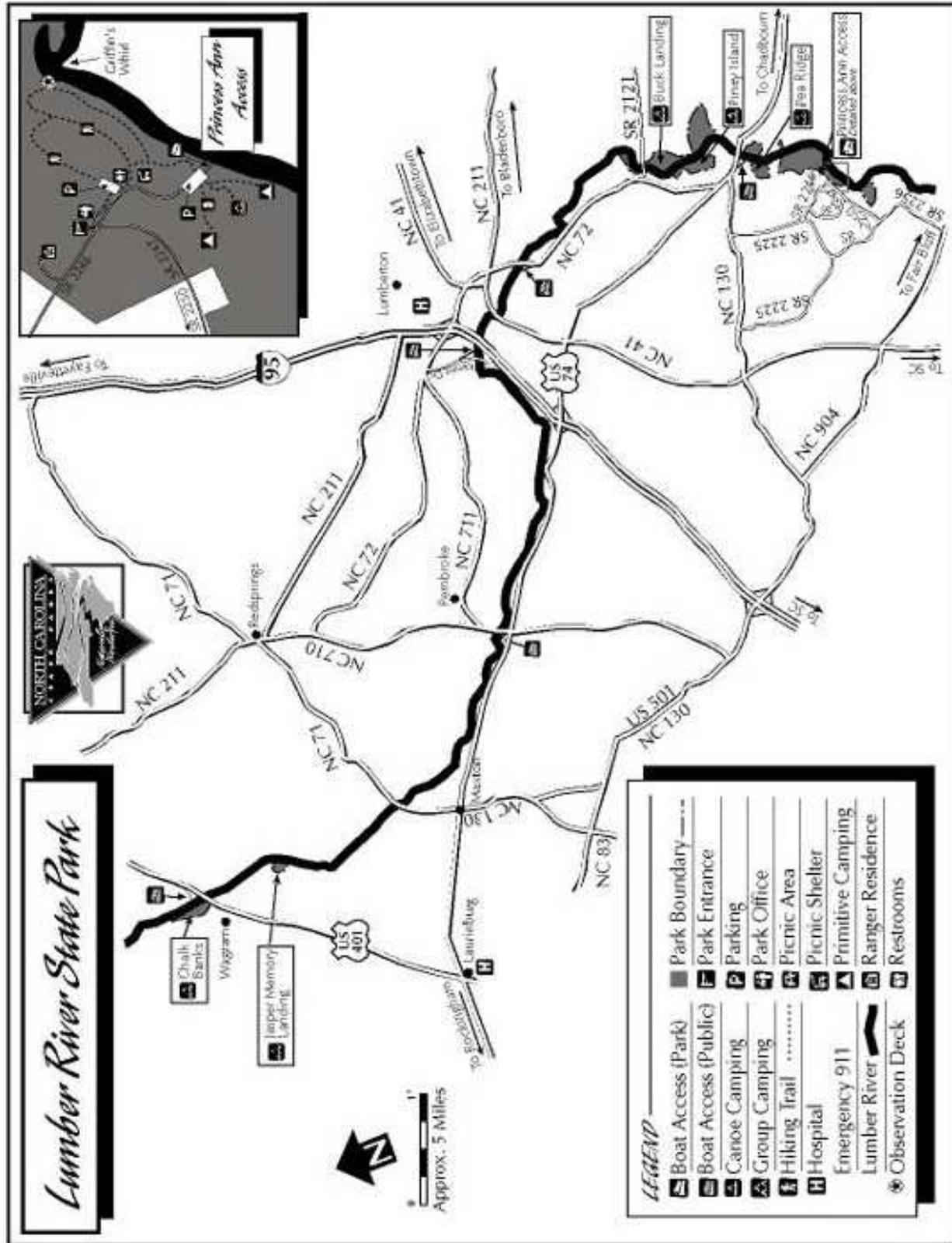


Figure I-1. Lumber River State Park

<u>BEGINNING</u>	<u>ENDING</u>	<u>MILES</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
S.R. 1412 (Turnpike Br.)	U.S. 401	7.8	4
U.S. 401	S.R. 1404 (River Road)	2.4	1
S.R. 1404 (River Rd.)	S.R. 1310/1433 (McGirt's Bridge)	7.4	3
S.R. 1310/1433 (McGirt's Br.)	N.C. 71 (Campbell Bridge)	5.5	3
N.C. 71 (Campbell Br.)	S.R. 1303 (Old Red Springs Rd.)	3.2	2
S.R. 1303 (Old Red Spr. Rd.)	S.R. 1153/1339 (Alma)	3.0	2
S.R. 1153/1339 (Alma)	S.R. 1354 (Red Banks)	6.4	4.5
S.R. 1354 (Red Banks)	N.C. 710-711 (Harper's Ferry)	3.0	2.5
N.C. 710-711 (Harper's Fy.)	S.R. 1554 (Three Bridges)	5.1	3
S.R. 1554 (Three Bridges)	S.R. 1003 (Chicken Road)	3.0	2.5
S.R. 1003 (Chicken Rd.)	S.R. 1550 (Lowe Road)	5.5	3.5
S.R. 1550 (Lowe Road)	N.C. 72 (McNeill's Bridge)	8.9	5
N.C. 72 (McNeill's Br.)	McMillan's Beach	2.6	2
McMillan's Beach	Stephens Park	1.4	1
Stephens Park	Noir Street Playground	1.91	1
Noir St Playground	N.C. 72 (High Hill)	2.3	1
N.C. 72 (High Hill)	S.R. 2123 (Matthew Bluff)	9.5	5
N.C. 2123 (Matthew Bluff)	S.R. 2121 (Burnt Island)	3.9	2
S.R. 2121 (Burnt Island)	U.S. 74 (Boardman)	8.1	6
U.S. 74 (Boardman)	Red Barn/S.R. 1504	7.2	3.5
Red Barn/S.R. 1504	Princess Ann	2.2	1.5
Princess Ann	N.C. 904 (Fair Bluff)	11.7	7
N.C. 904 (Fair Bluff)	North Carolina/S. C. Border	3.9	2.5

HISTORY OF THE LUMBER RIVER

Native American History

Pottery, tools, arrowheads, and other archaeological artifacts indicate that the limited high ground adjacent to the Lumber River has been in continuous use by Native Americans since prehistoric times. Native Americans who lived in the region from as early as 20,000 B.C. were nomadic and subsisted through food gathering and hunting (Mathis and Gardner, 1986).

Most of the archaeological work within the Lumber River region has been done in Robeson County, but it is likely to be representative of the entire region. While additional discoveries and insights into Native American life may be made, most Native American archaeological sites occur on high ground along the river. This same high ground was attractive for agriculture and silviculture in the post-Columbian era, and therefore most archaeological sites are likely to have been disturbed.

The earliest Native American period is the Paleo-Indian Period, dating possibly to 20,000 B.C.. It is characterized by nomadism, hunting and food-gathering. Distinctive tools of this period had lanceolate projectile points.

The Archaic Period, from about 8,000 B.C., saw a slight warming and consequent increase in human population and deciduous trees. Subsistence patterns of this period show a reliance on smaller animal species, the collection of flora, and also fishing and shell fishing. Adaptation to the forest environment is reflected in the tool inventory. Among the implements found are stemmed and notched projectile points on hunting paraphernalia, atlat (spear-throwing) weights, knives, axes, scrapers, choppers, drills, and grinding and nutting stones.

The Woodland Period began between 2,000 B.C. and 1,000 B.C. and continued into the time of the arrival of Europeans. It is characterized by the further developments of subsistence agriculture and ceramics, although hunting and gathering continued. In the early part of this period, the bow and arrow came into service, using smaller projectile points called arrowheads. Native Americans of this period began to abandon the nomadic lifestyle for village life. Discoveries of isolated artifacts include a dugout canoe over 1025 years old, an indication that pre-Columbian peoples navigated the river for trading, fishing, hunting and other cultural activities.

The Mississippian Period began in 900 A.D. and co-existed with cultures of the former three periods as well as with the next historic period. The Mississippian Period was characterized by subsistence agriculture with corn being the major crop. Crops were located in areas near villages. As part of their ceremonial activities, the Native Americans constructed flat-topped earthen mounds. Projectile points were small and triangular or pentagonal. Ceramics bore decorations of stamps of rectilinear or curvilinear forms, or they were highly polished.

European Settlement

The Historic Period began with the arrival of European explorers, the earliest of which were Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. The period of written history of Native Americans began with the English colonists on Roanoke Island in 1585. However, it was not until large-scale colonization in the 1730s that the largest impact was made in this period with the introduction of Africans.

During the Historic Period there were a number of Native American groups speaking four Indian languages, including Siouan, Iroquoian, Algonkian and Muskogean. It was from these indigenous groups that the present Native American population has been formed. Artifacts of interest from this period include kaolin and other pipes (items of European influence) for tobacco smoking, gunflints, and ceramics of plain whiteware, pearlware and creamware, together with more traditional types of ceramics. Also found were colored salt-glazed stoneware and various types of porcelain. Dark green bottle fragments from the 19th century are included in these artifacts found along the Lumber River (Knick, 1988).

In 1590, Governor John White returned to find that the colony that he had established in 1587 at Roanoke Island had disappeared. White found evidence that convinced him the colonists had gone to join the Hatteras Tribe of Manteo. Statements by the Reverend Morgan Jones in 1660 offered other evidence of the possible whereabouts of the "Lost Colony". Reverend Jones claimed to have been contacted by English speaking Indians that lived in what is probably now Robeson County. In 1709, John Lawson came upon English-speaking Indians who claimed white ancestry. The Indians gave him two chickens, an indication of European influence. Such a gift was a European tradition that was introduced to Native Americans in the Eastern United States who, prior to the arrival of Europeans, kept no domestic fowl (Dial and Eliades, 1975, and Benner and McCloud, 1987).

In the 18th century, the uppermost part of the Lumber River basin was home to Native American tribes, some of whose members were refugees from tribes outside of the immediate region. Indians fled to the river's backwoods and swamplands from the coastal regions to escape the westward advance by Europeans and their descendants. Some of these Native Americans survived the encroachment to their lands. They established rural communities on the banks of the river and today are known as the Lumbee Indians. There were scattered groups of other tribes that also settled in the area, such as the Waccamaw-Siouan Indians, who tended to lead more sedentary lifestyles based on agriculture supplemented by hunting and fishing. The river and its associated swamps became the melting pot of several Indian tribes and, possibly, members of Sir Walter Raleigh's Lost Colony (Dial and Eliades, 1975).

Europeans from the Scottish Highlands moved into the upper stretches of the river in what is now Scotland County starting in the 1730s and found local Native Americans speaking English. These settlers also found freed and runaway slaves living in the area. Scotland County was formed in 1899 from Richmond County (www.scotlandcounty.org/History.htm). Settlers begin arriving in present day Robeson County as early as 1747, when Henry O'Berry applied for tracts west of Raft Swamp in what was then a part of Bladen County. Robeson County was formed in 1787 from Bladen County (www.co.robesson.nc.us/).

Post- Independence

The lumber and naval stores industries were very important in the region in the post-Independence era. The river was a vital route for transporting products of these industries and important economically to the towns that would be established along its banks. One-hundred-foot logs were rafted downriver in the late 1800s to Georgetown, South Carolina. The Town of Lumberton was established along the river, known then as Drowning Creek, and later incorporated as the county seat in 1788. Lumberton became an important turpentine and timber town. Today there is little evidence of standing structures related to the lumber and naval stores industries that can be considered significant enough to be of historic value. The few existing structures are in a state of decay. Relic bridge abutments, tram bridges and dock pilings in the Net Hole area downstream from Lumberton serve as reminders of the lumber and naval stores industries. Boardman once was the site of one of the largest sawmills in the Southeastern United States, but when the timber in the surrounding areas had been cut, the sawmill ceased operations.

Princess Ann, the bluff on which the park's current headquarters are located, was chartered in 1796 as the second town in Robeson County. It was also the first inland town established by settlers traveling up the Lumber River from South Carolina. Settlers established the town on the bluff because they knew it would not be flooded and because the area provided an excellent landing along the river. The town is preserved now only as the name of the road that leads to the river.

In the mid 1700s, a group of 50 families, recognized as lawless squatters, lived at the headwaters of the river. They reportedly shot a surveyor who had come to view vacant lands enclosed in the great swamps (Simpson, B. 1991). The daring exploits and lifestyles of somewhat notorious individuals and groups along the river have been recorded, and that history has resulted in some obtaining folk hero status. Such is the case with the legend of the Henry Berry Lowry gang that has been celebrated for many years in the outdoor drama, *Strike at the Wind*. The settings for the scenes in the play are the swamps along the river between Pembroke and Lumberton around 1870. Lumbermen of this era were known for a rough, somewhat lawless lifestyle.

According to poet journalist John Charles McNeill (1874-1907), the Indian name Lumbee was originally used for the Lumber River. Early European surveyors and settlers called it Drowning Creek. That name first appears in colonial records in the act creating Anson County in 1749, where the river was identified as a branch of the Little Pee Dee River. Drowning Creek appears in many land grants and other records for the following 60 years. The river's name, from upper Scotland County downstream to the South Carolina line, was changed by legislative act in 1809 to Lumber River, apparently because of the important lumber and naval stores industries. McNeill described the lumber industry as one that resulted in "choking sawdust, rotting slabs, and the shrill scream of the circular saw" (Simpson, 1991). The Lumbee Indians owe their name, which they officially adopted as their tribal name in 1953, to the river. Today, many years later, some local residents still use the

old Indian name Lumbee for the river. Above State Road 1412 in Scotland County, the headwaters of the river are still known as Drowning Creek.

Lumber River Trail Designations

Area residents have long appreciated the Lumber River as an important recreational resource. In the 1970s, interest in having the river recognized outside the local area began to develop. In 1976, Scotland County began developing a canoe trail on the river by marking the river, developing access points and recreational facilities and printing a brochure. The county also requested in 1976 that the state designate the river as a state trail. Scotland County hoped that such a designation would give a statewide focus to the area and also encourage other counties to upgrade the river.

