

DRAFT RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

for

NEW RIVER GORGE NATIONAL RIVER

Prepared by the
National Park Service
and the
New River Gorge Citizen's Task Force

June 1987

Oak Hill, West Virginia

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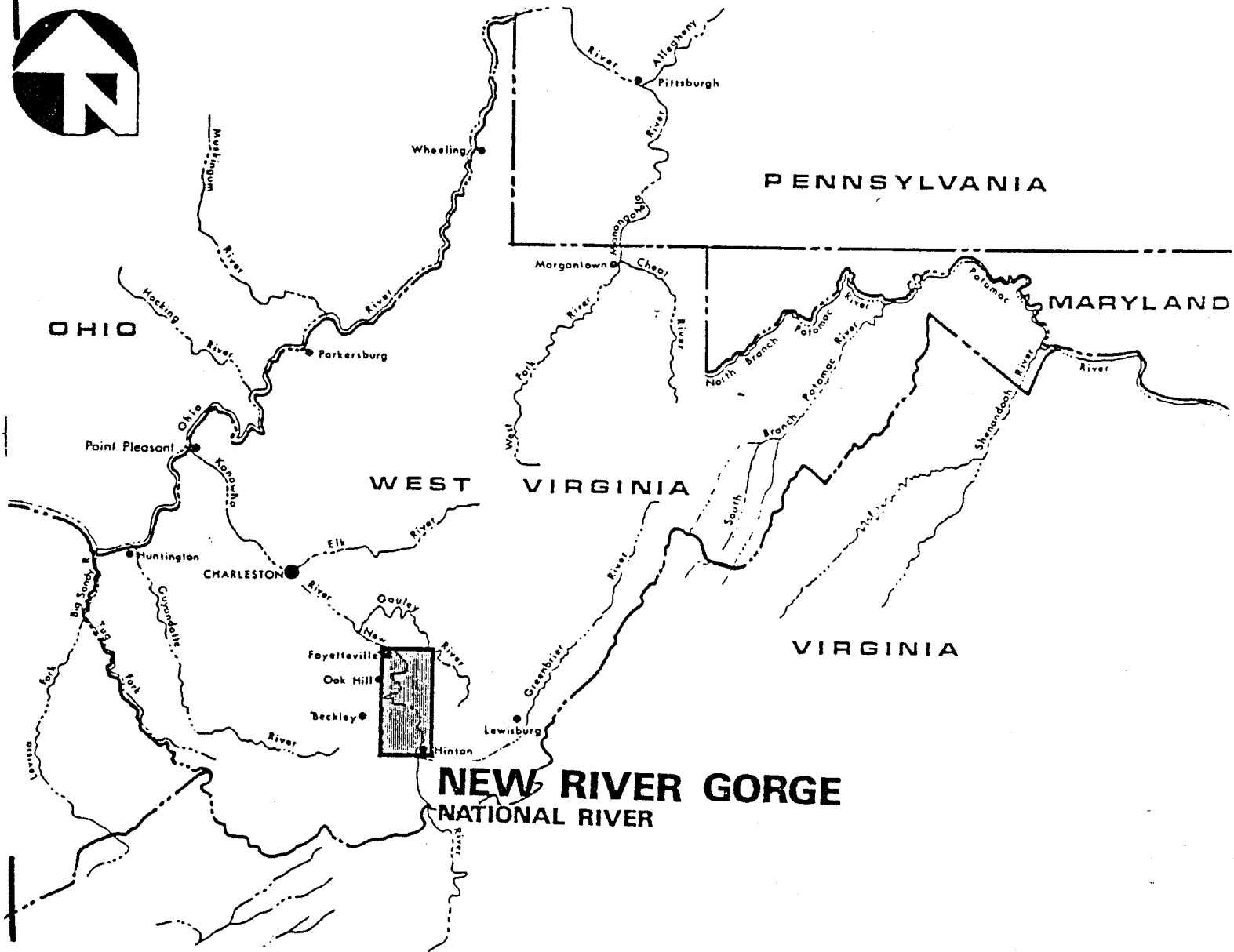
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Plan Summary

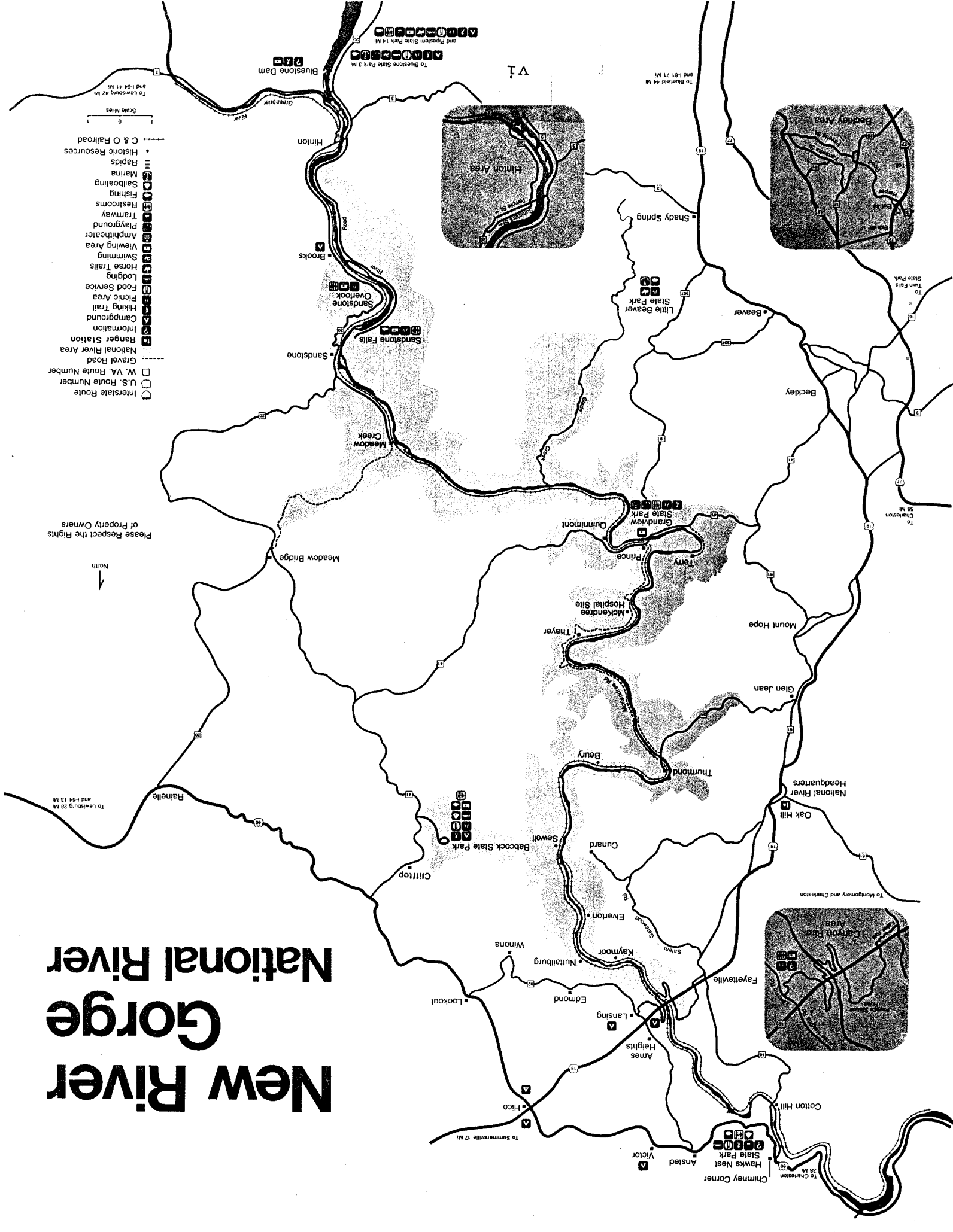
This River Management Plan is intended to provide the opportunities for high-quality river recreation experiences and to minimize adverse impacts on the natural, cultural and scenic qualities of the New River Gorge National River. It specifically addresses the question, "What types and levels of land and water-based recreation are appropriate for the National River, a unit of the National Park System?"

The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process was used to develop the Plan. Public meetings were held in the spring and summer of 1986. The Nominal Group Process was used at those meetings to rank issues of concern among the public. Those concerns were then passed on to a 45-member Citizens Task Force for development into prescriptive management objectives. Each Task Force member represented an organization, group, or geographic area of the park.

The National Park Service was responsible for preparing management actions to achieve those objectives developed by the Task Force. Priority lists for management actions, land acquisition priorities, and development concept plan priorities are also included in this Plan.



New River Gorge National River



- Historic Resources
 • C & O Railroad
 • National River Area
 • Ranger Station
 • Information
 • Campground
 • Picnic Area
 • Food Service
 • Lodging
 • Horse Trails
 • Swimming
 • Viewing Area
 • Amphitheater
 • Playground
 • Restrooms
 • Fishing
 • Sailboating
 • Marina
 • Rapids

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I. The Purpose of this Plan

The purpose of this River Management Plan is to provide the opportunity for high quality river recreation experiences at the New River Gorge National River. Equally important, it should minimize adverse impacts from recreationists on the natural, cultural and scenic qualities of the river environment. This Plan will be updated as conditions and circumstances change.

The objectives in this Plan were developed through a public participation process, discussed in more detail in Chapter III. The guidelines used in developing the Plan came from the National Park Service Management Policies Manual (1978), the park's General Management Plan (1982) and the park's enabling legislation (1978), PL 95-625. Section 1101 of PL 95-625 had the most influence in shaping the objectives of this plan. It states the purpose of the New River Gorge National River to be:

For the purpose of conserving and interpreting outstanding natural scenic, and historic values and objects in and around the New River gorge and preserving as a free flowing stream an important segment of the New River in West Virginia for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations,...

The National park Service requires the development of several different types of plans to address management issues. The New River Gorge National River has three plans already developed; the General Management Plan, the Land Protection Plan and the Resources Management Plan. The General Management Plan, completed in 1982, guides the management and development of the National River for the next 10 to 15 years. It describes, in general terms, how recreational opportunities can be increased and how the most significant cultural, recreational and scenic values of the Gorge can be preserved.

The Land Protection Plan, completed in 1984, identifies the type of protection which will be given to the tracts of land within the Gorge. Protection measures are fee acquisition, easement purchases or the encouragement of communities to zone residential areas for specific land uses.

The Resources Management Plan, updated annually, identifies the major natural and cultural resources issues within the National River and describes the research, management or monitoring actions necessary to solve or mitigate those issues.

This River Management Plan can be considered an appendix to the Resources Management Plan since it addresses how to minimize impacts to the park's resources from recreationists. It also, however, addresses two questions that none of the other plans do. They are 1) What type of river, or land-based recreation experiences should be provided? and; 2) Are they appropriate types of activities for a unit of the National Park System?

II. Past and Present Recreational Use and Current NPS/DNR Management of the New River

A. Past Recreational Use

Archeological data indicate that prehistoric Indian populations used the New River to hunt and fish. These activities increased with the arrival of European settlers in the New River Gorge area. Fishing was especially popular in the late 1800's and early 1900's with many residents of the two dozen or more coal towns located on the railroad line along the New River.

No one knows who the first persons were to navigate the New River by boat. Stories are told of local residents who rafted the whitewater sections of the New River by boat in the 1930's and earlier for recreational purposes. It was not until the late 1960's however, that the first commercial rafting trips were offered.

B. Present Recreational Use and Current NPS/DNR Management of the New River

People come to the New River Gorge to enjoy the scenery, water, forest, history, geology and wildlife. Boating, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, hiking, picnicking, sightseeing, rock climbing and off-road vehicle driving are the major recreational activities. The following is a brief description of those activities, the relative numbers of visitors engaging in them, and a description of the management actions the NPS is taking to avoid problems with visitor safety, conflicts between user groups and resource impacts from park visitors.

1. Sightseeing

Spectacular panoramic views can be gained from various points on the New River Gorge Rim. Natural features dominate the view, with ridges fading into the distance. However, many persons come to the New River to visit the remains of the old mining communities which once thrived along the river. Popular sightseeing areas include Canyon Rim, Grandview State Park and Beauty Mountain for natural areas and Kaymoor and Sewell for historic mining communities.

Sightseeing is the most popular recreational activity in the National River. As an example, over 315,000 people visited the Canyon Rim overlook area in 1986 to view the New River Gorge and the New River Gorge Bridge. Most of those visitors were sightseers. In contrast, 85,000 people were estimated to have boated the National River section of the New River in 1986. The National Park Service operates a visitors center at Canyon Rim and offers guided walks in the area to the public.

2. Boating

The types of watercraft most commonly used on the New River are canoes, kayaks and rafts. Private boating with canoes is most popular between Hinton and Thurmond where easy access and calm water are conducive to pleasure boating and fishing. Kayaking and rafting activities are usually concentrated on the Thurmond to Fayette Station section which contains the river's best whitewater. Ninety to ninety-five percent of the boating on the New River is from commercial outfitters. The majority of the commercial use takes place on the lower section, from Thurmond to Fayette Station. However, several commercial companies rent canoes and inflatable "rubber duckies" for the upper section of the river as well.