After light but positive public comments, the Lumber River Trail in Scotland and Hoke counties was designated as part of the North Carolina Trails System in February 1978, the first state recreation trail in North Carolina. The trail started at the US 15-501 bridge crossing and ended approximately 60 miles downstream at the NC 71 Access. A few years later, the trail was nominated and approved for National Recreational Trail designation, the first water trail in the Southeast designated into the national system. A dedication ceremony was held in May of 1981 in Laurinburg.

Interest in the trail grew. The Robeson and Columbus county commissioners passed resolutions supporting development of the Lower Lumber River Canoe Trail and state trail designation. Additional support came from the Lumber River Basin Committee, the Lower Lumber River Preservation Committee, the Lumber River Canoe Club, and park and recreation departments of Robeson and Columbus counties and the City of Lumberton. After investigation and public comments, in May of 1984 the Lower Lumber River Trail was designated a State Recreation Trail. The trail runs approximately 90 miles from the Hoke-Scotland county line downstream to the North Carolina- South Carolina state line. Local governments managed both the upper and lower Lumber River trails, with assistance from local river supporters.

Lumber River State Park and State River

In 1981, the Indian Unity Conference expressed interest in obtaining North Carolina *Natural and Scenic* river designation for the Lumber River. Over several more years, support for designation was sustained by a number of citizen interest groups. The Lumber River Basin Committee (LRBC) became a driving force in seeking the state designation. In 1984, the LRBC petitioned the Robeson County Commissioners, requesting that they ask the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation to conduct a *Natural and Scenic* river study for the Lumber River. The request was made and followed by a similar study request to the state from Columbus County. In response, the Division of Parks and Recreation conducted a qualification study in 1986 and a feasibility study in 1988. In 1989, as a part of extensive public input, the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation held public hearings concerning river designation. The study findings and public input were reported to the General Assembly.

The January 1989 report to the General Assembly recommended designating the Lumber River a North Carolina *Natural and Scenic* River and adding the river to the state parks system because: the river was an outstanding resource worthy of inclusion; strong local support for such action existed; and the addition of a blackwater river was consistent with and addressed a need identified in the *Systemwide Plan for the North Carolina State Parks System*. The 1989 General Assembly acted favorably on the report and authorized the Lumber River State Park and State River. The Lumber River legislation (G.S.113A-35.2 (c)) called for development of a master plan to "...recognize and provide for State and local government protection of the various parts of the river so as to preserve its outstanding character in perpetuity." The Lumber River became the fourth (and, at 115 miles in length, by far the longest) river to be included in the North Carolina Natural and Scenic Rivers System.

The Lumber River became the first state park and state river authorized by the General Assembly since passage of the 1987 State Parks Act (G.S. 113-44.7 through 113-44.14). The Act, which established the purposes of the state parks system, also stated that new additions to the state parks system ...*shall be accompanied by adequate authorization and appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations*. The Lumber River legislation, however, included no such appropriations, so the Division of Parks and Recreation was left to figure out how to establish a state park and state river along the 115-mile river without any land ownership or any additional staff or resources, and at a time when the state parks system was already badly in need of additional money and staff.

In 1990, William Cobey, Jr., Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, appointed a Lumber River State Park and State River Citizens Advisory Committee. The Lumber River Park Advisory Committee (PAC), as it came to be known, was composed of over twenty members from the four counties through which the river flows (Columbus, Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland counties). The PAC began working with Division of Parks and Recreation staff, park support groups, local governments and others to turn the dream of a park into reality.

In the fall of 1991, Carolina Power and Light Company (now Progress Energy) issued a challenge grant of \$40,000 for the development of a master plan for the park. Led by the PAC, matching funds were raised from a large number of individuals, businesses and governments in the four counties. The Lumber River Basin Committee was an important participant in both this fund raising and the master planning process as well. After successfully matching the challenge grant, North Carolina State University was contracted to develop the master plan. Once the master plan was complete, public hearings were held in December of 1993, followed by adoption of the master plan in 1994. Also in 1994, James Sessoms became the park's first employee and superintendent of the fledging park.

The park's first land acquisition took place in December of 1991 with the acquisition of 319 acres at Piney Island, followed by an adjacent 218-acre parcel acquired from The Nature Conservancy in July 1992. In October of 1992, land acquisition got underway at Princess Ann. Princess Ann became the site of the first state facility development along the river when, in 1998, a park office/maintenance center, trail, campsites, picnic shelter (Figure I-2),

overlook, and boat access were constructed. With the development at Princess Ann, people wanting to visit Lumber River State Park finally had a place to go.

Land acquisition and protection efforts along the Lumber River have been and continue to be



Figure I-2. Picnic Shelter at Princess Ann

aided by the Lumber River Conservancy (LRC). Incorporated in March of 1991, the LRC is a land trust that has as its mission the preservation and protection of the Lumber River and its tributaries. Land acquisition has continued, aided greatly by new state grant programs including the Natural Heritage Trust Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund. From its humble beginnings, by 2004 the park had grown to include over 8,000 acres.

National Wild and Scenic River Designation

The Lumber River Park Advisory Committee (PAC) believed that the river deserved federal river designation as well as state designation and requested that the state seek federal designation. On April 15, 1996, Governor James B. Hunt Jr. petitioned the Secretary of the United States Department of the Interior to include 115 miles of the Lumber River in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System under Section 2(a)(ii) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The National Park Service assessed the state's application and released an eligibility report and environmental assessment in July 1998.

The report found that not all of the river met the requirements for designation. The requirements met were: (1) designation of the river into the state river protection system; (2) management of the river by a political subdivision of the state; (3) possession of eligibility criteria such as being free flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values. The fourth requirement for federal designation - the existence of effective mechanisms and regulations to protect the river without federal management - was not met for the entire river. The river from the downstream side of the Maxton Airport Swamp (river mile 22) to Back Swamp above Lumberton (river mile 56) did not, in the opinion of the National Park Service, have an adequate plan in place to permanently protect this segment of the river and its corridor. Although federal designation was not recommended for this 34-mile segment, the National Park Service recommended that the rest of the river - 81 of the 115 miles - be included in the national system. On September 28, 1998, Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt added 81 miles of the Lumber River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (www.nps.gov/rivers/wsr-lumber.html).

To celebrate federal *Wild and Scenic* river designation and the opening of the park's first facilities, a dedication ceremony was held at Princess Ann in the fall of 1998. The well-

attended event featured food, fun, displays, canoe trips on the river, short hikes, and environmental education programs. The dedication ceremony featured remarks by state park and National Park Service personnel, local dignitaries and state legislative leaders, and Dr. Andy Ashe (Figure I-3), Chairman of the Lumber River State Park Advisory Committee. Congressman Mike McIntyre (Figure I-4) cut a ribbon stretched across the river to officially open the park and newly designated national *wild and scenic* river.



Figure I-3. 1998 Dedication Ceremony



Figure I-4. Congressman McIntyre Opens the Park

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Mathis, Mark and Paul Gardner. 1986. "Archaeological Survey of the Proposed North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Robeson County, North Carolina." Raleigh, North Carolina: Office of State Archaeology.

Neville, John D. 1984. "In Coastal North Carolina 400 Years Ago." Pamphlets on Indian Religion, Indian Dress and Ornaments, Indian Food and Cooking and Indian Canoes. Raleigh, North Carolina: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources.

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Scotland County Parks and Recreation Commission. "North Carolina Trails System: Lumber River Canoe Trail." Laurinburg, North Carolina: Scotland County Parks and Recreation Commission.

Simpson, Bland. 1990. "Sweetheart Stream." *Wildlife in North America* Vol. 54, No. 9:10-15.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Lumber River 2(a)(ii) Wild and Scenic River." Eligibility Report and Environmental Assessment, July 1998.

II. PARK PURPOSES

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM

The North Carolina state parks system exists for the enjoyment, education, health, and inspiration of all our citizens and visitors. The mission of the state parks system is to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features and recreation resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreation opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and to provide environmental education opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage.

PARK PURPOSE STATEMENT

In response to local interest expressed by government units, non-profit organizations and individuals, the 1989 General Assembly authorized the Lumber River State Park and State River. The General Assembly action followed a study of the river and its corridor, public meetings and hearings, and a qualification and feasibility report on the Lumber River made to the governor and General Assembly. The report recommended adding the Lumber River to the state parks system because the river was an outstanding resource worthy of inclusion; strong local support for such action existed; and the addition of a blackwater river was consistent with and addressed a need identified in the Systemwide Plan. The Lumber River legislation called for development of a plan to "...recognize and provide for State and local government protection of the various parts of the river so as to preserve its outstanding character in perpetuity." In 1998, 81 miles of the 115-mile river were designated a national *Wild and Scenic River*.

The Lumber River's significant biological resources include the natural communities of the river, floodplains, and uplands. The floodplain of the river contains extensive examples of the bottomland, swamp, and sandbar communities typical of blackwater rivers, as well as the aquatic communities of the river channel and backwaters. Unusual upland communities include the extremely dry, barren sand hills on relict sand dune deposits at several places along the floodplain. The rare sarvis holly (*Ilex amelanchier*) is scattered along much of the river. Other rare species include woody goldenrod (*Chrysoma pauciflosculosa*), Carolina bogmint (*Macbridea caroliniana*), and American alligator (*Alligator mississippiensis*), as well as several species of fish. Animal life along the river is abundant and varied.

The 115-mile-long, free-flowing Lumber River offers a variety of scenic resources as it meanders through North Carolina's Coastal Plain region. Outstanding scenic views, including bottomland hardwoods, cypress-gum swamps, and upland pine forests, exist along the river's extensive undeveloped corridor. The water reflects the beautiful and peaceful shoreline and swamps. Light and dark contrast as sunlight filters through the dense forest canopy and dances

on the tea-colored water. Swamplands are broken only occasionally by higher ground and development.

The significant recreational resources of the Lumber River include the extensive length of the river corridor, opportunities for water-based recreation, the corridor's natural character, and upland areas suitable for state park development. Recreational activities - such as hiking, nature study, fishing, canoeing, camping, and picnicking - should be compatible with protection of the park's outstanding natural resources and the federal and state river designations. The Lumber River offers high quality fishing and small-craft boating and canoeing in an uncrowded setting. The river's value as a canoe trail was recognized in 1978 when the upper Lumber River was designated as North Carolina's first recreational water trail and in 1981 with its designation as a national canoe trail. In 1984, the lower Lumber River was designated as a state canoe trail. Visitors are able to experience the natural setting during single or multi-day canoe trips.

The Lumber River illustrates the geomorphic processes and landforms typical of blackwater rivers, including meanders, sandy point bars, low natural levees, sloughs, and backwaters formed by abandoned channels. It contains several examples of aeolian sand deposits, commonly associated with large rivers farther south but uncommon in North Carolina. A few outcrops along the river expose Coastal Plain formations and abundant marine fossils.

Pottery, tools, arrowheads, and other archaeological artifacts indicate that the limited high ground adjacent to the river has been in continuous use since prehistoric times. While there is potential for additional discoveries, post-Columbian agricultural and silvicultural use makes the discovery of significant undisturbed archaeological sites unlikely. Cultural features, including relict bridge abutments, tram bridges, dock pilings and canals, attest to the importance of the lumber and naval stores industries in the early development of the region.

The Lumber River Natural and Scenic River and State Park exist to preserve the beauty of the river and to protect its water quality and adjacent lands by retaining natural and scenic conditions. The Division of Parks and Recreation is charged with preserving its biological, scenic, recreational, geological and archaeological resources and providing park experiences that promote pride in and understanding of this natural heritage.

III. SUMMARY OF INTERPRETIVE THEMES

The 1987 State Parks Act defines the purposes of the state parks system. It establishes that:

The state of North Carolina offers unique archaeological, geologic, biologic, scenic and recreation resources. These resources are part of the heritage of the people of this State. The heritage of a people should be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants.

It further provides that:

Park lands are to be used by the people of this State and their visitors in order to promote understanding of and pride in the natural heritage of this State.

One of the best methods of meeting these purposes is through environmental education. The definition of environmental education as set forth in *The North Carolina Environmental Education Plan* is given below.

Environmental Education is an active process that increases awareness, knowledge and skills that result in understanding, commitment, informed decisions and constructive action to ensure stewardship of all interdependent parts of the earth's environment.

According to the State plan, a central theme in environmental education is balancing recreational and economic concerns with quality of the environment. This balancing act is the heart of the interpretation and education program at Lumber River State Park. As one of only five rivers in North Carolina designated as a National Wild and Scenic River, the Lumber provides important recreational opportunities. The state and regional economy depends, in part, on maintaining the water quality and the natural communities within the Lumber River basin. Through their I&E program, park staff encourages local citizens and park visitors to work with them to protect and preserve this valuable resource. A central question is how can we use and enjoy the Lumber River while, at the same time, maintaining the water quality and biodiversity within the river basin.

Lumber River State Park has three primary themes and ten secondary themes. In priority order, the primary themes are the water quality of the Lumber River, natural communities within the Lumber River corridor, and water-based recreation and safety.

PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Water Quality of the Lumber River

The Lumber River is an excellent example of a Coastal Plain, blackwater river. In 1989, it was designated by the General Assembly as a State River and, later, named as a National Wild and Scenic River. Along with these designations comes the responsibility of the state and its citizens to maintain the excellent water quality of the river and its tributaries. Educational programs within this theme emphasize stewardship and include major concepts such as

watershed; river basin; water quality monitoring; water chemistry; sources of water pollution in the river basin; the dependence of aquatic life on water quality; and the relationship of water quality to the surrounding landforms, natural communities and human populations. These concepts will be developed to a high degree in the upcoming Environmental Education Learning Experience (EELE), which will be designed primarily for high school students in the state's required earth/environmental science course.

Natural Communities within the Lumber River Corridor

The Lumber River's significant biological resources include the natural communities of the river, its floodplains and uplands. Educational programs in this theme area focus on the communities of the river channel and backwaters; the communities of the bottomland, swamp and sandbar typical of most blackwater rivers; and the variety of upland communities within the proposed park river corridor. Unusual upland communities, which add to the beauty and scenic character of the river, include the extremely dry, barren sand hills on relict sand dune deposits. Many acres of uplands are fire dependent and must be managed with prescribed fire since natural fire regimes are no longer possible. Ensuring that the public understands the role of prescribed fire in maintaining these communities is crucial to securing the position of prescribed fire as a management tool.

Water-Based Recreation and Safety

The 115-mile-long Lumber River offers a variety of scenic resources as it meanders through North Carolina's Coastal Plain. Many people enjoy canoeing, fishing and kayaking on the river as well as hiking and picnicking along its banks. While providing these recreational opportunities to an expanding human population, we must also maintain the quality of the resource. Educational programs in this theme area stress stewardship and aquatic safety. Park staff helps visitors and others to enjoy the river in a responsible manner and to participate in its continued protection. The CATCH (youth fishing) program and interpretive canoe hikes are popular educational programs in this theme area.

SECONDARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES

Secondary themes for the park support and embellish the primary themes, and are listed below.

- Seasonal wildlife programs including animal tracking
- The river and its floodplain as a wildlife corridor
- Night hikes
- Freshwater fishes
- Local flora
- Hydrology and geomorphology of the river
- Cultural resources
- Recycling

- Current environmental issues in the Lumber River basin
- Career Day

IV. PARK AND RECREATION DEMAND AND TRENDS

ANNUAL VISITATION TRENDS

Lumber River State Park's annual visitation from 1994 through 2003 is shown below in Figure IV-1. The park's first development project was completed at the Princess Ann Access in 1998. As additional facilities are developed, particularly the major park development planned for Pea Ridge, park attendance will no doubt increase substantially.

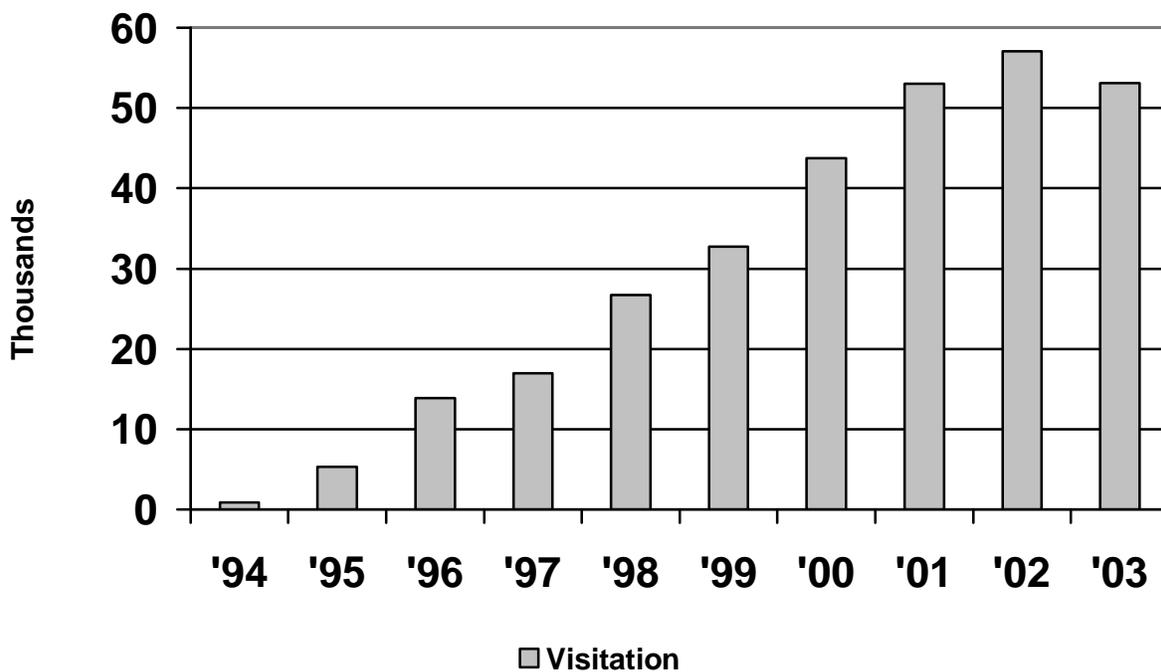


Figure IV-1. Annual Visitation

Recording of visitation at Lumber River State Park started in April of 1994, so 1994 figures include only nine months visitation. Prior to 2001, vehicle counts by park staff and estimates were used. Since 2001, a traffic counter has been used at the Princess Ann Access to determine visitation. Both methods of counting visitation used a per vehicle multiplier of three persons.

Visitation to the Lumber River at areas other than Princess Ann is not counted. The park's major facility development to date took place in 1998 at the Princess Ann Access, and a noticeable increase in visitation resulted. No additional facilities have been constructed since, but visitation continues to increase as the public becomes more aware of the park and its natural and recreational resources. Visitation was down in 2003 for Lumber River as well as many other state parks due to wet weather during popular holidays.

MONTHLY VISITATION TRENDS

Lumber River State Park's monthly visitation is far less seasonal than most of North Carolina's state parks. Visitation jumps in April with the advent of warmer weather and then remains relatively flat until the colder weather of December arrives. In fact, the spring and fall are among the most beautiful and the most popular times to visit (Figure IV-2). This visitation pattern may change somewhat once overnight tent and trailer camping facilities are constructed at the main park headquarters area, planned for Pea Ridge. With the addition of such facilities, increased visitation during the period from Memorial Day through Labor Day can be expected.



Figure IV-2. Average Monthly Visitation: 2001-2003

VISITOR INFORMATION

In 1987 the United States Forest Service was contracted to conduct a Public Area Recreation Visitors Survey (PARVS) for the North Carolina State Parks System. The survey was designed to identify visitor socio-economic characteristics and economic contributions to the state's economy. While Lumber River State Park was not one of the eight parks involved in the survey, general information concerning state park visitors is useful in assessing visitation trends at the park.

Why do people visit state park units? The convenient location was cited by 31 percent of the respondents; 25 percent thought other areas were too crowded; 21 percent liked the quality facilities; 8 percent wanted to try a new area; 7 percent enjoyed the scenic beauty; and 6 percent came to see the attraction.

More than one third of state park visitors come from within a 30-mile radius (37 percent), while 17 percent come from 30 to 60 miles away. Survey respondents indicated that the parks were their sole destination 86 percent of the time. While many visitors come from nearby, the average one-way

distance traveled was 139 miles. Approximately 25 percent of state park visitors come from out of state. Visitors averaged 4.1 trips per year to North Carolina state parks.

Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed indicated that they were return visitors. The average number of return trips per year was six. Sixty-one percent of visitors statewide came with family members, 16 percent with friends, and 7 percent with both family and friends. Ten percent of visitors came alone. Visitors also came in small numbers in organized groups and multiple families.

PARVS data indicates that 16.8 percent of groups surveyed used more than one car, and that the average number of persons per car was 3.0. The average age of the park visitor was 38.2 years. The age distribution was as follows:

Table IV-1. Percent of Visitors by Age Group

Under 6	6-12	13-18	19-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65
6.7	11.6	10.6	12.5	20.1	16.9	0.9	7.3	4.4

Since over 18 percent of visitors are under the age of 13, a demand exists for children's programs and facilities. Approximately 12 percent of visitors are 56 and older. This older segment of the general population will be increasing, and as it does, demand for improved quality, accessibility, and safety should increase.

OUTDOOR RECREATION PARTICIPATION IN NORTH CAROLINA

The five most popular outdoor recreation activities in North Carolina are walking for pleasure, driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, participating in beach activities, and visiting historical sites. Three out of every four households participated in walking for pleasure at least once in the past 12 months (Table IV-2). In addition to the five most popular activities, over fifty percent of the households responding to a 1989 survey participated at least once in the following activities: swimming (in lakes, rivers, or oceans), visiting natural areas, picnicking, attending sports events, visiting zoos, and freshwater fishing.

The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Participation Survey was mailed to 3,100 randomly selected residents in the spring of 1989. Forty-five percent, or 1,399 people, returned completed surveys. Each person receiving the survey was asked to estimate the number of times that household members had participated in each of 43 activities. The survey results provide good insight into the current participation of North Carolinians in a wide range of outdoor recreation activities. The survey results also closely mirror those of the National Survey on Recreation and the Environment conducted in 1994-1995 and 2000.

Table IV-2. Outdoor Recreation Activities Ranked by Popularity.

RANK	ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS PARTICIPATING
1.	Walking for Pleasure	75%
2.	Driving for Pleasure	72
3.	Viewing Scenery	71
4.	Beach Activities	69
5.	Visiting Historical Sites	62
6.	Swimming (in Lakes, Rivers, and Oceans)	54
7.	Visiting Natural Areas	53
8.	Picnicking	52
9.	Attending Sports Events	52
10.	Visiting Zoos	51
11.	Fishing - Freshwater	50
12.	Use of Open Areas	41
13.	Swimming (in Pools)	40
14.	Fishing - Saltwater	38
15.	Attending Outdoor Cultural Events	35
16.	Bicycling for Pleasure	32
17.	Other Winter Sports	31
18.	Camping, Tent or Vehicle	29
19.	Softball and Baseball	28
20.	Hunting	28
21.	Use of Play Equipment	28
22.	Power Boating	26
23.	Trail Hiking	26
24.	Jogging or Running	24
25.	Basketball	24
26.	Nature Study	22
27.	Golf	22
28.	Target Shooting	20
29.	Water Skiing	19
30.	Camping, Primitive	14
31.	Tennis	14
32.	Use Motorcycles, Dirt Bikes, ATVs	13
33.	Use Four Wheel Drive Vehicles	13
34.	Canoeing and Kayaking	13
35.	Horseback Riding	12
36.	Volleyball	12
37.	Downhill Skiing	12
38.	Football	11
39.	Soccer	7
40.	Sailboating	7
41.	Skateboarding	6
42.	Cross Country Skiing	2
43.	Windsurfing	1

PRIORITIES OF PUBLIC OUTDOOR RECREATION FUNDING

The North Carolina Outdoor Recreation Survey asked residents a series of questions in order to identify and rank order future demand for various types of public outdoor recreation activities. Future demand was determined by asking them which activities they would have tried more often had adequate facilities been available. Respondents were then asked to rank these activities in order of importance. A scoring system was used assigning each activity a rating of high, moderate or low future demand based on the survey results.

In the second part of the analysis, the respondents' level of support for publicly funded outdoor recreation activities was determined by asking them to identify and rank those activities to which government should give highest priority when spending public money. The same scoring system used to analyze unmet demand was then applied to the survey results, with each activity receiving a high, moderate or low rating in public support for public funding.

In the final part of the needs analysis, the two ratings for each activity were combined to produce a score from one to nine that reflected both future demand and public funding priorities. The activities that ranked high in both future demand and support for public funding received the highest priority in the needs assessment. Support for public funding was given higher priority than expressed demand (Table IV-3).

Table IV-3. Priorities for Future Outdoor Recreation Activities

ACTIVITY	CODE	FUTURE DEMAND	SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC FUNDING
Walking for Pleasure	1	High	High
Camping, Tent or Vehicle	1	High	High
Picnicking	1	High	High
Beach Activities	1	High	High
Fishing - Freshwater	1	High	High
Attend Outdoor Cultural Events	1	High	High
Visiting Natural Areas	2	Moderate	High
Use of Play Equipment	2	Moderate	High
Visiting Zoos	2	Moderate	High
Visiting Historical Sites	2	Moderate	High
Bicycling for Pleasure	3	High	Moderate
Swimming (in Pools)	3	High	Moderate
Viewing Scenery	4	Moderate	Moderate
Hunting	4	Moderate	Moderate
Trail Hiking	4	Moderate	Moderate
Use of Open Areas	4	Moderate	Moderate
Target Shooting	4	Moderate	Moderate
Swimming (Lakes, Rivers, Ocean)	4	Moderate	Moderate
Fishing - Saltwater	4	Moderate	Moderate

LUMBER RIVER NATURAL AND SCENIC RIVER STUDY PUBLIC INPUT

Public hearings were conducted in Robeson and Columbus Counties prior to the designation of the Lumber River as a Natural and Scenic River. Public comments made at those meetings and by subsequent mailed responses provided excellent input into the degree of public support for the river's designation as a Natural and Scenic River. The majority of those attending the hearings supported the river's designation. Most recommendations focused on environmental protection and conservation, natural resource and cultural interpretation, river-based recreation, and administration and management. Specific recreation opportunities desired were canoeing, swimming, fishing, contemplation, hiking, camping and picnicking.

Protection and conservation issues were maintenance of water quality, environmental aesthetics, wildlife preservation, swampland productivity, natural area protection, control of development, archaeological conservation and preservation of Native American heritage. Interpretation and education recommendations addressed ecological, archaeological and historical matters with specific support for an interpretive museum. Administration and management concerns were for general law enforcement for visitor and protection of park resources.

NCSU SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Public hearings recommendations were reinforced by citizen responses to a survey conducted by North Carolina State University representatives as a part of the park master plan development. Four meetings - with the Lumber River State Park and State River Citizens Advisory Committee, the Lumber River Basin Committee, the Whiteville Lions Club, and at a Lumber River State Park Master Plan update meeting sponsored by CP&L – were held in the region. Of the approximately 150 participants at those meetings, 46 responded to the survey. The 10 most frequently listed activities and desires in priority order were:

1. Canoeing
2. Camping (Primitive, Group and Recreational Vehicle)
3. Interpretation of Natural, Historical and Archaeological Resources
4. Preservation of Entire River Ecosystem
5. Fishing
6. Swimming
7. Trails for Hiking and Backpacking
8. Strong Enforcement of Park Rules
9. Picnicking
10. Limited Access.

LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK AND STATE RIVER CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

As part of the master plan, the Lumber River State Park and State River Citizens Advisory Committee also conducted a survey of its members. The results showed strong support for canoe camping, a nature museum and exhibits, boardwalks and trails, interpretation, a camp store, and fishing. The respondents indicated a preference for one central park office. The survey results also indicated split opinions for picnicking, hunting, horseback riding, power boating and for two park offices. There was no strong support for jet skiing and all-terrain vehicle use.

AREA OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The Lumber River flows through Columbus, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. These counties and the surrounding area are home to a variety of outdoor recreation areas. A brief description of some of these follows.