Boating access, for private boaters especially, is a problem because there are few public put-in areas. Private boaters needing access must make special arrangements with landowners or trespass.

The commercial whitewater rafting season lasts from April to October, with peak use on weekends. Most trips are one day runs between Thurmond and Fayette Station or Ames. In 1986 the NPS estimated 72631 commercial boaters and 4239 private boaters floating the river between April and October on this section of river.

As river use has grown, conflicts among user groups have become more common and competition for river access has become a serious problem. Questions have developed concerning the quality of the recreational experiences available and the impacts on the natural resources of the river corridor from river users.

West Virginia Code section 20.2-23a directs the Department of Natural Resources to regulate all aspects of commercial river use in designated whitewater zones. This authority encompasses the entire navigable sections of the New River Gorge National River.

The National Park Service entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources in 1982. The MOU states that the NPS and DNR will jointly manage whitewater recreation activities under the State's existing management system. The MOU which will expire in November 1987, states that the recommendation in this River Management Plan will be submitted to the WV Department of Natural Resources.

The NPS has conducted river patrols for the past 3 years during the boating season and has taken part in several emergency evacuations of injured boaters. The agency has put on river rescue training programs in cooperation with commercial rafting companies and private consultants.

The Service has also conducted interpretive training courses, on request, for river guides from commercial companies. That training made available accurate information on the history, geology and natural features of the National River for use by river guides. Studies have been conducted by consultants under contract to the NPS, to determine the social carrying capacity of the New River and to determine the extent of impacts caused to natural resources by river users.

3. Fishing

Fishing use is heaviest on the upper portion of the river between Hinton and Meadow Creek, but there is also significant fishing use on the middle and lower sections. The New River produces some of the best warm water fishing in the state, especially smallmouth bass. A 1980 DNR study of fishing success on the River, between Bluestone Dam and Meadow Creek, showed an angler success rate of catching .45 fish per hour. Over three-quarters of this fishing occurred from shore. In 1969, 43,000 anglers fished the 1/2 mile section of New River below Bluestone Dam, indicating heavy general fishing pressure, especially near Hinton.

Fishing is equally good between Sandstone Falls and Thurmond, though this area receives less attention due to its more difficult access. The sites on this stretch, and on the rest of the river that are accessible by road, experience significant fishing pressure, including the use of boats and trotlines on large, flatwater pools. The DNR 1980 fishing survey estimated 29,000 anglers per year fish the New River Gorge National River.

The NPS relies on the State Department of Natural Resources to set appropriate catch limits and other fishing regulations for the New River. The NPS has funded some fish habitat studies which will be useful for baseline data purposes.

Trout fishing is popular in several tributaries to the New River; the New is too warm to sustain a trout population. Glade Creek (Raleigh County), Dunloup and Wolf Creeks are streams which are stocked with trout by the West Virginia DNR.

4. Hunting and Trapping

Due to the rugged topography of the Gorge and the nearby availability of easier hunting areas, the gorge is not heavily hunted. Hunting estimates range from 500 to 1000 hunters per year. Commonly hunted species include deer, turkey, squirrel, raccoon and grouse. Trapping takes place less frequently than hunting. Presently, trapping is prohibited on federal land within the national river's boundary but is allowed on private land, with the permission of the landowner. As with fishing, the

NPS defers to the WV DNR to regulate hunting activities and to set bag limits.

5. Picnicking

Picnicking takes place primarily at areas of easy access and at more developed areas with picnic tables, such as Sandstone Falls. A 1980 DNR survey estimated that 4000 people picnicked within the park's boundary that year.

6. Hiking

At present there are only two federally-owned hiking trails within the National River. Both are small sections of the Mary Draper Ingles Trail, planned to run the length of the New River from Blacksburg, Virginia to its mouth at Gauley Bridge. One section runs from Wolf Creek, off old route 82 to the abandoned mines at the Kaymoor Mining complex. The NPS assisted the Mary Ingles Trails Club in constructing a small foot bridge across Wolf Creek on that trail. The Mary Ingles Trails Club, a member of the WV Scenic Trails Association (WVSTA), has contributed much time and energy into creating and maintaining the trail.

The second trail which is open is the Thurmond to Minden spur of the Mary Ingles Trail. Originating 1/2 mile up route 25 from Thurmond, the trail follows an old railroad grade, cross five trestles and ends in the town of Minden. A switchback midway on the trail will connect it to the planned Mary Ingles Trail along the river. Through a cooperative venture with the Mary Ingles Trails Club, a local commercial outfitter and the NPS, a parking lot was constructed on the Thurmond side. Gates and signs were installed and boards were fastened on the trestles to improve the hiking trail.

The National Park Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the WVSTA in 1986 to facilitate volunteer work by trails clubs which belong to the WV Scenic Trails Association. As more federal land is acquired, more trails could be developed and opened.

7. Rock Climbing

Climbing activity within the national river boundary is concentrated on the northeast side of the river between Lansing and Beauty Mountain. Rock climbing has become increasingly popular in the Gorge over the past several years. On a weekend day in the summer, it would not be unusual to see from 100 to 200 climbers in that area at one time. Two climbing guidebooks have listed climbing routes in the gorge in the most heavily climbed sections.

The NPS has close contact with local climbing groups but has not yet established adequate communication with climbing groups from out-of-state.

8. Swimming

Swimming can and has taken place in most sections of the river. The most popular swimming areas however, are those that are available by vehicle and have flatwater pools nearby. The most popular swimming areas are at Fayette Station, Stone Cliff, Grandview Sandbar, lower Sandstone Falls and McCreery Beach.

9. Camping

Riverfront camping takes place on private and federal land. Access may be by boat or, in many areas, truck or car. Sandstone Falls has some primitive campsites for car camping. Babcock State Park offers campground use. A 1980 DNR survey estimated 10,000 campers within the New River boundary that year.

10. NPS Visitor Centers

In order to provide information to park visitors, the NPS set up two visitor centers, one at Canyon Rim near the new River Gorge Bridge in Fayetteville and the other in the town of Hinton. Over 315,000 persons visited Canyon Rim in 1986 and 2538 persons went to the Hinton visitor center that year.

Brochures, books and pamphlets are available at those centers for visitors and an orientation slide show is shown on request. Many interpretive programs, both on and off site, are offered throughout the year. Information on the natural and cultural history of the area is compiled by the interpretive staff who operate these centers.

III. Description of the Public Involvement and Planning Process Used to Develop this Plan

A. Introduction to the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Process

During the last two decades scientists have generated a relatively large amount of river recreation-related research. In their recent review of the literature, Lime and Knopf (1980) list over 350 separate studies. In a summary of some of this research, Lewis (1977) found that increased recreational use of rivers has been associated with many concerns including; sanitation and waste disposal, vegetative impact, increase in fire risk, conflicts between various user groups, and safety concerns. Others (e.g., Heberlein, 1977; Shelby & Heberlein, 1984) have been concerned with the experience and satisfaction of river recreationists.

In order to deal with such concerns in an orderly fashion, managers and researchers have adopted the carrying capacity concept. Originally developed by Verhulst in 1838, carrying capacity was popularized by wildlife management scientists in the 1930's (Pfister & Frenkel, 1975). Specifically, these scientists were interested in determining the number of grazing animals which rangeland could support. Adapted for recreation management, the concept has been used to refer to the number of visitors an area can support before irreversible resource damage occurs.

Coffman, in 1937, first suggested that the carrying capacity concept could be applied to recreation management. Following this, many of the "pioneers" in recreation research speculated that the concept had potential applications in recreation resource management (Dana, 1957; LaPage, 1963; Lucas, 1964; Wagar, 1964; Lime, 1970; Stankey, 1973).

A large amount of recreation-related carrying capacity research has been conducted--particularly by USDA Forest Service researchers. In an annotated bibliography gathered ten years ago Stankey and Lime (1973) listed over 200 separate studies. But unfortunately as Frissel and Stankey (1972) note:

Although a reasonable body of empirical literature has developed regarding carrying capacity, the lack of a systematic conceptual framework to guide decision making has been a significant shortcoming.

Recently, there has been considerable attention given to the development of such a systematic framework. A decision-making framework labeled "limits of acceptable change" or LAC has gained the most attention. LAC evolved in response to attempts to determine recreational carrying capacities for wildlands.

Basically, scientists and resource managers have found that human value systems play an important role in carrying capacity determination. The LAC model allows for the inclusion of these values into professional resource management planning through a transactive planning process.

Rather than focusing on use levels per se, LAC focuses on management of conditions (Stankey et al 1985). Working with the public, the managing authority determines what conditions are most appropriate for the area and then implements management actions to meet those conditions. Thus, "the challenge is not one of how to prevent any human-induced change, but rather one of deciding how much change will be allowed to occur, where, and the actions needed to control it" (Stankey et al 1985:1). The key in the LAC process is in working with user groups in order to determine what kinds of conditions are acceptable and then prescribing actions to protect, maintain, or achieve those conditions (Stankey et al 1985: 2).

As adapted for the River Management Plan for New River Gorge National River (RMP), the LAC process consists of nine steps. These steps, with a brief description of their purpose, are outlined below.

**Figure 1. Steps in the Limits of Acceptable Change
Decision-Making Process**

-
1. Form Citizen Task Force:
Purpose--to encourage user groups and the general public to become fully involved in development of the RMP.
--to establish a formal structure for communication between user groups and the National Park Service in development of the RMP.
 2. Inventory Existing Conditions:
Purpose--to become acquainted with area characteristics, use, statutory legislation, administrative structure, organizational policy, and budget.
--to determine recreational opportunities that are unique to the area involved.
--collect and organize information about New River Gorge National River (NRG NR).
 3. Identify Area Issues and Concerns:--Community Meetings.
Purpose--to identify features or values of particular concern to be maintained or achieved.
--to specify locations of concern.

- to actively involve the public in the RMP
- to provide a basis for the establishment of management objectives.

4. Develop Prescriptive Management Objectives:
(Task Force)

Purpose--to define the physical, biological, and social conditions within an area that management seeks to create, restore, or maintain.

--Ongoing review by NPS for adherence of objectives to NPS policy and relevant statutory law.

5. Choose Biophysical and Social Indicators of Change:

Purpose--to identify specific variables that can be used as parameters to measure objectives (indicator standards).

6. Formulate Standards:

Purpose--to specify the limit of acceptable change establishing a measurable reference point for the monitoring of conditions.

--to permit comparison of existing conditions with those defined as acceptable.

7. Monitor Conditions:

Purpose--to provide systematic feedback regarding the performance of this management program.

8. Compare Conditions to Standards:

Purpose--to determine adherence to desired conditions.

9. If standards are exceeded:

Purpose--in situations where desired conditions are surpassed, to implement a management program to achieve the desired conditions.

In review, this nine step decision-making model represents the state of the art method for developing public resource management plans. By working with informed clientele groups, standards that guide management actions are identified. Then through continual monitoring, resource and social conditions are evaluated by comparing them to desired conditions (as defined by the public and professional resource managers). If conditions exceed standards, appropriate managerial responses are developed and implemented.

Each step in the LAC model is discussed in greater detail below.

B. LAC STEP 1: Forming the Citizen Task Force.

The River Management Plan (RMP) was developed through the efforts of a Citizen Task Force which was guided by a Facilitator contracted by the National Park Service. Use of the Facilitator enabled the National Park Service to work as a partner with the public in developing the River Management Plan.

The Task Force drafted prescriptive objectives intended to guide National Park Service management of New River Gorge National River. The role of the Citizen Task Force was to represent groups with an interest in the management of the area. Through the use of community meetings and the Task Force, involved user groups played a major role in the writing of the objectives in the RMP.

Purposes of the Task Force included:

- a) Ensuring that all persons interested in the management of New River were represented.
- b) Serving as information conduits-providing information to the groups they represented on the progress of the RMP and gathering information and comments from those groups for input into the Plan.
- c) Drafting sections of the RMP with the Facilitator using the limits of acceptable change process.
- d) Incorporating the comments and suggestions on the draft RMP into the final Plan.

Selection of the Task Force:

Forty-three interest groups were invited to nominate individuals who represented them on the Task Force. These interest groups were identified by reviewing past involvement with the river, brainstorming sessions by National Park Service personnel, and including suggestions from the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, the Facilitator, and scientists who have been involved with the development of other River Management Plans.

In order to represent the general public, four additional individuals were asked to become task force members: a summer resident at Prince, a reporter from the Fayette Tribune, a representative of the town of Thurmond, and a representative of the general public from Sandstone.