Bladen Lakes State Forest

The 32,237- acre Bladen Lakes State Forest in southeastern North Carolina is considered part of the state's Coastal Plain forest. Tree species include mixed hardwoods, Atlantic white cedar, loblolly, longleaf, and slash pine, as well as sweetgum, red maple, and Bald cypress. The forest also contains areas that have been identified and protected as Natural Heritage Preservation Sites. There are several areas set aside for protection and enhancement of red-cockaded woodpecker colony sites in longleaf pine. Some longleaf pine stands are also dedicated for the production and harvest of pine straw, used as mulch. Much of the forest is managed as game lands by the Wildlife Resources Commission.

Jones Lake State Park

Jones Lake State Park in Bladen County contains 1669 acres of land plus the 224-acre Jones Lake and 315-acre Salters Lake. A three-mile loop trail runs around Jones Lake and allows opportunities to experience the habitats of a Carolina Bay, while a one-mile trail journeys through bay forest and sand ridge communities. Jones Lake facilities include a sandy beach, bathhouse, a picnic area with one large shelter, pier and boathouse where canoes and paddleboats may be rented. A boat ramp is available for small watercraft. Nearby, twenty campsites are available with grills and picnic tables and restrooms and showers.

Lake Waccamaw and Lake Waccamaw State Park

Lake Waccamaw, a 8938-acre lake with a 14-mile shoreline, is located in Columbus County. The lake is one of hundreds of Carolina Bays in the state, although most are much smaller and are filled with vegetation. The lake is popular for sailing, power boating and water sports.

The 1784-acre state park is located along the shore of Lake Waccamaw. The park offers a picnic area with restrooms, primitive group camping, fishing, a one-half mile nature trail, boardwalk and sun shelter. There is no boating access provided at the park, but two free public boat launches are

available nearby.

Singletary Lake State Park

Primarily used for organized group camping, Singletary Lake State Park has two group camps with mess halls and kitchens, cabins and washhouses. One of the group camps was constructed as a public works project during the Great Depression. The park contains the 572-acre Singletary Lake, a Carolina Bay, and approximately 650 acres of surrounding land located in Bladen County. All of the lake and its almost four miles of undeveloped shoreline lies within the state park. A 500-foot pier extends into the lake and provides a place for swimming and sunning, and a one-mile long trail travels near the lake and through nearby forest.

Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest

Located in Bladen County within Bladen Lakes State Forest. Turnbull Creek is one of six educational state forests developed as living environmental education centers. The forest is designed to promote better understanding of the value of forests. A 3.5-mile driving trail provides visitors with a look at all phases of forest management. Foot trails and picnic sites with tables and grills and one picnic shelter are also available.

White Lake

White Lake, located in Bladen County, covers 1068 acres. The lake's clear water makes it a popular recreational resource for swimming, boating and water sports. Various private rental accommodations are available. Private development rings most of the lake's shoreline, limiting public access.

06/04

V. SUMMARY OF LAWS GUIDING PARK MANAGEMENT

There are many federal and state statutes, state and federal executive orders, and administrative rules and policies that govern the operation of the state parks system. This chapter includes a brief discussion of the primary legal basis for the existence and operation of the state parks system as well as other laws that particularly concern Lumber River State Park.

STATE LEGAL MANDATES

North Carolina Constitution

Article XIV, Section 5 of the North Carolina Constitution sets overall policy by broadly defining the conservation and protection of natural resources and the acquisition of such resources as a proper function of government. The amendment reads in part as follows:

It shall be the policy of this State to conserve and protect its lands and waters for the benefit of all its citizenry, and to this end it shall be a proper function of the State of North Carolina and its political subdivision to acquire and preserve park, recreation, and scenic areas, to control and limit the pollution of our air and water, to control excessive noise, and in every other appropriate way to preserve as a part of the common heritage of this state its forests, wetlands, estuaries, beaches, historical sites, open land, and places of beauty.

State Parks Act

The State Parks Act (G.S. 113-44.7 through 113-44.14) sets forth a mission statement for the state parks system. It states that the system functions to preserve and manage representative examples of significant biological, geological, scenic, archaeological, and recreational resources, and that park lands are to be used by the people of the state and their visitors and descendants in order to promote understanding of and pride in the state's natural heritage.

The State Parks Act also calls for development and periodic revisions of a system plan to achieve the mission and purpose of the state parks system in a reasonable, timely, and cost-efficient manner. The Act describes the System Plan components and requires that public participation be a component of plan development and revisions.

The State Parks Act also calls for the classification of park resources and development of general management plans (GMPs) for each park. GMPs are to include a statement of park

purpose, an analysis of major resources and facilities, and a statement of management direction.

Powers and Duties of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The Department is authorized to make investigations of the resources of the state and to take such measures as it may deem best suited to promote the conservation and development of such resources. In addition, the Department may care for state forests and parks and other recreational areas now owned, or to be acquired by, the state. (G.S. 113-8)

The Natural And Scenic Rivers Act

The Natural and Scenic Rivers Act (G.S. 113A-30 through 113A-44) was passed in 1971 by the General Assembly to preserve and protect outstanding free-flowing rivers, their water quality, and their adjacent lands for the benefit of present and future generations. The Act seeks to protect rivers with outstanding natural, scenic, education, geological, recreational, historic, scientific, and cultural values, as well as fish and wildlife.

In passing the Act, the General Assembly recognized the “. . . *necessity for a rational balance between the conduct of man and the preservation of the natural beauty along the many rivers of the State,*” and “. . . *that the preservation of certain rivers or segments of rivers in their natural and scenic condition constitutes a beneficial public purpose.*” The Act establishes a Natural and Scenic Rivers System and prescribes methods for including components. Rivers may only be added to the system by action of the General Assembly.

The Natural and Scenic Rivers Act defines three classes of rivers as being eligible for inclusion in the Natural and Scenic Rivers System: natural river areas, scenic river areas, and recreational river areas. The 1989 General Assembly designated 115 miles of the Lumber River as a component of the Natural and Scenic Rivers System. The designation included natural, scenic, and recreational segments.

The Natural and Scenic Rivers Act is not a regulatory act. No land-use controls or zoning are part of the Act. The Natural and Scenic Rivers Act does offer protection for designated river segments by restricting project works, such as dams, reservoirs, water conduits, transmission lines, and water resources projects that would have direct and adverse affects; by permitting acquisition of riparian lands in either fee simple or lesser interests, such as conservation easements; and by management activities that may be instituted by the state in performing its duties and responsibilities. Of the three types of protection authorized by the Natural and Scenic Rivers Act, only the restriction on project works automatically occurs upon designation. Riparian lands are not affected until acquisition of land or interests in land takes place by the state.

State Nature and Historic Preserve Dedication Act

The State Nature and Historic Preserve Dedication Act (G.S. 143-260.6) was authorized by Article 14, Section 5 of the North Carolina Constitution. It seeks to ensure that lands and

waters acquired and preserved for park, recreational, and scenic areas for the purpose of controlling and limiting the pollution of air and water, controlling excessive noise, and in every other appropriate way preserving as a part of the common heritage of the state, continue to be used for those purposes. The State Nature and Historic Preserve Act provides a strong legal tool for protecting lands from incompatible uses. The addition and removal of lands to and from the State Nature and Historic Preserve require a vote of three-fifths of the members of each house of the General Assembly. All land and water within the park boundaries as of May 6, 2003, are protected by the State Nature and Historic Preserve Dedication Act.

Nature Preserves Act

The Nature Preserves Act (1985, G.S. 113A-164) prescribes methods by which nature preserves may be dedicated for the benefit of present and future citizens of North Carolina. It authorizes a Natural Heritage Program to provide assistance in the selection and nomination for registration or dedication of natural areas.

The state may accept the dedication of outstanding natural areas by gift, grant, or purchase of fee simple title or other interest in land. Lands dedicated are held in trust by the state and are managed and protected according to regulations. They may not be used for any purpose inconsistent with the provision of the Nature Preserves Act or disposed of by the state without a finding by the Governor and Council of State that the other use or disposition is in the best interest of the state.

At the present time, 1340 acres of Lumber River State Park is dedicated as a nature preserve. The Piney Island/Net Hold Dedicated Nature Preserve, dedicated in 1995, contains a portion of the river and its floodplain communities. The preserve stretches from State Road 2121 downstream to Boardman.

North Carolina Environmental Policy Act of 1971

Recognizing the profound influence that human activity has on the natural environment, the General Assembly passed the Environmental Policy Act "*to assure that an environment of high quality will be maintained for the health and well-being of all...*" The Act declares that:

It shall be the continuing policy of the State of North Carolina to conserve and protect its natural resources and to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony. Further, it shall be the policy of the State to seek, for all its citizens safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically pleasing surroundings; to attain the widest possible range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk to health or safety; and to preserve the important historic and cultural elements of our common inheritance. (G.S. 113A-3)

Archaeological Resources Protection Act

The Lumber River State Park area is known to have been occupied by American Indian tribes. The area also contains some cultural resources associated with early settlements. Unknown archaeological resources may also exist, both within the existing park boundaries and in nearby areas. Development of recreational facilities should avoid destruction of these resources.

A permit is required from the Department of Administration, in consultation with the Department of Cultural Resources, to excavate, remove, damage, or alter any archaeological resource on state lands. Archaeological resources are defined as the remains of past human life or activities that are at least 50 years old and are of archaeological interest (G.S. 70-10).

While there are other General Statutes that concern the state parks system and the environment, the above-described statutes, along with Article XIV, Section 5, of the North Carolina Constitution, largely define the purposes of the state parks system and serve to guide the operation of state park system units.

FEDERAL LAWS

The Americans With Disabilities Act

Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination against any "*qualified individual with a disability.*"

New Construction and Alterations

Buildings that are constructed or altered by, on behalf of, or for the use of a public entity shall be designed, constructed, or altered to be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities. (Section 35.151 of Title II)

Existing Facilities

Structural changes in existing facilities are required only when there is no other feasible way to make the public entity's program accessible. ("Structural changes" include all physical changes to a facility [28 CFR Part 35, Section 35.150, Title II of the ADA Section-by-Section Analysis].)

When alterations affect access to a primary function of a facility, the entity shall also make alterations to the path of travel to the area and bathrooms, public telephones, and drinking fountains serving the altered area.

Programs and Services

....each service, program, or activity conducted by a public entity, when viewed in its entirety, be readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities.

(Title II, Section 35.150)

This includes, but is not limited to, the provision of auxiliary aids and services, including services and devices for effective communication where necessary to afford persons with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of a service, program, or activity conducted by a public entity.

Signs

A public entity must ensure that persons with impaired vision and hearing can obtain information regarding the location of accessible services, activities, and facilities. Signs must be provided at all inaccessible entrances to each facility directing users to an accessible entrance or to a location where information can be obtained about accessible facilities. The international symbol for accessibility must be used at each accessible entrance to a facility. (Title II, Section 35.163)

Clean Water Act

Lumber River State Park's sensitive wetland areas receive some protection from Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. The Act prohibits the discharge of dredge or fill materials into waters, including wetlands, without a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Activities in wetlands for which permits may be required include but are not limited to: placement of fill material; ditching activities; land clearing involving relocation of soil material; land leveling; most road construction; and dam construction (33 USC 1344). The Division will avoid undertaking construction located in wetlands unless there is no practical alternative and all practical measures are taken to minimize harm to the wetland.

Wild And Scenic Rivers Act

Enacted in 1968, The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) was intended to preserve selected free-flowing rivers in their natural condition for the use and enjoyment of the public. This alternative to dam construction was intended to balance the nation's water resources development policies with river conservation and recreation goals. Designated rivers receive protection from new hydropower projects, federal water projects, and other federally assisted water resource projects — defined as grants, licenses, permits or funding — that would alter the river's free-flowing characteristics, or have a direct and adverse effect on the river's outstanding resources. (www.nps.gov/rivers/)

In 1998, 81 of the 115 miles of the Lumber River were federally designated. Segments through the City of Lumberton and Fair Buff were given *recreational* designation, with *scenic* designation granted to the remainder. The Lumber River was designated by administrative action of the Secretary of the Interior under Section 2(a)(ii), to be managed by the state rather than the federal government.

LOCAL LAWS

To protect the Lumber River and in order to obtain federal designation of the Lumber River through Lumberton, on May 11, 1998, the City of Lumberton passed a specified resolution amending its land use ordinance by adding the Lumber River Protection Overlay District. The district includes the Lumber River within the City of Lumberton as well as the city's extraterritorial jurisdiction. This segment extends from Back Swamp (river mile 56) to Jacob Swamp Canal (river mile 73) and includes a 100 foot buffer strip along both sides of the river.

The Lumber River Protection Overlay District establishes standards and requirements for the use and conservation of land and water within the district. The ordinance addresses new development of buildings and septic systems, excavation or mining, and disturbance of vegetation, scenic areas, and fish and wildlife habitat.

VI. NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Division of Parks and Recreation's approach to natural resource management is directed by the North Carolina Constitution and the State Parks Act, both of which require the prudent management of natural resources. The constitution sets the overall policy by broadly defining the conservation and protection of natural resources and the acquisition of such resources as a proper function of government. The State Parks Act states that unique archaeological, geological, biological, scenic and recreational resources are a part of the heritage of the people that *"...should be preserved and managed by those people for their use and for the use of their visitors and descendants."*

The North Carolina State Parks System plays an important role in maintaining, rehabilitating and perpetuating the state's natural heritage. The natural resources of the state parks system are: high quality, rare or representative examples of natural communities; native plants and animals; geological features and landforms; water resources; and the natural processes that affect these resources. The primary objective in natural resource management will be the protection of natural resources for their inherent integrity and for appropriate types of enjoyment while ensuring their availability for future generations.

It is the Division's policy that natural resources will be managed by allowing natural environments to evolve through natural processes with minimal human influence. Natural resource management will not attempt solely to preserve individual species or processes; rather, it will attempt to maintain all the components and processes of a park's naturally evolving ecosystems. When intervention is necessary, direct or secondary effects on park resources will be minimized to the greatest extent possible. Intervention of natural processes may occur:

1. To correct or compensate for the previous human disruption of natural processes;
2. To protect, restore or enhance rare species and natural communities;
3. To protect, restore or enhance significant archaeological resources;
4. To construct, maintain, improve or protect park facilities; and,
5. To prevent danger to human health or safety around park facilities.