During spring of 1986 efforts were made to encourage groups to select representatives to the Task Force and encourage people to attend the community public input meetings. Those efforts are detailed below:

- 1) On February 7 the LAC process and RMP goals were presented to the State Whitewater Advisory Board Meeting in Charleston. Each member of the Board was given a three page handout outlining the LAC process by the Facilitator. NPS personnel and the Facilitator remained throughout the meeting to gather ideas from the Advisory Board and be available for questions.
- 2) The NPS sponsored a meeting of commercial rafting companies on March 4th. During the meeting the LAC process was detailed by the facilitator and the group selected three representatives for the Task Force. All licensed rafting companies were informed of the purpose of the meeting and asked to attend.
- 3) On February 20th the Facilitator presented a detailed description of the LAC process and RMP goals at the annual meeting of the Society of American Foresters held at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs. Announcements of the presentation were sent to every licensed outfitter in West Virginia, the Department of Natural Resources, regional river managers, and private boating groups.
- 4) The Facilitator traveled to Charleston for a one-hour interview with reporters from the Charleston Gazette (the only state-wide newspaper). An article describing the RMP planning process and encouraging people to attend meetings appeared in the Easter Sunday edition. Announcement also occurred on statewide public radio.
- 5) On March 22 the Facilitator presented the LAC process and RMP goals to the Executive Committee of the West Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club. Letters were sent to the Highlands Conservancy and West Virginia Wildwater Association offering to do similar presentations.
- 6) The National Park Service organized press releases on February 7, April 28, May 19, and June 2 describing the development of the RMP and encouraging people to attend public meetings and contact the NPS office for further information. On May 19 a Beckley television station broadcasted a 30-second interview with NPS personnel and the Facilitator at one of the nominal group meetings. On May 21 NPS personnel and the Facilitator taped a half-hour radio interview to be broadcast on Beckley radio.
- 7) The National Park Service sent out 43 letters to user groups which described the RMP planning process and requested each group to select a representative for the Task Force.
- 8) NPS personnel made use of their personal community contacts to encourage public participation in development of the RMP.

After organizing the Task Force, two meetings were held to inform members of the purposes of the River management Plan, review the LAC process, and summarize results from community meetings (see LAC STEP 3). Each member was provided with a Procedures Manual which detailed this information. In order to allow Task Force members to pursue their interests in the most efficient manner, the Task Force was divided into committees.

Committee charges were derived from a content analysis of topics collected from public input meetings. Public comments spanned the following four areas of concern: 1) Hunting/fishing; 2) Natural resource conservation; 3) Tourism development and 4) Boating. Task Force members were asked to volunteer for the committees they were interested in working on. Committee members worked from the public comments and brought the ideas of the groups they represented to committee meetings. These ideas were shaped into the prescriptive objectives.

C. LAC STEP 2: Inventory Existing Conditions.

Several planning documents which describe existing conditions at New River Gorge National River were made available to the Task Force. Included among these were the General Management Plan, Land Protection Plan, and Resources Management Plan for New River Gorge National River. During the first two meetings of the Task Force, the Facilitator briefed Task Force members on the information in these plans.

More detailed information was made available to the separate committees. Inventories and records of weather, water flows, recreation use, water quality, creel surveys and other phenomena regularly compiled by government agencies were made available as they were needed. Relevant portions from the National Park Service Policies Manual were photocopied and distributed to committee members. The scientific studies that have been conducted in the New River Gorge were reviewed by the Facilitator. A partial list of the studies were summarized for committee members (Table 1). Finally, Task Force Members were encouraged to add new information and impressions during committee meetings.

Table 1. A Partial List of Scientific Studies Made Available to Task Force Members

Study	Year Completed
An Assessment of Biological Resources and Habitats in the New River Gorge NR	1987
Appropriate River Recreation Use Project General Component Ecological Component Managerial Component Socio-economic Component	in progress
Rare Plant Survey of New River Gorge NR	1986
Time of Travel of Particulates Flow Study	1986
New River Flows:Tradeoffs for Multi-Objective River Management	1986
Avian Survey of New River Gorge NR	1984
Evaluating Ozone Air Pollution Injury	1986
Assessing Whitewater Boating Opportunities in West Virginia and the Eastern US	1986
Site Impact Assessment on the New River Gorge NR	in progress
Fecal Coliform Data Collection at New River Gorge NR	in progress
Fish Food Habit Study of The New River	1982
Data Collection on Impacts to Riverine and Riparian Habitat from Flows Controlled at Bluestone Dam	1983
New River Commercial Bait Investigations	1983
West Virginia Breeding Bird Atlas Survey	1984
An Ecological Investigation of the New River and Bluestone Lake	1984
USGS Gaging Station Flow Monitoring for the New River at Thurmond	1981
Evaluation of the Effects of a 305mm Minimum	1984

Length Limit on the Smallmouth Bass
Populations in the New River

The New River Connection to the Black Fly Problem in Southern West Virginia	1982
As Assessment of the Float Trip Carrying Capacity of the New River Gorge NR	1983
Comprehensive Survey of the New River Basin	1976

D. LAC STEP 3: Identify Area Issues and Concerns.

Area issues and concerns were identified by examining public concerns expressed about the New River, reviewing conclusions and recommendations from scientific studies conducted in NRGNR, having Task Force members bring the concerns of their groups to committee meetings, asking NPS personnel to draft anonymous reports concerning their impressions of recreation needs in New River Gorge National River and conducting six public input meetings in communities proximate to New River Gorge National River. Locations, times, and places for community meetings were developed from prior experience the National Park Service had in gathering public input for the GMP and LPP. Community meeting places and times are outlined in Table 2.

The purpose, time and location of meetings were listed in press releases sent out by the National Park Service on April 28, May 19, and June 2. A total of over 5000 letters and press releases were mailed out.

**Table 2. Location, Date and Time for Community Meetings
Conducted to Gather Public Input for the River
Management Plan**

Date	Time	Location
5/12	7:00 pm	Fayetteville High School Auditorium
5/13	7:00 pm	Thurmond Union Church
5/19	7:00 pm	Beckley Court House
5/20	7:00 pm	Quinnimont School

6/2 7:00 pm Hinton Memorial Building

6/3 7:00 pm Sandstone Volunteer Fire Department

Nominal Group Process:

At the meetings, in order to collect the suggestions of all those present and to put public concerns in priority order, the nominal group process was used. The Facilitator and six National Park Service employees were in charge of coordinating activities and recording results. The procedure followed is outlined below.

1. Brief background information was given to the entire group. This encompassed a slide presentation reviewing the reason New River Gorge National River was authorized and the purpose of the RMP.
2. Groups were divided into 6-9 people who were seated at tables with assigned numbers. The Facilitator and NPS personnel functioned as group leaders (recorders) for each group. The group leader introduced him/herself and presented a welcoming statement.
3. Within each of the small groups, the leader reviewed the nominal group task by reading the question everyone was to answer. Group members took 10 minutes to list their concerns with NRGNR.
4. The group leader proceeded around the table, in round robin fashion, and asked each person to state one idea. He/she wrote each idea on a flip chart in full view of the group. This process continued until all ideas had been listed.
5. Each group then discussed the ideas that it had raised. Clarification of individuals' ideas was sought. The purpose of discussion was to surface all ideas and gain a full understanding and appreciation of them. The leader made efforts to balance discussion across all ideas listed on the board.
6. The leader asked each individual in the group to select the five most important concerns from the entire list on the wall and write each idea on a separate 3x5 card.
7. The leader asked each member to review his/her five cards and rank them from 5 (most important) to 1 (least important).

One hundred and three people attended the meetings. The nominal groups listed 337 separate responses for consideration by the Task Force. Content analysis was used to divide the individual responses into 14 categories. The relative strength of each category was determined by totaling the rankings individuals assigned to each item during the nominal group meetings. Results are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Total Scores and Weights form Nominal Group Meetings in the New River Gorge National River Area. April to July 1986.

	Item	Score*	Wgt**
I.	TOURISM/FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT	313	19.6%
	A. Non-NPS Tourism	64	4.0%
	B. Tourism NPS Facilities	249	15.6%
	1. General	44	2.8%
	2. Camping Opportunities	87	5.5%
	3. Trails	118	7.4%
II.	ACCESS ISSUES	235	14.7%
	A. Roaded Access	148	9.3%
	B. Limiting Access	56	3.5%
	C. Access for Handicapped	17	1.0%
	D. ORV Use	14	.9%
III.	NATURAL RESOURCES	211	13.2%
	A. General Resource Protection	77	4.8%
	B. Water Quality	134	8.4%
IV.	SOLID WASTES DISPOSAL/LITTER	159	10.0%
V.	INTERPRETATION/INFORMATION SERVICES	127	8.0%
	A. Cultural Site Restoration	62	3.9%
	B. Interpretation/Information	65	4.0%
VI.	BOATING ISSUES	124	7.8%
VII.	LAW ENFORCEMENT	109	6.8%
	A. Calls for More Law Enforcement	101	6.3%
	B. Substance Abuse	8	.5%
VIII.	EXTRACTIVE RECREATION	104	6.5%
	A. Fishing Opportunities	72	4.5%
	B. Hunting/Wildlife	32	2.0%
IX.	INSECT CONTROL	92	5.8%
X.	USER SAFETY	47	2.9%
XI.	DAM RELEASE	36	2.3%
XII.	USER FEES	18	1.1%
XIII.	INTERAGENCY COORDINATION	14	.9%
XIV.	OTHER	6	.4%

*Score = the sum of all individual's rankings of that item.
** Weights = score of item/total score for all items.

Results from the community meetings were used to guide the Task Force through its decision-making process. Charges for Task Force Committees were developed by grouping the 14 separate nominal group response categories into four topics. The Tourism Committee dealt with ideas concerning tourism, access, and interpretation/information. The Natural Resources Committee dealt with issues concerning natural resources, solid waste disposal, and insect control. The Hunting/Fishing Committee worked with ideas concerning hunting, fishing, insect control, dam releases, and law enforcement. And the Boating Committee concerned itself with issues involving user safety, boating, interagency cooperation, and dam releases. Working from the community meeting results, anonymous ranger reports, and their own impressions and ideas, the Task Force Committees developed draft prescriptive objectives for consideration by the entire Task Force.

E. LAC STEP 4: Develop Prescriptive Management Objectives.

1. Conduct of the Committee Meetings:

The primary emphasis in Task Force Committee meetings was placed upon the development of specific, prescriptive management objectives. Committee meetings began in July and proceeded through November, 1986. Meetings were held at a time and place conducive to attendance by the greatest number of members. Meetings were open to the public and the Facilitator chaired all meetings.

Each Committee member was allocated one vote to represent the position of his/her group. In some cases (e.g., commercial outfitters) the group had more than one vote allotted to it. If a member could not attend a meeting, it was his/her responsibility to find another group representative to relay communications and cast his/her vote.

As a general process, group consensus was sought for each objective. In instances where the committee became stalemated, the group was asked to list any additional information needed. Following that, the objective was tabled until the additional information could be presented. A 2/3 vote of the Committee members present was required to approve all draft prescriptive objectives.

In an ongoing process, while prescriptive objectives were derived, NPS personnel reviewed them for adherence to NPS policy, authorizing legislation and Federal/State regulations. Any

objectives returned to the committee were accompanied by a clear discussion of why they didn't meet the above requirements.

Except for the Boating Committee, the Committees finished their assigned tasks within three meetings by reaching a consensus for all prescriptive objectives. The Boating Committee met on seven occasions but was unable to resolve an issue involving the equitable distribution of different types of "recreation opportunities" between commercial outfitters and private boaters. The Committee left that issue for a final decision by the National Park Service. The remaining objectives the Boating Committee developed were voted on and passed by a two-thirds vote by the Committee. Unresolved issues were clearly identified by the Boating Committee. Both the resolved objectives and unresolved issues were submitted to the full Task Force for consideration by the December 1986 deadline set by the Facilitator.

In December 1986 the Task Force met for a final review of all prescriptive objectives. A list of each committee's proposed objectives had been mailed to all Task Force members two weeks before. After review by the Facilitator, the Task Force accepted all proposed prescriptive objectives and forwarded them to the National Park Service for inclusion in the River Management Plan. Task Force members were thanked for their efforts and asked to review the first draft of the River Management Plan upon its completion.

2. Prescriptive Objectives

The National Park Service reorganized the Task Force's Prescriptive Objectives List and added some additional objectives on issues which were not resolved by the Task Force. The Objectives were organized under four major categories; 1) Park Development; 2) Park Maintenance; 3) Park Operations and Natural Resources Protection; and 4) Appropriate Recreation Use. That reorganized list, which follows, is the basis for this Plan. The original Task Force Prescriptive Objective List, which was submitted to the National Park Service by the Task Force in December 1986, may be found in Appendix A.

PREScriptive OBJECTIVES

Park Development

- 1) To accommodate those visitors who prefer to see the Gorge by vehicle, a scenic roadway should be planned. The road between Stonecliff and Prince, called McKendree Road, should be selected for this purpose.
- 2) The present Department of Highways overlook at Sandstone Falls, Route 20 side, should be improved by 1988 to accommodate those persons who want to see park areas by automobile. Vista clearing will begin in 1988.
- 3) An overlook in the Sandstone Falls area, on river left should be planned and be made handicapped accessible as soon as possible. Construction and development of the site will take place upon completion of an NPS Development Concept Plan.
- 4) Overnight camping at Sandstone Falls should be prohibited to reduce conflicts between campers and other users and to reduce impacts on natural resources in the area. This should be done gradually with no overnight use by 1992. A Development Concept Plan for the area will be prepared.
- 5) Brooks Falls, a scenic area near Sandstone Falls, should be developed as a day use area. A portage path should be installed for boaters. Portable toilets and trash receptacles should also be placed there to accommodate visitors.
- 6) Horse riders should have access to the Gorge. To accommodate this group, a bridle trail should be planned to run the length of the National River, if possible. Agreements with adjacent landowners may be necessary if the horseback trail runs outside the National River boundary. The horse trail should be separated from hiking trails whenever practical. Areas for loading and unloading horses should also be included in the plans. Planning should be completed by 1991 and construction should begin by 1993.
- 7) A park-wide hiking trail plan should be developed for the National River by 1991. The central artery of the hiking system will be the Mary Draper Ingles Trail running the length of the New River Gorge. Parts of that trail are already established. Spur trails should be planned to meet up with the Mary Ingles Trail, where possible. Other trails, including interpretive trails and handicapped trails should be planned for as well. Not all trails need to intersect the Mary Ingles Trail. The trail plan should be developed in close coordination with interested

groups such as the West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, bridle clubs and Horsemen's Associations.

8) The old Fayette Station bridge should be preserved for its historic and recreational values. Creative funding ideas, such as toll bridges should be considered. This should be done in cooperation with the WV Department of Highways. A hiking and bridle trail crossing should be considered for bridge use, in addition to it's function as a viewing platform. Cost estimates and preservation alternatives should be obtained by 1989.

9) A viewing platform in the Fayette Station area should be established as soon as possible. This should be handicapped accessible. The old Fayette Station bridge is a possible site.

10) A riverfront hostel should be established in the National River by 1991 to provide a scenic sleeping quarters for park river users.

11) Stone Cliff should be purchased and developed for public access. Overnight camping should be prohibited to minimize disturbances on natural resources. Fishing and bait gathering for private use should be allowed 24 hours a day however.

12) The National Park Service should encourage private businesses to develop full-service campgrounds outside the park's boundary to serve the visiting public with those needs. This will minimize impacts on park resources while still providing necessary services nearby.

13) Primitive riverfront camping should be allowed in those areas described in the park's General Management Plan. Only primitive riverfront camping should be developed. New, full-facility campgrounds should be placed outside of the National River's boundaries.

14) Thurmond should be the focal point to interpret the railroad history of the Gorge. To accomplish this, the Thurmond Depot should be restored and completed by 1992. The Thurmond Roundhouse also needs to be purchased and restored. Both areas may be used as interpretive centers for visitors and to base ranger search and rescue equipment and fire caches.

15) For the benefit of school groups, youth groups and the public in general, Camp Brookside should be purchased by 1988 and developed into an environmental education facility later.

16) As a means to interpret the cultural history of the park, Kaymoor should be developed as a historic area and be opened to the public by 1992.

17) The NPS should look into the feasibility of establishing an interpretive train tour from Glen Jean to Thurmond to the Garden Ground area. A decision should be made by 1991.

18) For visitor safety and information purposes, a park-wide sign program should be developed and implemented by 1991. This program should include wayside exhibit plans and be tied into the interpretive prospectus.

19) Warning buoys above Sandstone Falls should be installed for the 1987 season to warn boaters.

20) The NPS will work with the WV DOH to install warning signs at the top of Fayette Station and South Fayette Roads (rte. 82). They should be installed to caution visitors about the presence of coal trucks and heavy bus use and of times when use is particularly hazardous. Complete by 1988.

21) To ensure continued access for private boaters as well as commercial trips, Teays Landing, in the northern section of the park should be included in the National River's boundary and purchased by 1990. No overnight camping should be allowed.

22) To improve access for fishermen and boaters, the road to Cunard should be improved when the NPS acquires the property. The put-in site should be improved but riverside parking should not be developed. Overnight camping should be prohibited.

23) Sensitive flood plain areas and wetlands should be vigorously protected to ensure the survival of the plants and animals unique to that habitat. No development or filling should occur there.

24) The steep sides of the New River Gorge and the rim areas within the National River boundary should receive little or no development to prevent disturbance to wildlife populations such as turkey, bear and deer.

Park Maintenance

25) Trash and litter in the park are a major aesthetic problem. A park-wide litter cleanup program should be established and implemented by 1988. This should be a top priority of the NPS. A trash receptacle siting plan should be incorporated into this cleanup program.

26) Park roads should be upgraded and maintained so that they are safe for travel. The NPS needs to work closely with the WV Department of Highways on this. In particular, route 25 to

Thurmond and old route 82 leading down to Fayette and Fayette Station must be well maintained.

27) Collapsed bridge debris at Thurmond rapid and Claremont causes safety hazards to boaters and swimmers. It should be removed by 1989.

28) When planning vistas and overlooks, areas which have trees which produce mast or food for wildlife will not be cut, if at all possible.

Park Operations and Natural Resource Protection

29) The NPS must increase it's current efforts to devise long-range solutions to the litter problems in the park. An active public education program, signing and law enforcement should all be used. State littering laws should be vigorously enforced at illegal dump sites on privately owned land when Special Conservation Officer status is conferred on Park Rangers. Mandatory trash pick-up at commercial areas and residences in Fayette, Raleigh and Summers Counties should be encouraged by the NPS.

30) To reduce the amount of trash coming into the National River from Virginia, the NPS should continue to work closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to remove litter from behind Bluestone Dam before it passes through the Dam. This should be a high priority. This should tie in with the Corps Bluestone Dam modification study.

31) The NPS must work with the WV DNR, the Summers County Commission, the City of Hinton and other appropriate local, state and federal agencies to establish a landfill in Summers County by 1988 so that local residents don't have to travel so far to dump their trash.

32) The By-Pass area (rte. 3, river left), Sandstone road, and the Madam's Creek residential area in Hinton are not presently part of the Hinton Public Service District. The NPS should work with the proper authorities to establish a separate PSD for those sites or to incorporate them into the Hinton PSD. Those areas are responsible for sewage problems on the New River due to inadequate sewage or septic facilities. The coliform levels should continue to be monitored in those areas by the NPS to document the problem.

33) The NPS should conduct studies to determine the impacts of right-of-way herbicide spraying on the park's natural resources.

34) The NPS must continue and increase its efforts to monitor

the timbering, mining and other consumptive activities in and around the National River's boundaries.

35) The NPS and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources should develop appropriate agreements by the end of 1987 to allow joint law enforcement within and around the National River boundaries. NPS Rangers should be appointed as Special Conservation Officers. Public contact patrols by DNR Conservation Officers and NPS Rangers should concentrate on enforcing hunting, fishing and littering laws.

36) Selected park developed or cultural sites and rights-of-way should be maintained as brood range for turkey by mowing on a three-year rotation. This should start in 1990 through cooperative agreements with right-of-way owners.

37) Studies which monitor the effects of the WVDNR black fly control program on the New River Gorge National River ecosystem should be continued.

38) When NPS Rangers receive Special Conservation Officer status they will begin enforcement efforts targeted at unlicensed whitewater "pirates".

39) The NPS should not impose special hunting or fishing regulations which would restrict those activities without consultation with the WV Department of Natural Resources. NPS special regulations will be compiled and submitted to authorize hunting on federal lands within the boundary by 1987. The Superintendent shall retain the authority to designate safety zones within which no hunting or firearms use will be permitted.

40) The public use and camping regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations should be enforced during the 1987 camping season at Sandstone Falls (formerly Sandstone Falls State Park).

41) The NPS should enforce all other rules and regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations on federally-owned lands and waters within the National River boundary. West Virginia State hunting and fishing regulations will continue to be enforced on federal lands as well as non-federal lands within the park's boundary.

42) Dogs should not be allowed to roam freely within the National River's boundary since they pose a threat to wildlife. The existing federal regulations on this issue for federally owned land should be enforced beginning in 1987.

43) The NPS should support privately offered shuttle bus service for private users at Cunard and Fayette Station to ease traffic congestion on those roads. Private boaters, however,

should be able to use their own vehicles to reach those areas. Signs should be erected at selected points to inform visitors of the shuttle bus service.

44) The NPS should continue to work with the Corps of Engineers to select a Bluestone Dam modification plan which will improve water flows for recreation while at the same time ensuring that the river's biota are adequately protected.

45) The NPS should set up an ongoing river safety advisory committee to recommend steps the NPS may take to improve visitor safety. The NPS should provide safety site bulletins and bulletin boards at river access points on federally-owned land or by agreements with private landowners.

46) The NPS should develop video programs on river rescue and river safety to be available for viewing by the public at NPS visitor centers.

47) Working with the CSX Corporation, the NPS should establish an emergency evacuation system in the New River Gorge by 1990.

48) The NPS will work closely with the New River Parkway Authority to ensure that park resources are adequately protected when the New River Parkway is developed. A Development Concept Plan will be developed with the Parkway Authority to determine the appropriate siting and design for the Parkway.

49) The National Park Service will continue to work with commercial outfitting companies to develop training criteria for commercial guides. The training, however, will be conducted by the companies. The National Park Service may continue to provide supplemental training or special river rescue clinics as needs dictate.

50) The NPS should be responsible for facilitating information and dialogue between private and commercial boaters. This may be done through meetings, newsletters or other means.

51) The NPS should provide accurate information on the natural and cultural history of the New River area to the greatest number of persons possible. Persons must also be informed of safety hazards, both on the New River and off. The Task Force recommends that the NPS provide a training program on the above subjects for first-time river guides every June. A follow-up refresher program should be provided each March for return guides.

Appropriate Recreational Use

52) Off-road vehicle use on trails and roads not designated for those purposes is not considered to be appropriate for the New River Gorge National River due to the impacts it has on park visitors, wildlife, water quality and vegetation. The NPS will develop a list of designated roads and trails for ORV use for distribution to the public. These designations will be enforced on federal land in 1988. Four-wheel drive vehicles may be allowed on designated roads.

53) In order to protect wildlife populations in the National River, such as bear and turkey, all non-essential roads on federal property will be closed to all but official vehicle use by 1988. A list of such roads will be developed by 1990. For example, the old railroad trail along Glade Creek (in Raleigh County) will be closed to off-road vehicles. Only hiking will be allowed. Official vehicle use on that road for fish stocking, trail maintenance or fire fighting may be allowed.

54) Trot line fishing is considered a traditional, compatible use in the New River Gorge National River. In 1988 the NPS will submit special regulations to authorize trot line fishing within the National River's boundaries.

55) Rock climbing is considered an appropriate recreational use in the New River Gorge. The NPS should work closely with climbing groups to establish a volunteer search and rescue team and to establish specific guidelines for commercial climbers. Information on climbing in the New River Gorge should be made available at the park's visitor centers by 1988.

56) Suggested etiquette for commercial and private boaters should be distributed by the NPS and DNR to encourage courteous behavior among boaters and to protect the National River's scenic and natural resources.

57) Private boating opportunities on the New River are outstanding. The NPS must ensure that increases in commercial boating activities do not displace the private boaters or impair the recreational experiences that group has available. The NPS should work with private landowners to ensure that access for the private boating community remains available at Sandstone, the I-64 bridge site, Meadow Creek, McCreery, Stone Cliff, Thurmond, Cunard and Fayette Station.

* 58) The use of motors by commercial raft companies to tow customers through flat water pools at flows lower than 16,000 is not considered an appropriate use of the National River by the Task Force. Therefore motors may not be used by commercial raft companies at flows less than 16,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) (at the Hinton gage) from the town of Prince downstream to the NPS boundary. No commercial rafts are to use motors upstream from the town of Prince at any time. Motorized rafts may be used

at any time downstream from Prince for transporting special populations (special populations are defined by the Dept. of Health and Human Services). Motorized rafts may also be used between Prince and Fayette Station at flows greater than 16,000 cfs (at the Hinton gage).

*** A member of the Boating Committee of the RMP Task Force did not agree with this objective. See Appendix C for his letter of dissension.**

59) In order to provide an opportunity when private boaters and fishermen can use the lower section of the river without being crowded by large numbers of commercial users, Cunard should be restricted from use by commercial outfitters on Sundays. The NPS should enforce this when it acquires and develops the property.

60) In order to ease crowding on the river, the NPS should make available to the public the launch times used by commercial rafting companies.

61) The NPS and the WV DNR needs to further resolve and coordinate which agency has authority over which aspects of river management. When resolved these agreements should be made available to the public.