All park facilities will be designed, constructed and maintained to avoid adverse impacts to high quality natural communities, rare plant and animal species, major archaeological sites and other significant natural and cultural resources.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Category	Subcategory	Project Description	Priority ¹
Animal Management	Exotic Species Management	Study impacts of introduce Flathead catfish (<i>Pylodictis olivaris</i>).	Low
	Inventory Deficiencies	Continue inventory work on amphibians and reptiles.	Low
Botanical Resource Management	Exotic Species Management	Develop a management plan for Wisteria and Alligator Weed.	High
	Exotic Species Management	Continue to work with the Division of Water Quality to spray for Alligator Weed.	High
	Inventory Deficiencies	Natural community inventory is needed for the entire park.	Medium
		Rare species inventory is needed for several properties not purchased with Natural Heritage funding.	Medium
	Rare Species Management	Develop a protection plan for woody goldenrod (<i>Chrysoma pauciflosculosa</i>) and Carolina bogmint (<i>Macbridea carolinianan</i>).	Medium
		Monitor populations of new species identified in the rare species inventory.	Low
Restoration/Reintroduction	Prepare a restoration plan for pine plantations on park property (approximately 800 acres).	Medium	
Cultural Resource Management	Cultural Resource Management	Obtain cultural resource information about Princess Ann and the Net Hole areas.	Low
Infrastructure Management	Environmental Compliance for Planned Construction Projects	An environmental assessment will be required for the Chalk Banks development.	Low
	Road Management	Study the possibility of eliminating various roads (especially Big Sandy Ridge and Middle Swamp Road).	High
	Trails Management	Continue to monitor erosion on trails at Princess Ann.	Low
	Buffer Zone to State Park Property	Continue to monitor for hunting encroachment near park boundaries.	Medium
	Fire Management	Add additional properties to current prescribed fire plan.	High
	Park boundaries	Complete survey and boundary marking on all existing properties.	Medium
	Rights of Way	Review right-of-way at Big Sandy Ridge and the Net Hole properties.	Medium
	Trash and Debris Disposal	Mobile homes and hunting camps need to be removed at Pea Ridge and Big Sandy Ridge.	Medium
Water Resource Management	Riparian Buffer Zone Protection	Ensure enforcement and maintenance of all stream buffers associated with timber harvesting outside of the park.	Medium
		Purchase any buffer properties identified as natural heritage sites to maintain buffers.	Medium
		Study impacts of the canal on the Piney Island property.	Low
	River bank erosion	Monitor roads and trails to ensure stream bank integrity is maintained.	Medium
		Monitor Matthews Road (State Road 2123) to ensure flooding does not result in sedimentation impacts to the river.	Low
	Water Pollution	Develop a water quality testing program to determine baseline conditions and implement a long-term monitoring program to ensure high water quality within the park.	High
		Identify the 43 permitted discharges (on over 115 miles or river).	High
	Implement a study to determine the impacts of the dischargers on water quality. Study should include identification of pollutants emitted and impacts of thermal discharges.	Medium	

1. Explanation of priority codes

HIGH

If the resource management activity is not undertaken in the near future, there is a distinct possibility that natural resources will be compromised. These issues should be addressed within the next five years.

MEDIUM Although there is a possibility that resources could be compromised, the priority is not as critical as the high priority projects.

LOW Projects with low priority have significantly less chance for compromise of the natural resources if the project is not undertaken in a timely fashion or the project may depend on completion of other projects.

RESOURCE INVENTORY

Nearly all documented species records for Lumber River State Park have been compiled and recorded in the Division of Parks and Recreation's online Natural Resource Inventory Database. A list of the rare species documented for the park follows.

Lumber River State Park Documented Rare Species

Mammal:

Corynorhinus rafinesquii macrotis, Rafinesque's Big-eared Bat (Coastal Plain population), State Threatened and Federal Species of Concern

Myotis austroriparius, Southeastern Bat, State Special Concern and Federal Species of Concern

Sciurus niger, Eastern Fox Squirrel, State Significantly Rare

Bird:

Ictinia mississippiensis, Mississippi Kite, State Significantly Rare

Reptile:

Alligator mississippiensis, American Alligator, State Threatened and Federally Threatened

Amphibian:

Eurycea quadridigitata spp., Dwarf Salamander (Silver morph), State Special Concern

Fish:

Cyprinella zanema spp., Santee Chub (Coastal Plain population), State Special Concern

Noturus spp., Broadtail Madtom, State Special Concern

Semotilus lumbee, Sandhills Chub, State Special Concern

Mollusk:

Elliptio lanceolata, Yellow Lance, State Threatened (proposed Endangered) and Federal Species of Concern

Plant:

Kalmia cuneata, White Wicky, State Endangered (wild populations)

VII. PHYSICAL PLANT INVENTORY

FACILITY INVENTORY AND INSPECTION

Most of the facilities at Lumber River State Park are located at the Princess Ann Access. All of the facilities at Princess Ann, except one ranger residence and equipment shed, were constructed in 1998 and are in very good condition. Two purchased ranger residences are located at Pea Ridge, and both are in good condition although some limited repairs are needed. The park's facility inventory and repair needs are shown in the following tables. Facility repair needs total \$29,000.

Table VII.1. Lumber River State Park Facility Inventory

FACILITY	DESCRIPTION
Park Office/Maintenance Shop	1,800 sq. ft.; built 1998
Superintendent's Residence	1,600 sq. ft.; built 1998
Flush Toilet Building	400 sq. ft.; built 1998
12 Table "T" Shaped Picnic Shelter	2,300 sq. ft.; built 1998
Boat Ramp	Built 1998
Fishing Pier/Observation Deck	Built 1998
Ranger Residence	1,000 sq. ft.; built 1950, renovated 1998
10 Primitive Campsites	One accessible site
Rom Tech Toilet	Installed 2000
Equipment Shed	800 sq. ft., no sides, age unknown
Pea Ridge Ranger Residence (Double wide)	1,248 sq. ft.; installed 1980s.
Pea Ridge Ranger Residence	1,300 sq. ft.; detached carport/storage; built 1970s.
Piney Island Canoe Campsite and Fishing Pier	Primitive canoe campsites.

Table VII.2. Lumber River State Park Facility Repair Needs

FACILITY	NEED	ESTIMATED COST	PRIORITY
Park Office/Maintenance Shop	Repaint Siding and Trim	\$5,000	Minor
Superintendent's Residence	Repaint Siding and Trim	\$5,000	Minor
	Replace Vinyl Flooring	\$3,000	Minor
Toilet Building	Repaint Siding and Trim	\$1,500	Minor
Ranger Residence	HVAC Repair	\$2,500	Critical
Pea Ridge Ranger Residence (Double wide)	Minor Siding Repairs/Paint	\$3,000	Serious
Pea Ridge Ranger Residence	Trim Repair; Repaint Exterior	\$6,000	Serious
Pea Ridge Mobile Home (Double wide)	Demolition	\$3,000	Minor

Repair needs are rated for priority as minor, critical, or serious. Deficiencies that are a fire threat or threat to life, safety or the health of an individual are considered to be “critical”. A “serious” deficiency is one that is not considered a fire threat or threat to life or safety, but one which could cause further damage to the structure if left uncorrected. This category usually includes building code violations. “Minor” deficiencies are those requiring general maintenance and repair.

ROAD AND UTILITY INVENTORY

Background Information

The main park facilities at Lumber River State Park were constructed during 1997 and 1998 at Princess Ann Access. This road and utility inventory is based on field measurements and as-built drawings from the Lumber River Princess Ann General Development Plans, prepared by the design firm of Hobbs and Upchurch, and field staff measurements of the soil roads at the different access areas by division construction staff on December 4, 2003. There are presently ten sites that the Division of Parks and Recreation owns that have roads providing access to sites along the Lumber River.

Princess Ann Road and Parking Inventory

One main entrance road ends at the boat launch area. There are 1650 linear feet of paved road with 5,147 yards of paved parking lots in three different parking lots. Forty-four spaces are in the picnic day-use parking lot, 30 spaces in the boat launch area, and 10 spaces at the office area. There are 1.5 miles of dirt roads at the park that are in fair shape. The road and parking areas have an 8-inch road base with a 1.5-inch asphalt layer over the base.

The road and parking lots were constructed in 1997-98 and are in good condition. Minor asphalt patching needs to be done.

Repair Needs and Costs

The parking lots and road will need to be re-striped within the next five years. Minor patching on the road surface will be repaired by NCDOT. Striping costs for 100 spaces at \$20.00 per space equals \$2000.

Sewer System

There are three separate sewer systems at the Princess Ann Access: one 1200 gallon precast septic tank with two 300 foot drain lines that serves the picnic day use area; one 1000 gallon precast septic tank with two 125 foot drain lines that serves the park office and maintenance areas; and one 1000 gallon precast septic with two 125 lines drain lines that serves the superintendent’s residence. All tanks have manhole rings and covers.

All systems were installed in 1998 and are in good shape. The manhole covers have not been opened since their installation and need to be opened on a yearly basis.

Repair Needs and Costs

All three tanks need pumping out and inspection for any leakage or problems. The sludge level is exceeding the allowed limits. Lids need to be protected from rusting by applying a thin coat of lubricant. Three tanks need pumping for a total cost of \$600.

Water System

Princess Ann Access is supplied water by the Robeson County Public Water System. The water piping is class 200 PVC piping of various sizes with valves at all service connections. There are approximately 2600 linear feet of piping that runs from the main tie at SR 2246 to the service connections within the park. The lines are in good shape, but the valves need to be exercised on a routine schedule. No repairs are needed.

Electrical System

The power to Princess Ann Access is underground and is supplied by Lumber River Electric Membership Corporation (EMC). A pad-mounted transformer is located at each of the three building sites.

The system was installed in 1997 by Lumber River EMC and is in good condition. The Lumber River EMC owns the underground lines. No repairs are needed.

Telephone

Bell South provides phone service. The park has one phone line that serves the park office, one line for the fax and the Internet and a separate line for the fire and security system. There are two phones in the office and two in the shop area. The phone company installed the system in 1997 and the park staff purchased the phones. The system is in fair shape and needs to be upgraded.

Repair Needs and Costs

The present system is undersized for the number of staff that use the facility. A new phone system needs to be installed. A public pay phone needs to be installed around the day use toilet building. One phone system for all employees in the building with individual phones would run \$5,000. Pay phone installation is around \$3,000.

ROAD INVENTORY FOR UNDEVELOPED AREAS ON LUMBER RIVER

The park has undeveloped lands along the river that are served by old logging or farm roads that the park maintains on an infrequent basis. These roads provide access to the river for emergency access and allow inspection of parkland for hunting or any other illegal activities. These roads also serve as a means to maintain the river campsites and for fire protection. A list of these areas with the road mileage that the Division is responsible for maintaining and repairing follows. Some of these roads are flooded on a frequent basis.

<u>Name of Area</u>	<u>Road Miles</u>
Big Sand Ridge	5.3
Big McQueen	2.0
Piney Island	2.1
Pea Ridge	0.5
Net Hole	3.3
Goose Lake	0.5
Tom Avent	0.4
Jasper Memmory	0.1
Chalk Banks	<u>3.0</u>
Total Road Miles	17.2

The majority of these roads are logging and farm roads that the park has taken over through land acquisition, and most are in poor to fair shape. Timber companies constructed many of the roads over 25 years ago. The road culverts are mostly metal and need to be replaced or expanded in size. Some stone stabilization is needed.

Repair Needs and Costs

Road culverts need to be inspected and replaced as needed. Permits need to be secured from the Army Corps of Engineers before replacing them. All roads that are not needed should be eliminated before repairs are made. Costs are unknown until a study is done on these roads.

MAJOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES

As part of the general management plan process, proposed capital improvement projects at Lumber River State Park were carefully reviewed to determine if all the projects were still needed and if any changes to the proposed projects were desirable. In reviewing the proposed capital improvement projects, the general management plan evaluation team considered factors such as changes in environmental regulations, conditions of facilities, natural heritage inventory, recreation demand, operational needs, visitor safety considerations, State Parks Act mandates, and trends.

While the five existing projects are still needed, some changes were made to the project scopes. No new projects were added. Once the five projects were reviewed and project scope changes made, each project was then evaluated and ranked using the Division's Project Evaluation Program (PEP), thus creating a revised priority list of capital improvement projects for Lumber River State Park. These projects were then combined with projects evaluated and ranked for other state park units, resulting in a priority list of capital improvement projects for the entire state parks system.

Pea Ridge Development

One major problem currently existing at the park is the overcrowding at the park office located at Princess Ann Access. The structure was designed to serve as a satellite office/maintenance area and house a staff of four or five. Staffing has increased to nine as the park has grown, crowding office space. Office storage space is also needed, as well as public restrooms.

Consideration was given to expanding the office/maintenance building at Princess Ann to address overcrowding and to better serve park visitors. Once the main park visitor's center with offices is constructed at Pea Ridge, however, there would not be a need for additional office space at Princess Ann. Overcrowding at the Princess Ann office makes development of the main park visitor's center at Pea Ridge an even higher priority.

Development of the visitor's center at Pea Ridge requires additional land acquisition and therefore its construction is not in the immediate future. In the meantime, a temporary park office may be needed at Pea Ridge to relieve overcrowding at Princess Ann and to begin to establish a presence at Pea Ridge. A temporary office in a structure that might later be relocated for other use or putting a temporary office in an existing house at Pea Ridge will be investigated.

While additional land acquisition is a high priority at Pea Ridge, the division has already acquired several parcels at Pea Ridge and these will now allow some construction to take place. The two existing projects for Pea Ridge have been reorganized into project elements that can be constructed on existing state land (Phase I), and work elements that require some additional land acquisition (Phase II). In addition to relieving the office overcrowding at Princess Ann, Phase I development will serve to help meet the demand for recreational facilities such as tent and trailer camping and picnicking. Changes to the original Pea Ridge site plan contained in the park's 1994 master plan were also needed because of two borrow pits that were dug to obtain sand used in the widening of US 74. Revised site plans are shown at the end of this chapter.

Revised Project Priority List

A revised project priority list is shown below, followed by descriptions of each project. Projects requiring additional land acquisition prior to construction are indicated as (land).