62) In order to determine the appropriate recreational boating opportunities, four different management zones should be created. They should be:

1. Hinton to Sandstone
2. Sandstone to Prince
3. Prince to Thurmond
4. Thurmond to the downstream boundaries of the Park

In designating appropriate recreational boating opportunities for these zones, the Task Force derived the list of potential types of appropriate experiences listed below. Contact is defined as the amount of time other boaters moving on the water are in visual contact.

- A) 0% contact.
- B) Personal, high nature experience. Fewer contacts. 25% maximum contact.
- C) Some stops. A historical/cultural/scenic experience. 50% maximum contact time.
- D) A social experience. Queues acceptable. Like the current peak use days on zone 4. 100% contact time.

The following are the designated appropriate opportunities for river zones in the National River, as defined by the Citizen Task Force.

Zone 1: Hinton to Sandstone

Weekdays - Experience level C.

Weekends - Favor experience C during heavy fishing times (so local people can fish without significant impact from boaters).

Favor experience D during non-fishing times.

Other - When flows are greater than 16,000 cfs, the commercial boating industry which normally uses zone 4 may shift to zones 1, 2, and 3.

Zone 2: Sandstone to Prince

Peak Use Season (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Weekdays - Experience level B.

Weekends - Experience level C.

Outside Peak Use Season:

Weekdays - Experience level A.

Weekends - Experience level A.

Zone 3: Prince to Thurmond

Peak Use Season

In general: Favor use by groups such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and families.

Weekdays - Experience level C.

Weekends - Experience level D.

Zone 4: Thurmond to the downstream boundaries of the Park

Peak Use Season

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Experience level B.

Monday and Friday - Experience level C.

Saturdays and Sundays - Experience level D.

Outside Peak Use Season

Weekdays - If use surpasses a level B experience NPS will review and evaluate regarding future appropriate opportunities.

Weekends - If use surpasses a level C experience NPS will review and evaluate regarding future appropriate opportunities.

IV. The Plan

A. Discussion of how the LAC Process Relates to the New River Gorge National River

As discussed in Chapter III, the LAC Process begins with the development of detailed prescriptive management objectives. The objectives define the physical, biological and social conditions within the natural area that the managing agency seeks to create, restore or maintain. The next step is the selection of measurable biophysical and social indicators of change which, if monitored over time, can signify changes in those natural areas, as defined by the prescriptive objectives. "Standards" are then established for each prescriptive objective. These standards specify the "limits of acceptable change" establishing a measurable reference point to which future conditions can be compared. If these "standards" are met, then monitoring of the resource continues. If they are not met, then management actions will take place.

In the case of New River Gorge National River, the Citizens' Task Force identified over sixty prescriptive objectives. Some of these do not easily fit into the LAC process. Take, for example, the prescriptive objective which states, "a park-wide hiking trail plan should be developed for the National River by 1991." Indicators and standards for development-related objectives such as these are difficult to develop, primarily because the LAC concept is geared to the management, not development of natural areas. Nonetheless, this plan has attempted to use the LAC process for all the prescriptive objectives developed by the Citizens' Task Force.

Where the Task Force's prescriptive objectives were closely related, they were combined. The numbers of the prescriptive objectives correspond to those found in the Final Prescriptive Objectives List in Section III E. Below is a listing, following the LAC format, of the prescriptive objective numbers, their indicators and standards, and the management actions to be taken to meet those standards.

B.

**LAC STEPS 5 TO 9
INDICATORS, STANDARDS AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

A. Prescriptive objective #1 McKendree Road Scenic roadway

Indicators

Plan development, land or easement purchase, site selection, local agreements with WV DOH or county governments.

Standards

-A development concept plan (DCP) will be prepared for the Stone Cliff to Prince section of road.

- Land or scenic easements will be purchased.

- Negotiations and planning meetings will begin between the WV Department of Highways, the NPS and local landowners and county governments by 1989.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will take the necessary steps to meet the above standards. If the standards are not met in the time frames allotted, they will be examined to determine if they are not realistic enough, and re-written.

B. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 2, 3, 4 and 5

Development of the Sandstone Falls and Brooks Falls areas

Indicators

Planning document preparation, construction plans, enforcement actions, monitoring natural resources and visitor use, placement of portable toilets and green boxes.

Standards

-Site specific plans for the Sandstone Falls overlook, rte. 20, will be developed.

- A development concept plan for the Sandstone Falls/Brooks Falls area will be developed.

- Camping at Sandstone Falls will be allowed only in designated areas in 1987 to reduce camping impacts on natural resources.

- No overnight camping will be allowed at Sandstone Falls by 1992.
- Portable toilets and trash receptacles will be placed at Sandstone Falls and Brooks Falls in 1987.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will take action to enforce the above standards . If they are not met, they will be re-evaluated and re-written if necessary.

C. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 6 and 7 Horse trails and hiking trails development

Indicators

Hiking trail plans, bridle trail plans, meetings with landowners, hiking group and bridle groups. Development Concept Plan preparation.

Standards

- A trails system plan will be prepared by the NPS for bridle and hiking trails development.
- Meetings with bridle and hiking groups and landowners by NPS personnel will continue.
- When possible, site-specific trails will be developed by park staff or volunteers, in cooperation with local trails groups.
- Current planning efforts for trails at Stretcher's Neck and Sandstone Falls will continue.

Management Actions

The NPS will work to meet the above standards.

D. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 8 and 9 Fayette Station bridge restoration and use

Indicators

Cost estimates, funding source development, Development Concept Plan.

Standards

-Restoration Plan estimates for the Fayette Station bridge will be developed with cost estimates included. Hiking and bridle trail use should be included in the cost estimate.

- Plans for a handicapped-accessible, viewing platform on the Fayette Station bridge near Fayette Station or in other areas will be prepared.

Management Actions

The NPS will meet the above standards by 1988.

E. Prescriptive Objective # 10 Development of a Riverfront Hostel

Indicators

- Locate hostel site
- Development Concept Plan for hostel
- Prepare concessions contract for hostel

Standards

- The NPS will locate a hostel site and develop a site plan.
- The NPS will award a concessions contract through the competitive process to operate the hostel.

Management Actions

The NPS will meet the above standards.

F. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 11, 12, 13 and 40 Camping in the National River

Indicators

- Amount of crowding complaints by campers
- Number of camping violations at Sandstone Falls
- Development of a full-service campground.
- Impact of camping on resource (cut trees, litter, soil compaction)

Standards

- If purchased by the NPS, Stonecliff will be designated a day-use area and overnight camping there will be phased out.
- No non-primitive campsites will be allowed on federal land within the park.

- The NPS will encourage a full-service campground to be built outside the National River boundary, near Sandstone, by 1994.

-If more than 10 federal regulation violations occur in the Sandstone area during the camping season, the NPS will take action to reduce those occurrences.

-If more than 5 complaints are received from campers and visitors to the Sandstone Falls area, the NPS will take the appropriate action to address those complaints.

Management Actions

If purchased by the NPS, Stone Cliff will be designated a day-use only area.

Only primitive riverfront camping will be allowed on the National River on federal land.

The NPS will work with private businesses to establish a full service campground outside park boundaries.

Title 36 of the US Code of Federal Regulations will be enforced during the 1987 camping season at Sandstone Falls. This will be accomplished through regular ranger patrols in the Sandstone area which will emphasize public contact and explanation of the campground rules. Citations will be issued in accordance with NPS policy.

If more than 10 violations by campers and day visitors occur at Sandstone Falls during the season the NPS will increase its public contact and enforcement actions to reduce the occurrences of violations.

If complaints are received from campers and visitors to the Sandstone Falls area concerning its management, the NPS will increase its public education and enforcement efforts in the area. All visitor complaints will be investigated and resolved, if possible.

G. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 24 and 17 Interpreting the history of the railroad at Thurmond

Indicators

Restoration of Thurmond Depot and Roundhouse, development of feasibility study.

Standards

-The Development Concept Plan for the Thurmond area will be finished by 1992.

- A feasibility study for a train tour from Glen Jean, to Thurmond, to Garden Ground will be finished by 1991.

Management Actions

The NPS will purchase the Thurmond Depot and roundhouse and will attempt to prevent further damage to those structures.

A Development Concept Plan will be completed for the Thurmond area; including, the roundhouse and the Depot.

The NPS will conduct a feasibility study for the interpretive train tour from Thurmond to Glen Jean.

H. Prescriptive Objectives # 15 **Development of Camp Brookside**

Indicators

Purchase of Camp Brookside, Development Concept Plan.

Standards

- Camp Brookside will be purchased by 1992.

- A Development Concept Plan will be prepared for Camp Brookside by 1994.

Management Actions

The NPS will take the necessary steps to acquire Camp Brookside.

When purchased, a DCP will be prepared for the site.

I. Prescriptive Objective #9 **Development of Kaymoor**

Indicators

DCP completion, construction of site.

Standards

- The Development Concept Plan for Kaymoor will be finished by 1989.
- Restoration of the Kaymoor site will begin by 1991.

Management Actions

- The water discharge on the Mary Ingles Trail, near Wolf Creek, will be diverted to stop the soil erosion. 1988 completion date.
- Signs will be posted on the Mary Ingles trail near Kaymoor in 1987 to warn visitors of hazards in that area.
- Barriers, either concrete or gates, will be constructed to prevent entry from the public into hazardous drift mines on the Mary Ingles Trail.
- The DCP for the Kaymoor complex will be completed by 1992.
- A Historic structures report will be completed on Kaymoor by 1987.
- The trees growing on the coke ovens in Kaymoor will be removed by 1987 to halt the destruction of the ovens by the trees roots.

J. Prescriptive Objectives #18, 19 and 20 **Sign Plan for the National River**

Indicators

Development of a sign plan.

Standards

- A park wide sign program will be completed by 1991.
- Warning buoys will be installed at Sandstone Falls in 1987 to warn boaters of dangerous rapids.
- Warning signs at the top of Fayette Station and South Fayette roads should be installed in 1988 to warn visitors about the heavy coal truck and bus use.

Management Actions

The above standards will be met on time.

K. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 21 and 22

Development and Acquisition of Access areas

Indicators

Acquisition dates, site plan development

Standards

- The Teays Landing, Inc. take-out site will be included in the National River's proposed boundary and purchased by 1990.

- The Cunard access site will be purchased by 1989.

- The Cunard site should be improved but riverside parking should not be developed after the site is purchased. Instead, parking should be developed at the top of the access road.

Management Actions

The NPS will strive to meet the above standards.

L. Prescriptive Objectives # 23 and 24 Restricted Development areas

Indicators

Amount of development

Standards

- No development (roads, trails or buildings of any kind) will take place on wetlands within the National River's boundary.

- Sensitive flood plain areas will receive as little development as possible, following the development of the appropriate environmental compliance and planning documents.

- Little development should take place on the steep Gorge walls.

Management Actions

- All development plans involving the steep gorge walls, the flood plains in the New River and wetlands in the park will receive close review to ensure their protection.

M. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 25, 29, 30, and 31 Solid Waste Reduction

Indicators

Number of trash dumps removed, reduction of littering violations, establishment of new landfills, reduction of new indiscriminate dump sites.

Standards

-A park-wide litter program will be established by 1988.

-A trash receptacle program will be implemented park-wide by 1988.

-A public education program on litter reduction will be developed and implemented for adults and school groups by 1988.

-Signs should be effectively placed (through a sign-system plan) to discourage littering and trash dumps by 1988.

-The prohibition against illegal dumping will be vigorously enforced at sites within the park boundaries when NPS rangers receive Special Conservation Officer status.

-The NPS will continue to work with the Corps of Engineers to solve the Bluestone Dam trash pass-through problem by 1988.

-At least 2 trash dumps will be removed from within park boundaries each year.

-The NPS will work with the WV DNR, Summers County Commission, City of Hinton, local groups and other government agencies to establish a landfill in Summers County by 1988.

Management Actions

The NPS will strive to achieve the above standards in the referenced time frames.

N. Prescriptive Objective # 26 Maintain Park Roads

Indicators

-Number of complaints about park roads, amount of dangerous potholes and road conditions.

Standards

-The NPS will meet with the WV Department of Highways twice a year to coordinate road and roadside maintenance. Tasks to be accomplished between the two agencies include roadside litter cleanup, wild flower displays, signing, snow removal, the maintenance of the McKendree Scenic Highway when it becomes established (Stone Cliff to Prince road) and the inclusion of the National River on WV Highway maps.

Management Actions

If complaints are received about the conditions of park roads, the NPS will fully investigate each one and take management actions if necessary. These actions may include encouraging the WV Dept. of Highways to increase their maintenance work in the National River, contracting out to private companies to conduct road work, and increasing the NPS maintenance presence in the park.

The NPS will meet with the WV Department of Highways at least twice a year to discuss issues of concern and to agree on work assignments for the New River Gorge area.

O. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 23, 24, 28, 33, 36, 37, 42 and 53

Wildlife Management and Protection

Indicators

-Amount of disturbance to sensitive wildlife areas, significant reduction of hazardous pesticides used in park, maintenance and creation of turkey brood range areas, where possible, presence of wild or free-roaming dogs on federal land, impacts of ORV's on wildlife.