Rank	Project Title	PEP Score*	Cost
1.	Piney Island Development	667	\$ 470,853
2.	Pea Ridge Phase I Development	664	2,746,413
3.	Chalk Banks Phase II Development (land)	618	3,225,230
4.	Pea Ridge Phase II Development (land)	560	8,793,501
5.	Fair Bluff Canoe Access Area (land)	540	71,582
	Total Cost		<u>\$15,307,579</u>

* *The PEP score comes from the Division's Project Evaluation Program (PEP). The PEP uses an evaluation formula to rank projects that considers four factors: the objective of the project; the justification or urgency for funding, the estimated annual number of persons (visitors and/or employees) who are affected by the project; and the project's significance, ranging from local to national. The park superintendent, district superintendent, and division management evaluate projects. There are 15 objectives categorizing a project's purpose, and each project can have a primary and secondary objective.*

Capital Improvement Projects

Descriptions of the projects in the order of their ranking follow:

1. Piney Island Development \$ 470,853

Development will include 10 campsites, a pump/haul toilet, road improvements, and two miles of trail development with signs.

2. Pea Ridge Phase I Development \$ 2,746,413

This project includes a temporary visitor contact station/park office, a tent and trailer campground loop, a dump station and septic field, picnic area with a shelter and toilet, trail and river viewing/fishing platforms, a canoe camp, a well and water tank, water lines, and electric lines (Figure VII-1).

3. Chalk Banks Phase II Development \$ 3,225,230

This project is dependent upon additional land acquisition and includes parking areas, paving of the main entrance road, gate, a canoe launch, utilities, a campground, two ranger residences, an operations and maintenance area, group picnic area, family picnic area, and a canoe camp (Figure VII-2 and VII-3).

4. Pea Ridge Phase II Development \$ 8,793,501

This project is land dependent and includes a standard visitor's center, demolition of some existing buildings, seeding and landscaping, launch ramp and parking, main gate, road improvements, water lines, electric lines, tent and trailer campground, operations and maintenance area, picnic area with a shelter and toilet, ranger residence renovations, and group camps with a washhouse (Figure VII-1).

5. Fair Bluff Canoe Access Area \$ 71,582

This project is land dependent and includes the development of the last takeout before the NC-SC state line. Development includes a gate, 15-car parking, canoe launch improvements, and an interpretive display.

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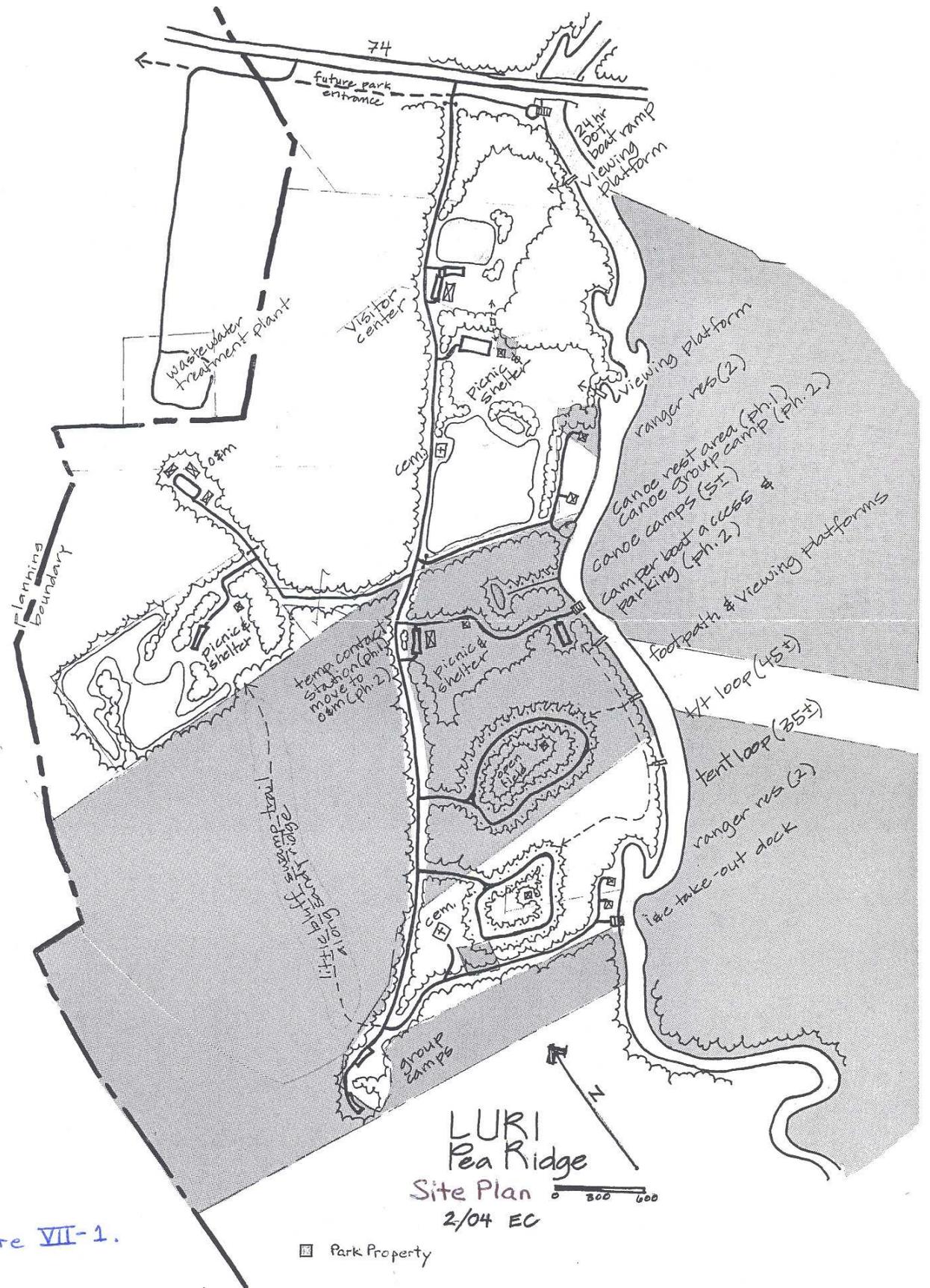


Figure VII-1.

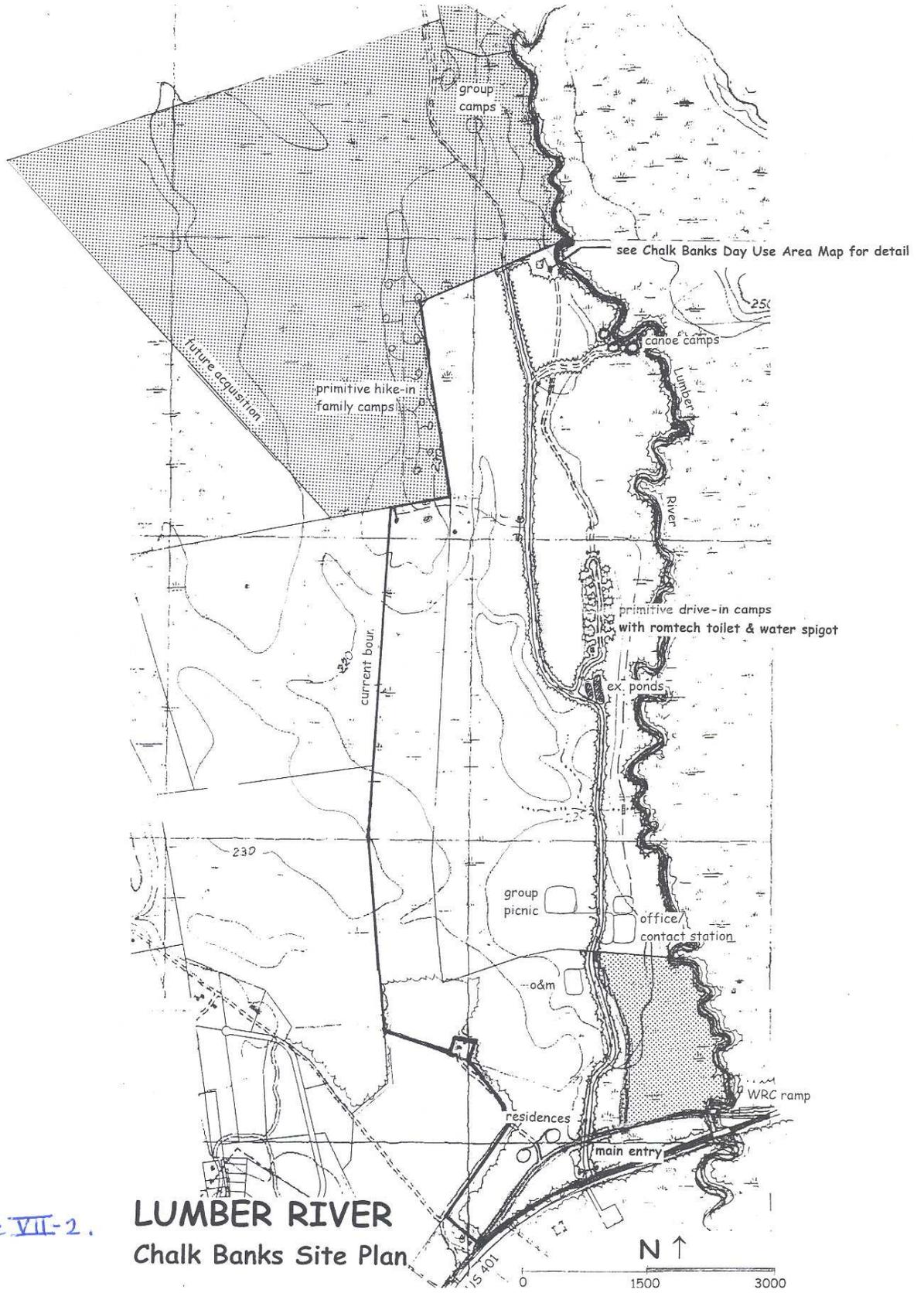


Figure VII-2.

**LUMBER RIVER
Chalk Banks Site Plan**

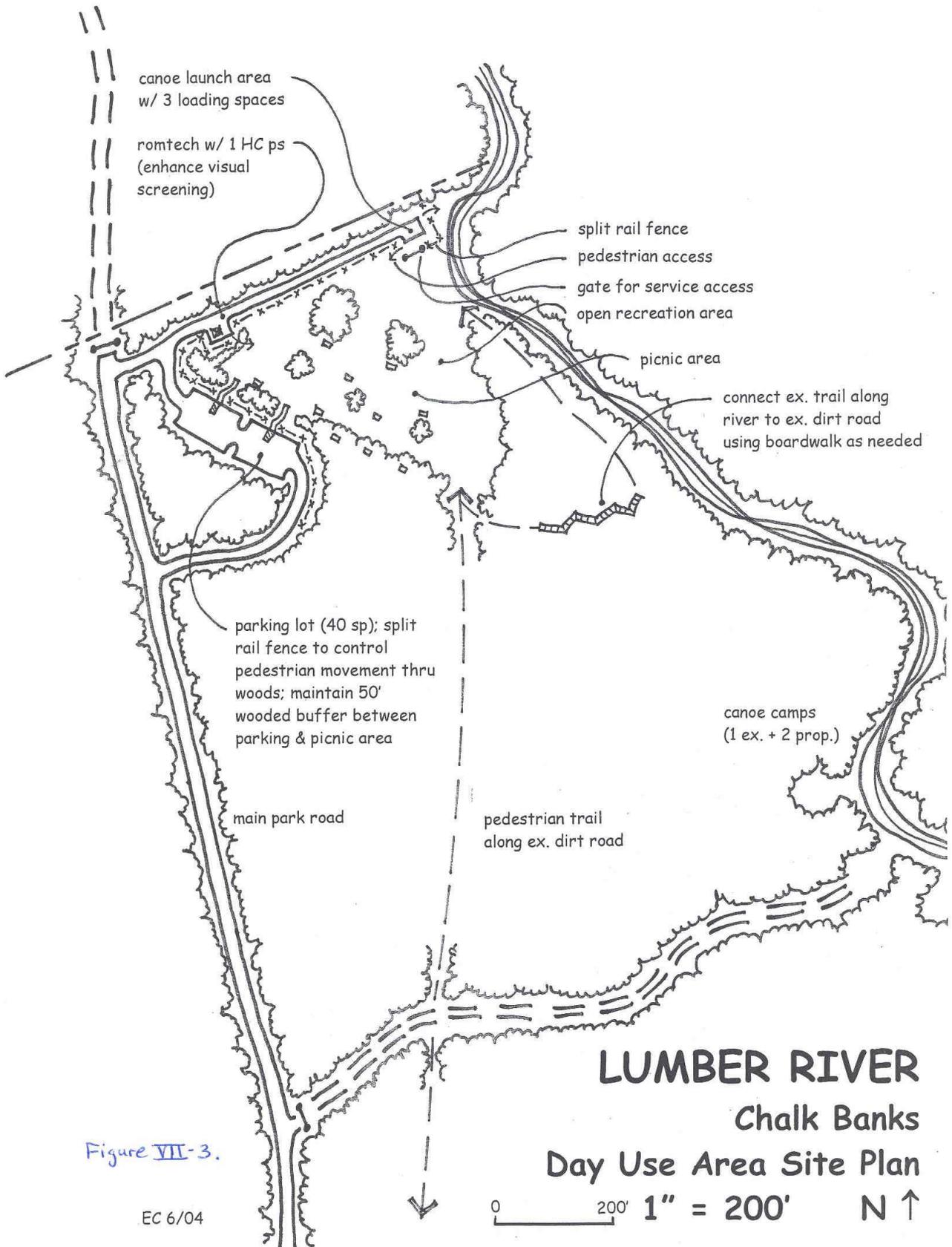


Figure VII-3.

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LUMBER RIVER
Chalk Banks
Day Use Area Site Plan
 0 200' 1" = 200' N ↑

VIII. OPERATIONS ISSUES

INTRODUCTION

Division of Parks and Recreation staff identified the major park issues facing Lumber River State Park at the initiation of the general management plan process. The issues have been divided into three categories: natural resources (see Chapter VI), capital improvements (see Chapter VII) and operations. This chapter identifies park operations issues and makes recommendations for addressing them during the next five years.