Standards

-No flood plain areas or wetlands within the National River will be developed.

-Development of the steep Gorge walls will be kept to an absolute minimum. The advantages of any development will be weighed with the impacts it will have on wildlife and fisheries values.

-When planning for vista and scenic overlook clearing, care will be taken to avoid cutting trees which produce mast, or food for wildlife.

-The NPS will determine the effects that existing or potential pesticide use will have on the plants and animals of the New River.

-Three sites will be identified and maintained as turkey brood range through agreements with private right-of-way owners or at managed cultural sites.

-No more than 3 sightings of wild or free-roaming dogs will occur on federal land within the National River's boundary.

-All non-essential trails and dirt roads on federal land will be closed to ORV traffic to prevent disturbance of wildlife populations.

Management Actions

The National Park Service, through its planning process, will avoid development of wetland or flood plain areas.

The NPS will avoid, when at all possible, the development of the steep Gorge walls and rim tops. This will be done through the planning process.

Through the planning process, trees which produce mast or food for wildlife will not be cut unless they pose safety hazards to the general public.

The NPS will sponsor studies to determine the impacts that herbicide spraying on rights-of-ways are having on park flora, fauna and water quality.

If the WV Bti spraying program for black flies continues on the New River, the NPS will continue to sponsor current studies to determine the effects of the pesticide use on fish and other aquatic organisms.

Three rights-of-way and abandoned field sites will be identified to be maintained for turkey brood range. The NPS and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, will work cooperatively on the project. These ranges will be established by 1990 on federally-owned land or through cooperative agreements with private landowners.

If more than three wild dog or free-roaming domestic dog packs are observed on federal land in a six-month period, the NPS will increase its efforts to keep the dogs off federal land. This may include capturing the dogs and/or notifying the owners.

As land is acquired, the NPS will close dirt roads and trails to ORV traffic to prevent disturbance to wildlife populations and water pollution caused by runoff from eroded roads.

P. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 34, 35, 38, 39, 41 and 54.
Law Enforcement and Special Regulations

Indicators

-Development of Cooperative Agreements, enactment of Special Regulations, efforts to stop illegal commercial rafting.

Standards

-The NPS and the WV Department of Natural Resources will urge the state legislature to permit qualified National Park Rangers to be appointed Special Conservation officers by 1988.

-Law enforcement actions will concentrate on enforcing hunting, fishing and littering laws beginning in 1987.

-Special federal regulations to authorize hunting and trot line fishing on federal lands and waters within the boundaries of the National River will be submitted in 1987 by the NPS.

-West Virginia State hunting and fishing regulations will continue to be enforced on federal land within the National River.

-Rules and regulations contained in parts 1-7 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations will continue to be enforced on federally-owned lands and waters within the National Rivers boundaries.

Management Actions

The NPS will support bills introduced in the State legislature to authorize Special Conservation Officer status to National Park Rangers.

NPS Rangers and DNR Conservation Officers will increase enforcement efforts to prohibit unlicensed commercial rafters from using the river in 1987.

The NPS will submit special regulations to allow hunting and trot-line fishing on federally-owned land and waters within the boundaries of the National River.

The NPS will enforce the rules and regulations in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations on federally-owned land within the National River boundaries.

NPS Rangers and DNR Conservation Officers will continue to enforce State hunting and fishing regulations on federal and non-federal land within the National River.

The NPS will increase its efforts to monitor the timbering, mining and other consumptive activities in and around the National River's boundaries.

Q. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 27, 45, 46 and 47.
Safety Concerns

Indicators

-Number of safety hazards removed or mitigated, number and frequency of safety messages to park visitors, amount of safety-related literature developed, development of a two-way radio system.

Standards

-The collapsed bridge debris at Thurmond rapid and Claremont will be removed by 1989.

-By 1987, the NPS should form a River Safety Advisory Committee to recommend steps to improve visitor safety.

-Safety site bulletins should be developed to distribute to the public by 1987.

-Video programs on river rescue and river safety will be developed to show to the public at visitor centers by 1990.

-The hazardous mining structures on the Mary Ingles Trail, between Wolf Creek and Kaymoor, will be closed or gated by 1988.

-Signs will be posted warning visitors of the safety hazards on federally-owned sites containing hazardous mining structures.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will strive to meet the above objectives on time. Additional safety actions may be recommended by the River Safety Advisory Committee.

R. Prescriptive Objective # 32
Hinton PSD's

Indicators

-Meetings between the NPS, the WV DNR and local governments, establishment of a sewage treatment plant for areas outside existing PSD.

Standards

-The NPS will meet with the WV DNR, the Summers County Commission and other interested parties once every six months to determine if the Hinton By-Pass area, the Madam's Creek area and the Sandstone river road residences can be added to the Hinton Public Service District or can have an additional PSD built for them.

Management Actions

The NPS will actively pursue the issue until the Public Service District issue is resolved.

S. Prescriptive Objective # 44 **Bluestone Dam Modification Study**

Indicators

-Selection of modification plan agreeable to all parties.

Standards

-The NPS will continue to meet with the Corps of Engineers until a modification plan consistent with section 1110 of Public Law 95-625 is approved. The Corp's target completion date is September 1988.

Management Actions

The NPS will continue to work with the Corps of Engineers to arrive at a modification plan which protects biological resources and is agreeable to all parties concerns.

T. Prescriptive Objective # 43 **Shuttle bus Service at Cunard and Fayette Station**

Indicators

-Purchase of land at Cunard, development at Cunard, erection of signs.

Standards

-Land at Cunard will be purchased as soon as possible.

-NPS will encourage the establishment of a shuttle service at Fayette Station and Cunard by 1989, if the land purchase is timely.

Management Actions

Land will be purchased at Cunard as soon as possible to allow for road repair.

Private boaters will be allowed to use their personal vehicles to gain access to Fayette Station and Cunard.

Signs will be posted to notify visitors of the availability of a shuttle service at Fayette Station and Canyon Rim by 1989 or whenever feasible.

U. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 49, 50, and 51 Communications and Information Dissemination

Indicators

-Development of training criteria, establishment of River Management Newsletters, development of training courses for guides.

Standards

-The NPS will develop training criteria on the natural and cultural history of the area for use by commercial outfitting companies by 1989.

-The NPS will develop a River Management Newsletter as a means to disseminate information on the management of the New River by 1987.

-The NPS will make available training programs for first-time commercial outfitter guides on the natural and cultural history of the area. (Currently available)

Management Actions

The NPS will strive to meet the above standards in the time frames indicated.

V. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 52 and 58 Inappropriate Recreational Activities

Indicators

-Presence of off-road vehicles, presence of mountain bicycles, presence of commercial use of motors for towing purposes.

Standards

-Mountain bicycles are not considered appropriate on all trails within the national river. The bicycles will be allowed only on designated roads and trails on federally-owned land within the National River.

-Off-road vehicle use on federal land within some areas of the National River's boundary is not considered an appropriate use due to the adverse impacts it has on wildlife, water quality and visitors. ORV's will be allowed only on designated roads and trails on federal land within the National River.

-The use of motors by commercial raft companies to tow customers through flat water pools is not considered an appropriate use of the National River. This activity will be prohibited.

-The use of motorized rafts at flows greater than 16,000 cubic feet per second at the Hinton gage will be permitted downstream of Prince.

-The commercial use of motors to transport special populations may occur at any time and at any flow between Prince and Thurmond on the New River.

Management Actions

The NPS and DNR will enforce the above standards as soon as this plan is approved.

W. Prescriptive Objective # 55

Rock Climbing

Indicators

-Establishment of a volunteer search and rescue team, development of guidelines for climbing, development of climbing information.

Standards

-Rock climbing is considered an appropriate recreational activity in the National River. The NPS will consult with local climbing groups to establish guidelines for commercial and private climbers.

-The National Park Service will work closely with local climbing groups to establish a volunteer search and rescue team for climbing-related accidents.

-Information on climbing in the New River Gorge will be made available by the National Park Service to visitors by 1988.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will meet the above standards.

X. Prescriptive Objective # 56

River Etiquette

Indicators

Dissemination of River etiquette list

Standards

-The NPS will disseminate the following river etiquette list to the boating public, beginning in the 1987 season:

1. Boats moving downstream have the right-of-way.
2. If you are in a congested area, don't play, keep moving downstream.
3. If possible, use off-peak times.
4. Use common sense, be courteous, don't lose your composure and keep a cool head. Remember, there are two sides to every story.
5. Remember that much of the property within the national river boundary is privately owned. Common courtesy on these private lands should include not littering, not blocking access, and not using profanity.
6. Be aware of river conditions. Before leaving on a private trip you should check the water flow, peak-use times and procedures to follow in case of emergencies.
7. Before entering a rapid, one trip (private or commercial) should wait for the previous trip to completely clear the rapid or be sure the passengers are secure.
8. Splash fights should be discouraged when fishermen are present. Trip leaders and boat operators should strongly discourage "bad manners" among their guests. Common types of poor behavior to be discouraged are the use of obscenities, shouting, and "mooning". Urinating and changing clothes within site of the visiting public should also be discouraged.
9. Trot lines should not be disturbed. Illegally placed or maintained lines should be reported to the NPS or DNR.

10. Human waste should not be left within 100 feet of the river or other water sources and should be buried at least 6 inches deep.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will communicate river etiquette to the visiting public, both commercial and private users beginning in 1987.

Y. Prescriptive Objectives #'s 57, 59 and 60. Resolving Conflicts between User Groups

Indicators

-Complaints from user groups about conflicting uses and publicizing launch times of commercial companies.

Standards

-As access points are acquired, the NPS will ensure that private boaters retain the access to these areas that they have enjoyed in the past.

-In order to provide an opportunity when private boaters and fishermen can use the lower section of the river without being crowded by large numbers of commercial users, Cunard will be restricted from use by commercial outfitters on Sundays when this plan becomes final.

-In order to reduce crowding at peak use times, the NPS will publish and make available to the private and commercial boating public, the launch times of the commercial companies. This will begin in 1988.

-If more than 5 unrelated complaints about conflicts between user groups are reported, the NPS will work with the members of the Boating Committee of the Citizens Task Force to develop methods to resolve those conflicts.

Management Actions

When the River Management Plan is final the NPS will carry out the above standards.

Z. Prescriptive Objective # 61 Coordination between the National Park Service and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources

Indicators

-Number of meetings between the two agencies on issues related to the management of the New River, development of a new Memorandum of Understanding, communication of both agencies' responsibilities to the different user groups.

Standards

-The Superintendent, New River Gorge, will meet with the Director, DNR at least once a year to review management issues for the New River.

-A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DNR and the NPS will be drafted in July 1987 and finalized in September 1987. This document will clarify the management roles of the two agencies concerning the New River.

-The final MOU will be distributed to interested parties in September 1987 to make clear the management responsibilities of the two agencies.

Management Actions

The National Park Service will meet the above standards in the time frames indicated, pending the finalization of this River Management Plan.

AA. Prescriptive Objective # 62 **Designation of Management Zones and their Appropriate Recreation Opportunities**

Indicators

Percent of time other boaters are in visual contact (differs for each management zone of the river).

Standards

In order to determine the appropriate recreational boating opportunities, four different management zones should be created. They should be:

1. Hinton to Sandstone
2. Sandstone to Prince
3. Prince to Thurmond
4. Thurmond to the downstream boundaries of the Park

In designating appropriate recreational boating opportunities for these zones, the Task Force derived the list of potential types of appropriate experiences listed

below. Contact is defined as the amount of time other boaters moving on the water are in visual contact.

- A) 0% contact.
- B) Personal, high nature experience. Fewer contacts. 25% maximum contact.
- C) Some stops. A historical/cultural/scenic experience. 50% maximum contact time.
- D) A social experience. Queues acceptable. Like the current peak use days on zone 4. 100% contact time.

The following are the designated appropriate opportunities for river zones in the National River, as defined by the Citizen Task Force.

Zone 1: Hinton to Sandstone

Weekdays - Experience level C.

Weekends - Favor experience C during heavy fishing times (so local people can fish without significant impact from boaters).

Favor experience D during non-fishing times.

Other - When flows are greater than 16,000 cfs, the commercial boating industry which normally uses zone 4 may shift to zones 1, 2, and 3.

Zone 2: Sandstone to Prince

Peak Use Season (Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Weekdays - Experience level B.

Weekends - Experience level C.

Outside Peak Use Season:

Weekdays - Experience level A.

Weekends - Experience level A.

Zone 3: Prince to Thurmond

Peak Use Season

In general: Favor use by groups such as Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and families.

Weekdays - Experience level C.

Weekends - Experience level D.

Zone 4: Thurmond to the downstream boundaries of the Park

Peak Use Season

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - Experience level B.
Monday and Friday - Experience level C.
Saturdays and Sundays - Experience level D.

Outside Peak Use Season

Weekdays - If use surpasses a level B experience NPS will review and evaluate regarding future appropriate opportunities.

Weekends - If use surpasses a level C experience NPS will review and evaluate regarding future appropriate opportunities.

Management Actions

The NPS will conduct periodic patrols to ensure that the opportunity classes are not being exceeded. If it is found that those standards are exceeded, the NPS will consult with the DNR and the Citizen's Task Force to determine the most appropriate, and least obtrusive, way to ensure that those standards are met. Management actions which could be taken will begin with the least restrictive methods first. Only if those methods are not successful will more restrictive methods be employed. For example, if it is found that the standard for Zone 2 (Sandstone to Prince) is being exceeded, then the NPS will contact commercial and private boaters who use that section to see if schedules could be arranged to avoid being on the same part of that section of the river at the same time. If that method is not effective, literature could be made available to users to encourage inter-boater communications to avoid group conflicts. If that method is not effective, more restrictive measures such as mandatory launch windows for commercial and private boaters may become necessary. The goal will be to manage the river in the least obtrusive way possible.

VI. Ranking of Priority Actions

A. Discussion

Many of the prescriptive objectives listed in the Plan involve the management of land which is not presently owned by the National Park Service, but which is scheduled to be acquired through fee acquisition, easement or zoning. Thus, the proposed deadlines for completion of the management actions take into account the time required to appraise land, negotiate with landowners, and purchase land. Past experience has proven that even the most liberal deadlines may not be met if unforeseen problems arise in the land acquisition process.

This Plan is ambitious, considering the present size of the park's staff and budget. Not all the objectives will be able to be worked on at the same time. Therefore, three lists have been developed to set priorities for the prescriptive objectives. They follow and are titled; 1) Management Action Priorities; 2) Land Acquisition Priorities; and 3) Development Concept Plan Priorities. The NPS will use these lists to set funding and work schedule priorities over the next several years.

B. Management Action Priorities

This list is intended to show the priorities for the management actions to be taken by the NPS. Each action is ranked on a scale of 1 to 3 with 1 being the highest priority. Many of these actions can be worked on simultaneously.

Table 4. Management Action Priorities

<u>Title of Action</u>	<u>Rank</u> <u>(1=highest;3=lowest)</u>
A. McKendree Scenic Roadway	3
B. Development of Sandstone and Brooks Falls	1
C. Horse and Hiking Trails Development	2
D. Fayette Station Bridge Restoration and Use	3
E. Development of Riverfront Hostel	3
F. Camping	2
G. Interpreting the Railroad History at Thurmond	2
H. Camp Brookside Development	3
I. Kaymoor Development	1
J. Sign Plan	2
K. Access Area Development and Acquisition	1
L. Restricted Development Areas	1
M. Solid Waste Reduction	1

N.	Maintain Park Roads	1
O.	Wildlife Management and Protection	1
P.	Law Enforcement and Special Regulations	1
Q.	Safety Concerns	1
R.	Hinton Public Service Districts	1
S.	Bluestone Dam Modification Study	1
T.	Shuttle Service at Cunard and Fayette Station	1
U.	Communications and Information Dissemination	2
V.	Inappropriate Recreational Activities	1
W.	Rock Climbing	2
X.	River Etiquette	1
Y.	Resolving Conflicts between User Groups	1
Z.	Coordination between the NPS and WV DNR	1
AA.	Designation of Management Zones and their Appropriate Recreation Opportunities	1

C. Land Acquisition Priorities

This list is not intended to replace the park's Land Protection Plan. This addresses only those lands which are mentioned in the River Management Plan and ranks them in the order they should be acquired. For more information on land protection policies for the National River, refer to the park's Land Protection Plan (1984).

Table 5. Land Acquisition Priorities Related to the River Management Plan

<u>Area</u>	<u>River Mgt. Plan Reference Letter</u>	<u>Rank (1=highest; 3=lowest)</u>
1. Camp Brookside	H	3
2. Glade Creek	V	1
3. Cunard	K	1
4. Stone Cliff	K	2
5. Fayette Station	K	2
6. Teays Landing	K	2
7. Thurmond Roundhouse	G	2
8. Riverfront Hostel	E	3
9. Meadow Creek	K	2
10. McCreery	K	1
11. Canyon Rim	U, K	1

D. Development Concept Plan Priorities

Development Concept Plans (DCPs) are site-specific documents prepared by National Park Service planners. DCPs evaluate sites, which can range from one to several hundred acres in size, to determine the most appropriate development scheme, in keeping with the park's legislation and purpose. Construction estimates for buildings and access roads are also included in DCPs or in follow-up documents. The following list is a ranking of those sites, referenced in the management actions section, where DCPs are recommended. Some of the sites which are presently federally-owned can have DCPs prepared for them immediately. DCP development at the privately-owned sites, however, generally must wait until the land is acquired by the NPS.

Table 6. Development Concept Plan Priorities

<u>DCP Title</u>	<u>River Mgt. Plan Reference Letter</u>	<u>Rank (1=highest; 3=lowest)</u>
1. Scenic Roadway	A	3
2. Sign System Plan	J	2
3. Trail System Plan	C	2
4. Sandstone/Brooks Development	B	1
5. Rt.20 Sandstone Overlook	B	3
6. Stone Cliff	K	2
7. Camp Brookside	H	3
8. Kaymoor	I	1
9. Cunard Access	K	1
10. Canyon Rim Development	U	1
11. Prince/Quinnimont/ McCreery	K	2
12. Thurmond	G	2
13. Meadow Creek	K	2
14. Fayette Station	K	1
15. Teays Landing	K	1

VI. Environmental Assessment

A. Alternative 1. Maintain Present Management Practices

The environmental, economic and socio-cultural impacts resulting from continuing present management practices contained in this plan, and described under Chapter II, were evaluated in the "Environmental Consequences of the Plan" section of the Environmental Assessment which accompanies the General Management Plan (1982) for New River Gorge National River. A Finding of No Significant Impact was issued for that document.

B. Alternative 2. Stop Current Management Practices

This Alternative would reduce current NPS management to a level where the river would be managed on a day-to-day basis without long-term planning or guidance. There would be no additional federal land base and little opportunity for initiating long-term projects to preserve and interpret the unique resources of the area. It would be unlikely that there would be any federal actions regarding areas of special concern or incompatible actions in highly visible areas.

Daily operations would be governed by NPS management policies and conducted at a minimal level with no new facility development. Managers would rely on indirect cooperative methods to achieve management goals, working with state and local agencies, private landowners, commercial outfitters, and owners of private recreation facilities within the boundary.

The environmental, economic and socio-cultural impacts resulting from Alternative 2 were evaluated in the General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (1982) for New River Gorge National River under the section titled, "Alternatives to the Plan-Alternative 1."

C. Alternative 3. Proposed River Management Plan.

Impacts on Natural Resources

Geology and minerals. The plan will have few direct geologic impacts. The proposed facilities are minor in nature, requiring limited grading for parking lots and watercraft access points. Potentially unstable slope toes will be avoided; no facilities are planned for any area with known stability problems.

Soils. Soils will be compacted at trails and facility sites; although compaction damages soil structure, the area involved is so small the overall impact would not be significant.

Effects of grading, site excavation, and other activities relating to facility construction would be short-term and no

exposed or unstable soils would remain after completion of facilities.

Road improvements, trails, picnic areas, and overlooks can increase erosion down slope; however, standard Park Service construction methods use runoff drainage channels, minimize clearing, and use other measures which mitigate erosion hazards. Erosion is expected to increase slightly, especially during construction, but will not be a significant long-term impact.

Water Resources. The plan will benefit water resources. Park Service adherence to all applicable West Virginia water-related statutes will provide an extra measure of cooperation and enforcement in implementation of state water resources programs within the gorge. The water quality monitoring efforts will provide substantial new information useful for prompt enforcement of water quality standards and for design of pollution abatement procedures.

Water quality will improve in the New River Gorge if the National Park Service can successfully work through state and local agencies to help established New River communities gain water supply and sewage treatment facilities.

The information available about New River's water resources will be expanded as a result of NPS research and monitoring initiatives, increasing the opportunity for good management of the area.

Cooperative planning with the Army Corps of Engineers should result in a pattern of water releases that will protect river recreation opportunities, visitor safety, and New River biota. If a cooperative release agreement cannot be reached, fluctuations that detract from visitor safety and enjoyment and from the condition of natural resources could occur.

The agreement to be negotiated with the Corps regarding disposal of debris from the dam's trash racks will result in a less littered river environment and a more pleasant recreational experience.

Wildlife and Fisheries. Animal habitat will be preserved (and perhaps improved) to the extent that land is acquired and that county land use regulation efforts preserve nonfederal land from further incompatible development. On acquired lands not slated for facility use, such as Glade Creek, animal habitat will be conserved indefinitely. Increased visitation and the expected better distribution of visitors throughout the unit may cause some wildlife to avoid high use areas, thus altering their behavior slightly. This impact is not expected to be significant.

The ban on varmint hunting and trapping on federal lands within the boundary will provide greater protection to affected species. Otherwise, the effect of the plan on game and game hunting will be negligible.

The upgrading or construction of small river access sites will increase fishing pressure in areas that were previously hard to reach and, perhaps, decrease fishing pressure at easily reached area such as Sandstone Falls.

Vegetation/Visual Integrity. The plan will require clearing small areas of vegetation for road improvements, picnic areas, contact stations, trails, and boater access points. Almost all of the disturbance except for trail clearing will occur on sparsely vegetated shoreline or involve plants growing on already-disturbed area along existing roads, on abandoned farms, or where timber has been removed for past development. The use of existing trails and adaptation of abandoned strip-mine benches to trail use will minimize the impact of clearing vegetation for trails. The biotic and visual integrity of each site will be restored as much as possible.

Exotic species control may be necessary on land parcels acquired by the Park Service to protect native plants or to restore natural conditions. Native vegetation will become more healthy, so the visitors will see the areas in a more natural state.

Air Quality. The plan will have almost no effect on the area's existing air quality. Traffic may increase slightly on back roads in the gorge, but the increase in pollutant levels will be insignificant. None of the proposed development and maintenance practices will adversely affect air quality.

Floodplains. All Development Concept Plans will be evaluated for impacts associated with floodplains.

Impacts on Cultural Resources.

General. Increased visitation in the designated river corridor may increase littering, vandalism, and overuse and have an adverse impact on cultural resources such as remote abandoned mining communities and their artifacts. However, increased NPS ranger presence, interpretive activity, and appropriate signing can reduce the incidence of vandalism and littering.

The upgrading or construction of river access points and other developments could result in the disturbance or destruction of four known and other previously unknown subsurface archeological resources. Increased ranger presence can reduce this risk, however.

Abandoned Mines and Towns. Natural deterioration of the various abandoned mining community sites will continue except in the case of Kaymoor, which the National Park Service will acquire and stabilize.

Historic Buildings in New River Communities. Among significant examples of railroad architecture, only the depot at Thurmond, which the National Park Service will acquire, will be assured of preservation. Other surviving forms of railroad architecture and commercial and domestic architecture may be preserved through a cooperative approach, but if this approach fails, many could be lost.

Impacts on the Visitor

Cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources on river management and reliance on DNR regulations for commercial river rafting should preserve a high quality experience for river recreationists. As in past years, some few commercial raft clients may be inconvenienced if they are unable to book a trip during a peak weekend period due to the limitation.

The plan's increased attention to access and the safe placement of boat launching and landing sites will result in greater convenience and safety for river recreationists. The facilities will allow more efficient, less time-consuming circulation and should alleviate problems of trespass.

Recreational opportunities for fishermen, boaters, canoeists, and others will be increased throughout the unit by construction of the public access points. The access points together with primitive campgrounds will make it possible to visit nearly all of the unit instead of only the isolated points now accessible by public roads.

Access for hunters will be improved at several points in the gorge. Plan implementation will bring more visitors to the forested areas of the national river, posing a potential conflict with hunting use; however, hunting will occur during late fall and winter, periods of low visitation, reducing the problems. Due to some land acquisition, slightly less land will be available for varmint hunting and trapping. However, curtailment of this activity will increase the opportunity for visitors to observe wildlife or signs of their activity.

The plan will dramatically increase the opportunity for land-based recreation through improved access; more trails, primitive campgrounds, and picnic areas; and the availability of information about park resources. Many visitors who now simply drive through or stop solely for a raft trip may utilize these land-based facilities.

Provision of the new boater access points described in the plan will eliminate congestion and user conflicts and will result in establishment of opportunities within the national river for both public and private take-out facilities.

Curtailment of trapping will not have a significant economic impact on the area.

In some area federal acquisition could include mineral rights. Such acquisition would be negotiated case-by-case and would only be carried out on a willing seller basis. Landowners would be compensated for the value of minerals sold.

With the recreational and sightseeing opportunities that will exist at the national river, the extent of development proposed in the plan will probably induce visitation and total expenditures to grow slightly faster than their present rates.