Operations issues for Lumber River State Park that are of significant concern are:

1. Clearing a Boat Passageway
2. Staffing Needs
3. Radio Communications
4. Road System
5. Lack of Facilities

CLEARING A BOAT PASSAGEWAY

Background

The Lumber River flows for 115 miles and it is becoming an increasingly popular waterway for boaters, canoeists and kayakers. All along the river, due to natural processes such as lightning, disease, erosion, flooding, wind and rain, downed trees are often found. Some of these trees provide obstructions to boating traffic, decrease the usability and enjoyment of the river, make multi-day trips difficult, and may also present safety concerns. After extreme weather events such as hurricanes and ice storms, the number of trees blocking passage on the river can be overwhelming. High water levels affect the ability to clear as well, making the summer the best time to undertake clearing activities. Permitting from the US Army Corps of Engineers is also required.

Staff training for clearing activities is adequate. The park's current staffing and other resources allow approximately 25 miles of the river to be cleared annually for a small boat passageway. Due to the danger and difficulty of the work, a crew of four is needed for the work. At the current time, the Division priorities for clearing activities focus on the 25 miles of river upstream from Fair Bluff, the segment of river that includes most of the park's facilities and much of the state- owned land.

Recommendations

The construction chief will investigate the feasibility of formulating a contract for clearing activities that would keep a business on retainer. By doing so, when conditions warrant, the Division could then act much more quickly to obtain outside assistance. The park superintendent will talk with the Corps of Engineers about permitting for such an arrangement so that a new permitting application and process will not be required prior to

undertaking such routine but unscheduled work. The park superintendent will also seek supplemental funding – grants, support from local governments, etc. – to help pay for contracting work. New staff positions should also be created and filled to assist the current staff with river clearing activities, thus allowing more than the current 25 miles to be cleared on an annual basis.

STAFFING NEEDS

Background

Staff positions at Lumber River have been reassigned and lost in response to the recent mandated budget reductions. At the same time, public demand for services provided by the state park has increased as knowledge of the services and recreational opportunities has spread. The park acreage has also grown considerably and land acquisition along the river continues.

As discussed above, additional park staff is needed to remove fallen trees and debris from the river. In the past, contractors have been hired with support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency following hurricanes, but an adequate source of funding and manpower is necessary to keep more of the river clear under normal circumstances for an increasing number of paddlers and boaters. Opportunities to provide four staff at the same time for clearing activities has decreased as mandatory training and other responsibilities make staff unavailable.

The park crosses three counties in an area of the state where opportunities for public environmental education and interpretation are limited. At least five school systems routinely request environmental education services. With the loss of staff, the park is not able to meet demand for this essential service. The park does not even advertise environmental education services anymore because current demand cannot be met.

Additionally, day use areas are scheduled to open in 2004 at the Chalk Banks area near Wagram. This area will be more than forty miles from the operational support area at Princess Ann. A minimum of three staff will be needed to staff the area and to be available for public assistance. Currently, only two staff members are designated to support this area.

Recommendations

Two additional park rangers and a maintenance mechanic are needed to enhance opportunities for interpretation and environmental education, to improve staffing available for river clearing activities, to better manage park resources spread over four counties, and to provide minimal staffing for new public facilities. The park's existing staff and recommended additions follow:

<u>Current Staff</u>	<u>Existing Number</u>	<u>Additional Staffing Needs</u>
Park Superintendent I	1	
Park Ranger II	3	2 Rangers
Park Ranger I	2	
Maintenance Mechanic II	1	1 Maintenance Mechanic
Maintenance Mechanic I	1	
Office Assistant III	1	
Peak Load GUW	1	
Park Attendants	2	

RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

Background

Comprised of 8,008 acres scattered along 115 miles of river, no other North Carolina state park is spread across a larger geographic area. Because of the linear nature of the park, staff is often miles apart and unable to communicate with each other by radio. Cellular telephone service is also intermittent regardless of the provider. Although the pending access to the Highway Patrol's radio network will provide for continuous coverage for law enforcement communication, it will not improve routine or other emergency radio communications between staff. Improved routine radio communications will require significant improvements if the staff is ever to function efficiently and effectively.

Recommendations

Investigate the feasibility of locating a second repeater upstream from the present location as a means to communicate directly between Princess Anne and Chalk Banks. This coverage would also provide radio communications to Pea Ridge, the future park headquarters area.

The Town of Wagram has already given tentative approval to locate an antenna on the town's water tower, which would enhance radio communications with Princess Ann. If the Division's radio engineer is unable to determine the feasibility of the Wagram location, a radio engineer should be hired to determine the best solution to the park's communications problem.

Should the action described above be insufficient, consideration should be given to locating mobile repeaters in staff vehicles. Staff is often away from vehicles, but radio system improvements should allow for direct and expanded communications via portable radios that are currently in use.

ROAD SYSTEM

Background

There are approximately 17.2 miles of unimproved roads located on state park property. Many are old logging roads or farm roads, and some are only single lane roads. Most are needed to allow staff access to isolated, undeveloped tracts for patrol, land management, and search and rescue. Others may be used for future development or may be incorporated into a trail system. Staff is unable to adequately maintain all of the roads due to the large road mileage, limited staff time, absence of adequate equipment, periodic flooding, and poor condition of some of the roads.

Recommendations

Determine which roads are required for present and future needs and allow others to be abandoned. Park staff will consult with Construction Section and Natural Resource Section staff to determine the feasibility of restoring roads to a manageable condition (replace culverts, reestablish drainage, etc.) and seek improvements through the DOT reimbursable agreement and capital expenditures. Natural Resources staff will work with the Corps of Engineers to obtain any permits needed for road and culvert work. If the roadwork needed is determined to be of a size too large for park staff and for the Division's existing agreement with the Department of Transportation and better suited for a capital project, a new capital improvement project will be developed and scored.

South District equipment money should be used to acquire equipment of sufficient size and capability to effectively maintain roads that are to be maintained. The park superintendent will develop a list of equipment that is needed for road maintenance.

LACK OF FACILITIES/ PEA RIDGE DEVELOPMENT

Background

Although the Lumber River is being used by a growing number of paddlers and boaters and 8008 acres have been acquired for inclusion in Lumber River State Park, there is an absence of adequate facilities, particularly for camping. Eight primitive tent campsites and one group campsite exist at Princess Ann, and 12 new primitive tent campsites are scheduled to become available in 2004 at Chalk Banks. Only four canoe campsites exist along the 115-mile long river. Demand has already been demonstrated for tent and trailer camping, and additional canoe campsites are needed as well. To accommodate those seeking extended canoe trips, canoe campsites are needed along the river approximately every ten miles.

The current office/ maintenance building was never intended to accommodate the current staff stationed at Princess Ann. Work and storage space are inadequate.

Recommendations

The park facility development proposed for the Pea Ridge area should be a high priority. Development of a family tent and trailer campground, visitor center and maintenance compound would meet expanding demand for public facilities and improve centralization of support facilities. Development of the visitor center would also solve the overcrowding issue that now exists at the Princess Ann office/ maintenance building. Property that is suitable for canoe campsites along the river and that has vehicular access to allow maintenance also needs to be identified and acquired in order to provide areas and facilities for canoe in camping.

The current schedule of development for Pea Ridge is still several years away, but the increased use being experienced at the park and the pending interim development of Chalk Banks supports the need to develop Pea Ridge. There has also been some additional residential development at Pea Ridge since the area was identified for the main park headquarters during master plan development. Expeditious land acquisition at Pea Ridge is needed to minimize expense and control the spread of private development. Pea Ridge was also used for sand mining when US 74 was widened, creating borrow pits that have since filled with water. Because of these changes at Pea Ridge, the site development plan for Pea Ridge has been revised and presented to the Park Advisory Committee for review. The Pea Ridge development projects have been reevaluated and rescored in light of the demand for additional facilities for recreation and environmental education, the overcrowding at the current park office at Princess Ann, and the increased development at Pea Ridge that make the project an even higher priority. Changes to the two capital improvement projects for Pea Ridge are described in Chapter VII of this general management plan, and a revised site development plan for Pea Ridge is included in Chapter VII as well.

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IX. LAND ACQUISITION

In 1989, the State Legislature designated the Lumber River from county road 1412 (Turnpike Bridge) in Scotland County to the North Carolina/ South Carolina state line a State river and State park. After extensive public input, the *Lumber River State Park Master Plan* was approved in 1994. Land acquisition and park facility needs identified at that time are described in the master plan under Phase One and Phase Two. A concept plan for the third phase - the acquisition and development of canoe camps that would link the 115-mile river - was described in the master plan, but specific sites were not identified.

In the ten years since adoption of the master plan, tremendous progress has been made to acquire lands needed for the park. Lumber River State Park currently consists of 8,008 acres. One of the park goals is to protect lands adjacent to Lumber River along the entire 115-mile stretch of designated river. In addition to acquisition of lands for the state park, protection of the river corridor will be accomplished with the help of local governments and other organizations such as the Lumber River Conservancy, using a combination of acquisitions, gifts, conservation easements, leases, local government ordinances, and cooperative management agreements. In addition to water quality protection, a number of natural heritage and recreational benefits will be provided by completion of the protection of the river corridor.

Another goal of the park is to protect rare species and high quality examples of natural communities along the river. The North Carolina Natural Heritage Program has identified twelve Significant Natural Heritage Areas adjacent to the stretch of river designated for Lumber River State Park. All twelve sites are slated for protection. Since the original Master Plan, the Division has succeeded in acquiring and protecting much or all of the Bluff Swamp, Princess Anne Swamp, and Net Hole/ Buck Landing Swamp Significant Natural Heritage Areas, and approximately one-half of Big Sandy Ridge.

Several factors are considered in determining whether a piece of property should be included in a protection plan. Properties that contain or buffer rare species, natural communities, high water quality, and natural features are given the highest priority. Data from the Natural Heritage Program, the Division of Water Quality, the Division's identified planned needs, and Division staff surveys of the properties are used as information sources for locating the resources in need of acquisition. Threats to these properties can be development, logging, and sedimentation from upstream development as well as other forms of irreparable damage.

CURRENT ACQUISITION STATUS

The primary focus of the park is the protection of the natural communities, scenic beauty, and water quality of this state and nationally significant river. The objectives for creating the Lumber River State Park are the protection of the unique natural resources and water quality, the

provision of appropriate public recreational use, buffering these resources and visitor activities, and protecting scenic views. With these objectives in mind, the land needs have been reviewed and addressed in a revised acquisition plan for the future protection needs of the Lumber River State Park. Efforts continue to acquire and protect the land in the Upper Lumber River and Lower Lumber River sections already identified in the park's master plan.

FUTURE ACQUISITION NEEDS

Completion of the land acquisition needs identified in the *Lumber River State Park Master Plan* will require an additional 6,022 acres. The first two acquisition priorities are the acreage required for the proposed visitor center and campground development at Pea Ridge, and for the development of permanent park facilities at Chalk Banks. The proposed visitor center at Pea Ridge would supply the needed space for programs, educational exhibits, and office space that would relieve the current overcrowding at Princess Ann. Acquisition is needed at Chalk Banks to resolve right-of-way and access road issues. Other needed acquisition at Chalk Banks will provide land for recreational facility development. The Chalk Banks facilities will help to meet existing recreation demand and provide additional river access for recreation far upstream from existing state facilities. Following those two top priorities, Division will work towards acquiring the areas identified in the upper and lower sections of the river that contain high quality natural areas. These acquisitions protect rare species, water quality and scenic values.

Specific locations of acreage needed to provide publicly- owned rest stops and canoe camps that link the upper and lower sections of the park still need to be identified. The master plan calls for acquisition of approximately 500 acres for corridor protection and for canoe camps and rest stops that link the upper and lower segments of the river. Land acquired for such sites will facilitate use of the river for multi-day trips. Public camping and/ or rest sites are needed on the river approximately every ten miles.

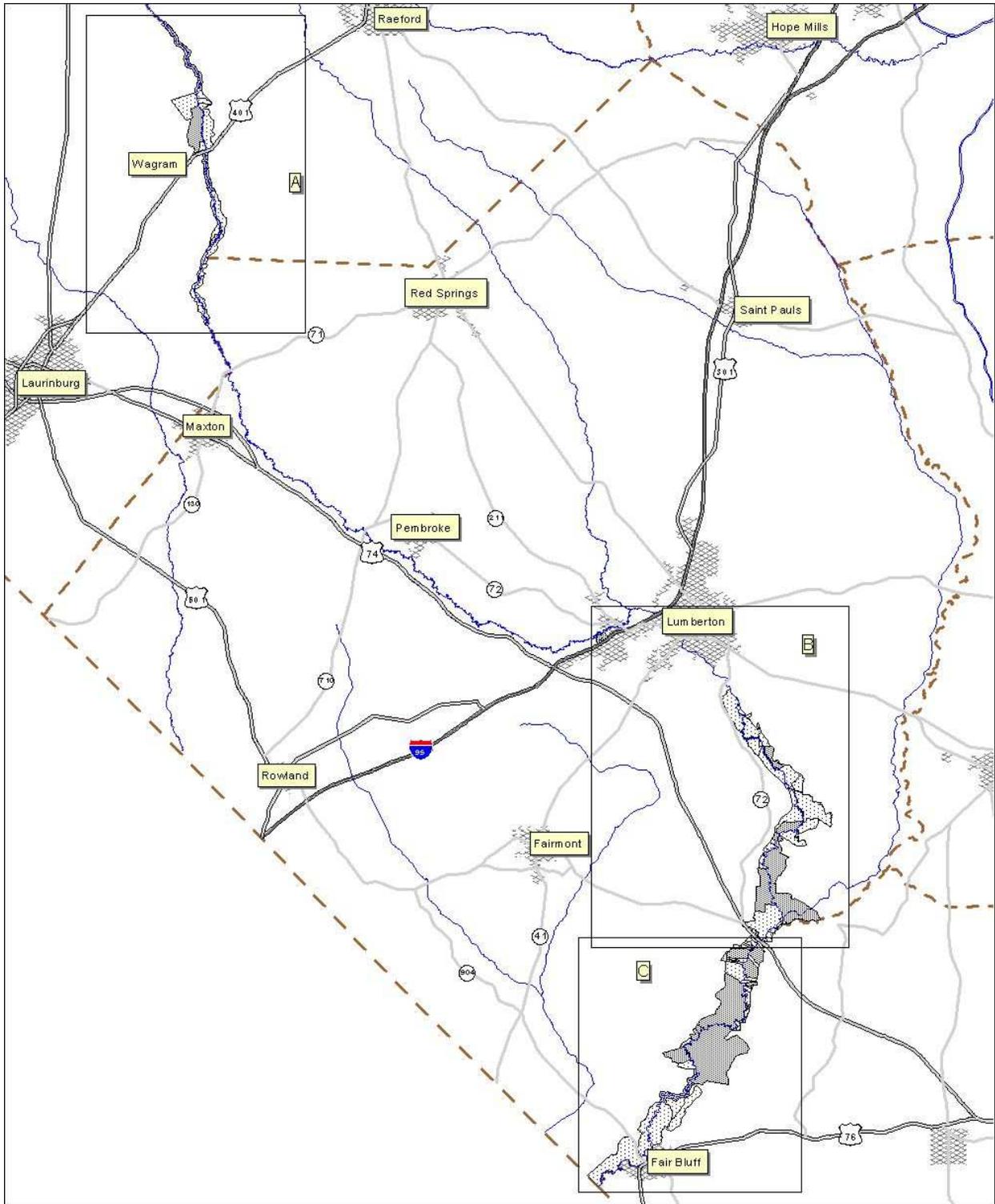
The Lumber River Conservancy currently holds title to a number of properties along the river and its tributaries and has expressed an interest in turning these over to the state to be included in Lumber River State Park. The park superintendent and land acquisition staff will meet with the Conservancy to determine what parcels are appropriate for additions to the park and then work with the Conservancy to transfer title for those properties.

During development of this general management plan, Lumber River State Park staff and other division staff identified land acquisition needs in addition to those identified in the master plan. Acquisition of these lands would extend the park upstream from State Road 2121 towards Lumberton and also below the Town of Fair Bluff, including land for a rest stop/ canoe camp. Current land acquisition needs at Lumber River State Park are shown in the following acquisition summary table and on the land acquisition maps that follow the table.

ACQUISITION SUMMARY TABLE

Current size of the park (October 2003)		8,008 acres
Current planned needs:		
Upper Lumber River	2,589	
Lower Lumber River	<u>8,378</u>	
Total planned needs		<u>10,967</u>
Planned size of the park		18,975 acres

06/04

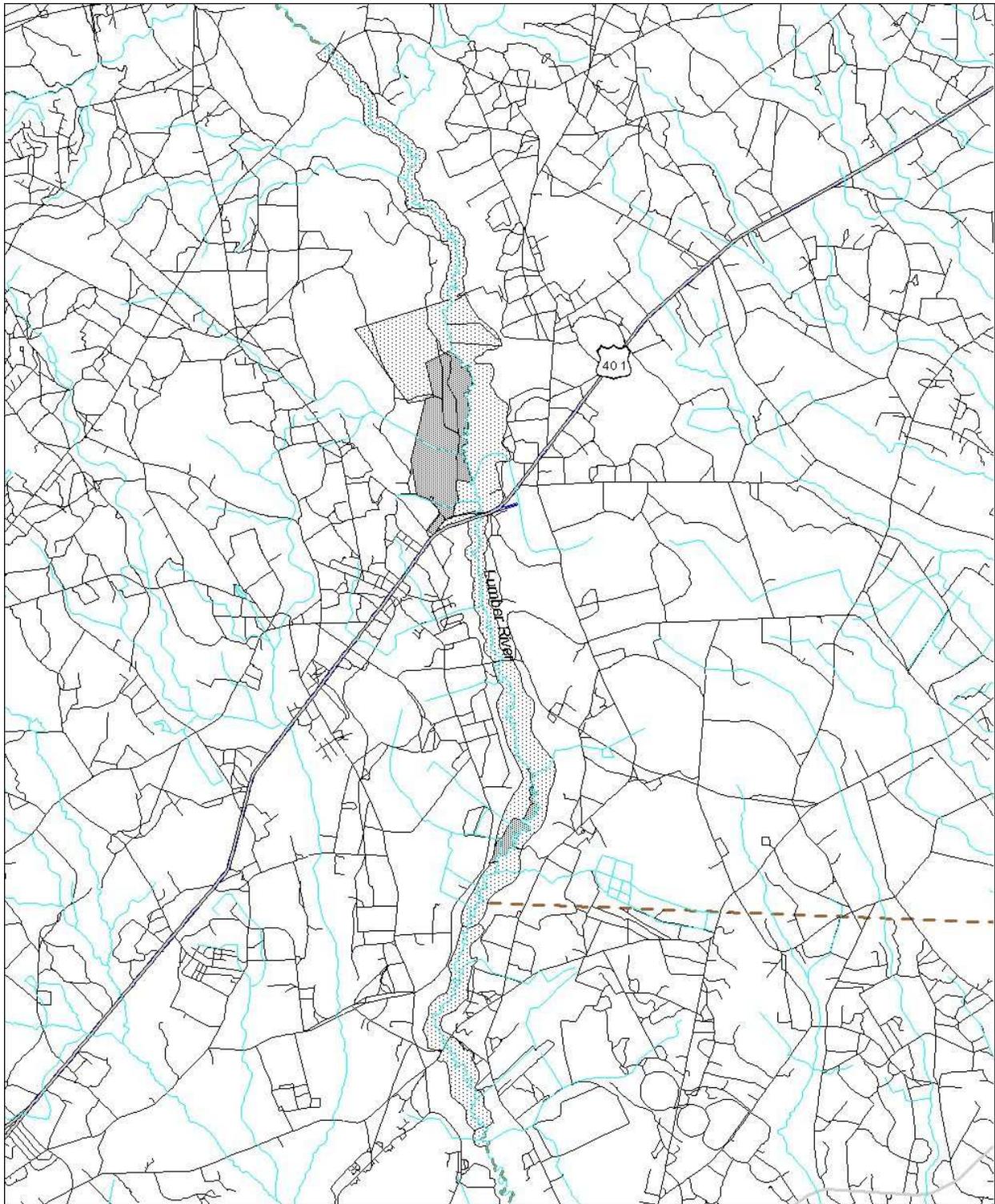


Lumber River
State Park

-  State Park
-  Future Need



N
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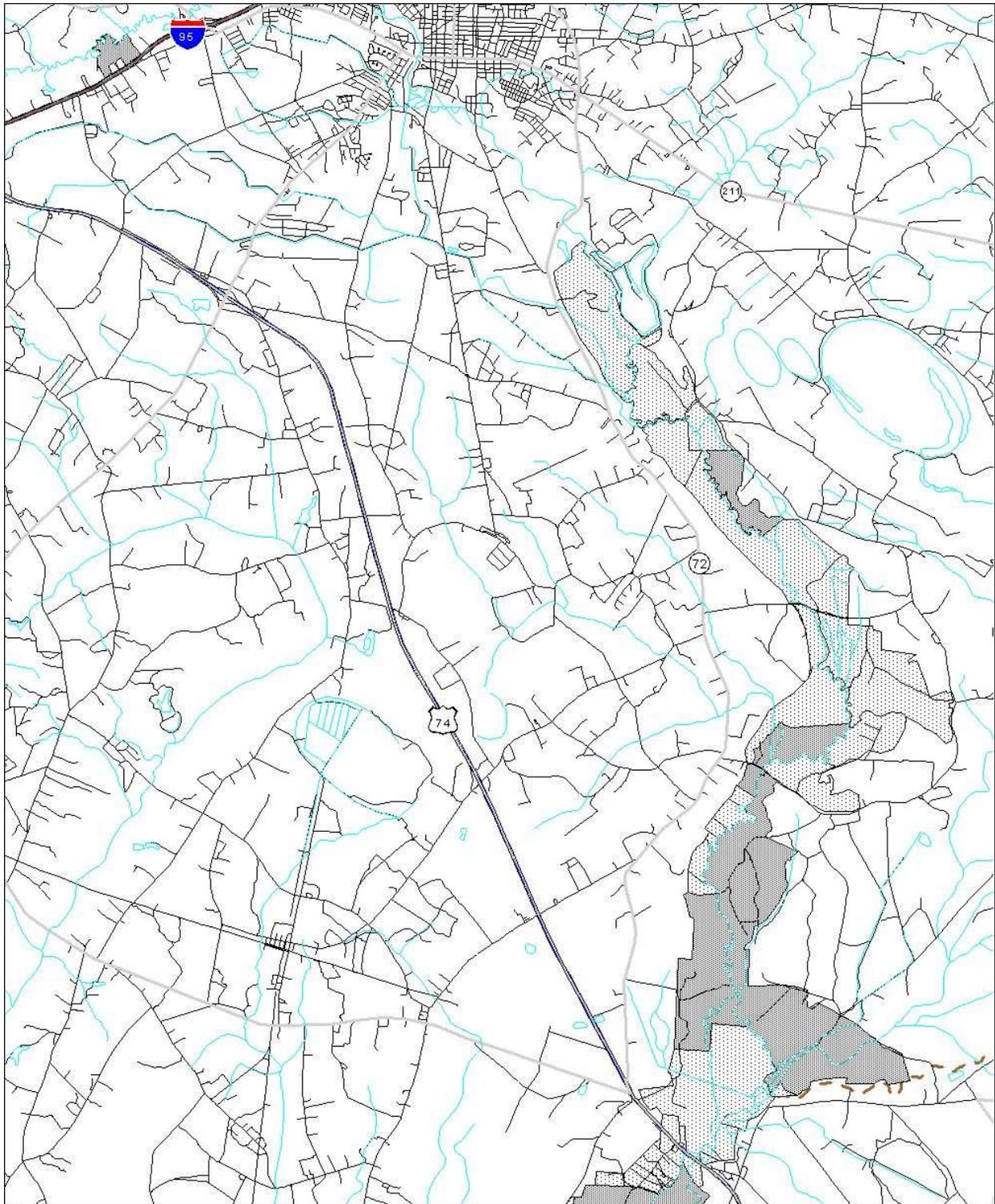
Lumber River
State Park
A: Upper Section

-  State Park
-  Future Need

0 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

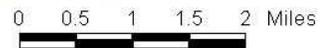


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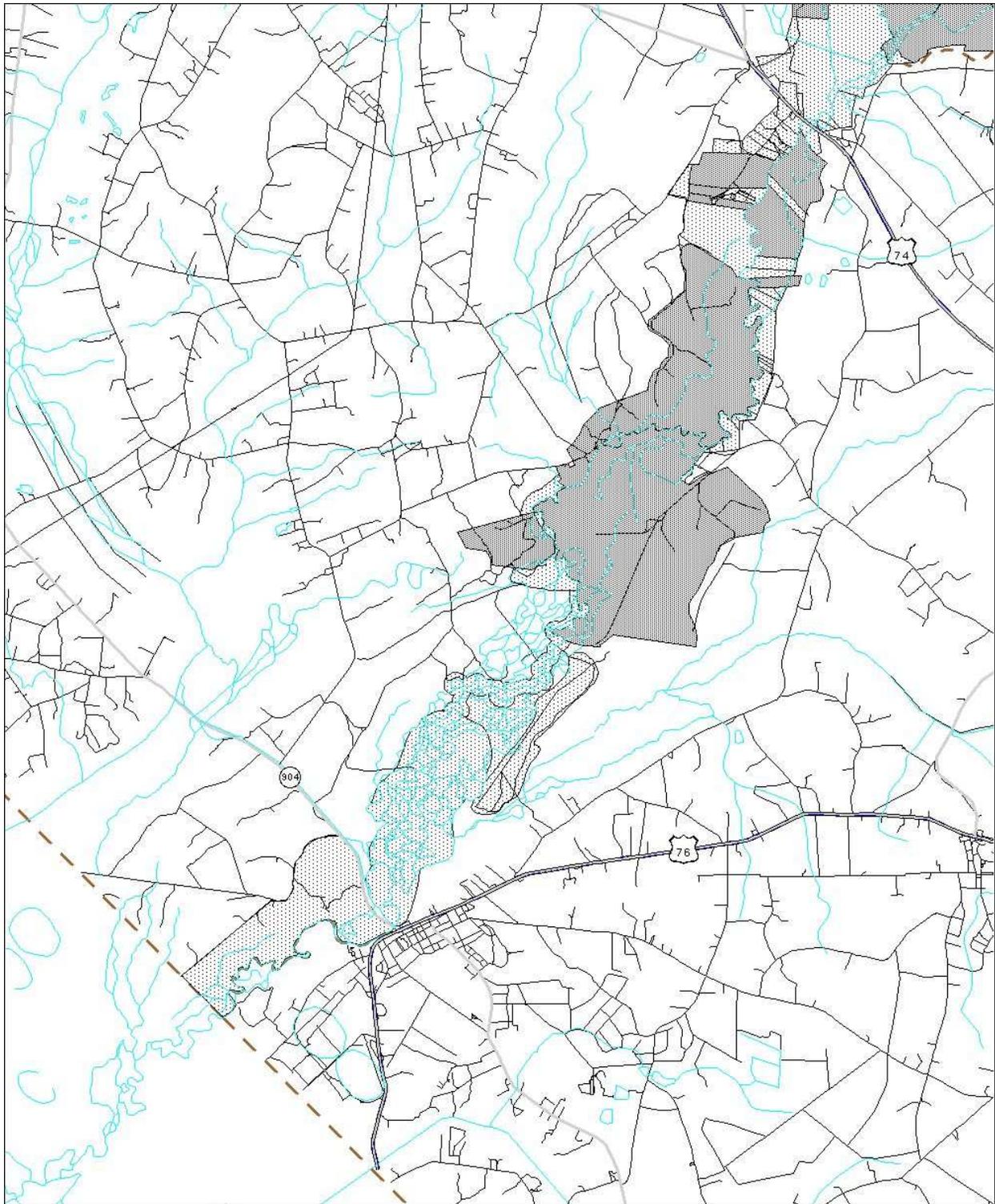


Lumber River
State Park
B: Lower Section
North

-  State Park
-  Future Need



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Lumber River
State Park
C: Lower Section
South

State Park
Future Need



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