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VIII. Appendices

Appendix A

Original List of Prescriptive Objectives from Citizen Task Force

Tourism Committee

1. P.O.--NPS should require performance bonds for companies working for profit on NPS lands. (NPS Concessions policy enters into this area. Early on a determination was made by the NPS that commercial outfitters would not fall under the Concessions Act at NRGNR since the state was already regulating the industry.

However, other companies with businesses on federally owned land may come under NPS concessions policy.)

2. P.O.--NPS should meet with Department of Highways twice a year in order to coordinate road/roadside maintenance. First issues to consider include: litter cleanup, wildflower displays, limited/sensitive signing, snow removal, upgrade road from Thurmond to McKindry as a scenic highway, and add NRGNR areas of interest to state highway map.

3. Bridle paths:

P.O. NPS should develop facilities for loading and unloading horses. This requires a wide spot for maneuvering trailers and possibly a ramp and pole barns. This could be coordinated with State Parks. Shanklons Ferry is a good example of a good facility.

P.O. NPS will work with volunteer groups in establishing a plan for a long distance bridle trail from the southernmost section of the park along the New River to the Northernmost Section of the park. Horsemen Associations in Raleigh and Fayette Counties will be contacted. Ongoing.

P.O. A park trails plan should be developed with local hiking and bridle groups. The approved plan should be worked into the parks maintenance and construction budget. The Denver Service Center should be contacted if necessary. 1990.

P.O. NPS should establish lines of communication with Horsemen Associations in Fayette and Raleigh Counties.

4. Foot trails:

P.O. NPS should expedite Memorandum of Understanding agreement needed to complete Mary Ingles Trails.

P.O. NPS should, through its Trail Plan, develop a trail maintenance and construction program for volunteers. 1990.

P.O. NPS should establish trailhead facilities in association with trails that will be constructed and maintained by volunteer groups.

P.O. Make the Old Minden Trail wheel chair accessible.

6. General:

P.O. NPS should stabilize Fayette Station Bridge for a viewing platform which is handicapped accessible. Consider possible use by horseback riders. Request a Department of Highways cost estimate for restoration by 1987. Consider making the road a toll road in order to generate funds for bridge restoration.

P.O. Build a handicapped accessible viewing platform near Fayette Station Rapid and at Sandstone Falls. 1990.

P.O. NPS should develop and open to the public by Spring of 1988 the Sandstone Falls overlook on the Summer County side of the river. Would like to see picnic tables, parking, trash receptacles, and vista clearing.

P.O. NPS should purchase an isolated unique riverfront home for use as a hostel--Concessionaire operated by 1991. Or encourage private sector to run a hostel.

P.O. NPS should develop Stone Cliff into a day-use only area.

7. Camping:

P.O. NPS should develop primitive camping as described in the park's GMP.

P.O. NPS should keep all river user campsites primitive.

P.O. NPS should manage a camping area at Sandstone Falls the next five years--definitely set a limit on camping and consider making it a day use area after five years. 1992.

P.O. NPS should develop a full facility campground via concessionaire. (The GMP calls for all full service campgrounds to be developed outside the park boundaries by private businesses. The NPS still supports this position and does not want full service campgrounds on federal property.

8. Interpretation/Information:

P.O. NPS should purchase Camp Brookside by 1988 and later develop it into an environmental education facility.

P.O. NPS should purchase Thurmond Depot immediately then work on purchasing the roundhouse by 1987. Restoration work should be completed by 1992. Should develop exhibits in the depot and use it as a visitor contact facility. Also offer cultural history interpretation programs at Thurmond.

P.O.--NPS should expedite actions to restore Thurmond Depot. Could seek grant funds to restore property.

P.O. Stabilize Kaymoor site by 1989 and open to the public by 1990.

P.O. Work with a concession to establish an interpretive train tour from Glen Jean to Thurmond to Garden Grounds overlooking the New River by 1991. There are abandoned existing tracts that are quickly deteriorating on this route. (NPS says this may be cost prohibitive and does not fit into the theme of the GMP--it is a river park not a railroad park.)

P.O. Establish wayside exhibits at all access points by 1988. (NPS reports that wayside exhibit planning and development will be addressed in the park's Interpretive Prospectus. 1989.

9. Solid Wastes Disposal:

P.O. Continue litter education.

P.O. Heavy law enforcement at dump sites. (Depends on authorizing NPS commissioned personnel to enforce state laws. 1988.

P.O. Place greenboxes throughout the National River. (NPS says this must be worked out with local governments.)

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

1. NPS should install a green box at Brooks Falls from Memorial Day through Labor Day during the 1987 season. Evaluate use and continue program unless refuge is overwhelmingly residential and household garbage.
2. Install warning buoys above Sandstone Falls prior to the 1987 season. Contract for portable toilet(s) at Brooks Falls during the 1987 season. Design and construct a portage path for boaters and manage Brooks as a day use area.
3. NPS must continue work with U.S. Army Corps to solve the problem of trash pass through. The NPS must take an active role in the solution of this problem and should comment on the Bluestone modification proposals.
4. NPS must increase its efforts to devise long range solutions to the litter problems within the boundary. Efforts should include an active public relations campaign, signing, and law enforcement. 1987.
5. Work with Summers County Commission, the city of Hinton, the Department of Natural Resources and other appropriate local, state, and federal agencies to establish a landfill in Summers County by 1988.
6. The Hinton bypass area is presently not part of the Hinton public service district. The NPS should work with proper authorities to establish the bypass as a separate PSD or to incorporate it into the Hinton PSD. NPS should continue its water quality monitoring to substantiate need. 1987.
7. The NPS should conduct studies and investigate the results of herbicide and pesticide spraying within the National River's boundaries. 1987.
8. NPS must continue and increase its efforts to monitor the timbering, mining, and other consumptive activities in the areas which pose threats to park resources. Those efforts should include aerial census and active ranger patrols. 1987 and continue.
9. NPS should study and evaluate current litter disposal systems within the boundary.

HUNTING/FISHING COMMITTEE

1. The NPS and the WVDNR should enter into agreements so that joint enforcement efforts are possible. 1987.
2. In order to preserve a quality sport fishery on the New River, NPS and DNR should conduct joint enforcement and public contact patrols targeted at hunting, fishing, and litter regulations beginning in the 1987 season.
3. NPS should work with the DNR in developing creative fish management programs including trophy programs, catch and release award, etc.
4. Locate all development such as campgrounds away from flood plains and wetlands. Protect wetlands from fill or development. 1987.
5. Old abandoned fields and right-of-ways should be maintained as brood range for turkey by mowing on a three year rotation. 1990.
6. Trees which produce mast/food will not be cut for vistas or other management goals. The canyon sides and rim will receive little or no development. 1988.
7. All non-essential roads will be closed to all but emergency vehicle use and access to Glade Creek will be limited to official use. 1988.
8. Off-road vehicle (ORV) traffic and use should be eliminated on all trails, abandoned roads, and cross country within the boundaries. 1988.
9. In 1987 the NPS should submit special regulations to authorize hunting within the National River's boundaries.
10. In 1988 the NPS should submit special regulations to authorize trot line fishing within the National River's boundaries.
11. The NPS should not introduce special regulations to further restrict hunting or fishing but should work closely with the DNR on these issues.
12. Continue Black Fly monitoring program and the effects of BTI from downstream drift.

LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

1. In cooperation with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources, appoint park rangers as Special Conservation Officers so that they may enforce applicable state regulations regarding hunting and fishing. 1987.
2. Park rangers and Conservation officers begin enforcement efforts targeted at unlicensed whitewater "pirates" during the 1987 season.
3. NPS will not introduce special hunting or fishing regulations to further restrict these activities but will work closely with the Department of Natural Resources on these matters.
4. NPS will compile and submit special regulations to authorize hunting within the boundary. The Superintendent shall retain the authority to designate safety zones within which no hunting or firearms use will be permitted. These safety zones will be away from the river corridor whenever possible. 1987.
5. NPS will compile and submit a special regulation to authorize the use of trot lines for fishing in accordance with existing DNR regulations.
6. The public use and camping regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations should be enforced during the 1987 camping season at Sandstone Falls.
7. The NPS should enforce all other rules and regulations contained in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations on federally owned lands and waters within the park boundary. State DNR hunting and fishing regulations should be enforced on other lands. 1987.
8. Dogs should not be allowed to roam freely because of the threat they pose to park wildlife. Enforce the existing regulation beginning in 1987.

ROCK CLIMBING

1. Establish a volunteer search and rescue team made up of climbers/boaters under NPS authority.
2. Officially allow/recognize rock climbing as a legitimate recreational use of NRGNR.
3. Establish specific guidelines for commercial climbers-- procedures, equipment, practices, ...
4. Establish at the Visitors Centers information about climbing opportunities and local climbing outfitters.

BOATING COMMITTEE

Suggested Etiquette

1. Boats moving downstream have the right of way.
2. If you are in a congested area, don't play, keep moving downstream.
3. If possible, use off-peak times.
4. Use common sense, be courteous, don't lose your composure--keep a cool head--there are two sides to every story.
5. Remember that much of the property is privately owned and we should show land owners the courtesy of not littering, not blocking access, and not using profanity.
6. Inform river users about river conditions to include water flow, peak-use times, emergency procedures, etc.
7. Before entering a rapid, one trip (private or commercial) wait for previous trip to completely clear rapid or be secure.
8. Splash fights should be discouraged when fishermen are present. Trip leaders and boat operators should strongly discourage "bad manners" among their guests, i.e. obscenity, shouting, mooning, etc.
9. Trot lines should not be disturbed. Illegally placed or maintained lines should be reported to the NPS or DNR.
10. Human waste should not be left within 100' of the river or other water sources and should be buried at least 6".

Prescriptive Objectives

Access

1. Include Teays Landing within new revised boundary proposal and acquire by 1990.
2. Provide optional shuttle for private users at Cunard and Fayette Station but maintain right of private boaters to use own vehicle.

3. Erect warning signs at the top of Fayette Station and South Fayette Roads (Rt 82) warning visitors of coal truck and heavy bus use and periods of time when it is particularly dangerous. 1988 completion date.
4. Upgrade and maintain roads so that they are safe for travel. However, keep them in a condition that inhibits casual use. Work closely with DOH to ensure that old Rt 82 and Rt 25 are properly maintained.
5. Erect signs at selected points to inform visitors of shuttle bus service. 1987.
6. Develop a plan for wayside exhibits as part of the Park's Interpretive Prospectus. 1989.
7. Improve the road to Cunard to meet NPS safety standards by 1988 or when the NPS acquires the property. Improve put in site by 1990. Don't develop riverside parking.
8. Through the planning process ensure that private boating activities are not displaced by increases in commercial boating. Ongoing. Also ensure that private boater access remains at Cunard, Hawk's Nest, McCreery, Stonecliff, Sandstone, Thurmond, Meadow Creek, I64 access, and Fayette Station through the planning process.

Water Releases

1. Encourage the Corps of Engineers to select a modification plan which will improve water flows for recreation, while at the same time ensuring that the river's biota are adequately protected. Water is needed July and August weekends for a minimum of 6 hour windows during the day. Avoid having the same constant flow of water all the time.

Safety

1. Set up an ongoing river education advisory committee to deal with safety education.
2. The NPS should provide safety site bulletins and bulletin boards at launch areas by 1987 season. See the setup at James River City Park and Ohiopyle for video possibilities.
3. Warning buoys should be installed above Sandstone Falls by the beginning of the 1987 season.

4. Collapsed bridge debris at Thurmond rapid and Claremont which causes a severe safety concern should be removed.
5. ~~All accidents in the National River will be reported to the NPS by all river users by 1988--using the same forms as the DNR.~~
6. NPS will develop video programs on river rescue and safety which may be viewed by the public at Park Service Facilities.
7. Establish an emergency evacuation system in the New River Gorge using a high-railer on the railroad tracks--in place by 1990.
8. A two-way radio system will be set up with the C&O Railroad, commercial outfitters, and the NPS to facilitate communication.
9. Broken glass poses a safety concern. The NPS should hire more Rangers in order to provide greater enforcement of litter laws.
10. NPS will develop training criteria for commercial guides. Training will be done by companies. NPS may provide supplemental training such as rescue clinics.

Other

1. NPS should develop a communications structure between private boaters and commercial rafters.
2. In order to promote public education about river, NPS will provide training sessions concerning NRGNR history, geology, archeology, and boating safety to river users. A basic overview program will be done every June for new river guides. A brush up and specialty program will be provided each March for return guides.
3. Motors may not be used by commercial raft companies at flows less than 16,000 from Prince to the NPS boundary. No commercial rafts are to use motors above Prince.

River Experience Zoning

The Boating Committee decided to divide New River Gorge National River into five logical sections:

- 1) From Hinton to Sandstone.
- 2) From Sandstone to Prince.
- 3) From Prince to Thurmond.
- 4) From Thurmond to Cunard.
- 5) From Cunard to NPS boundaries.

In designating appropriate recreational boating opportunities for these sections the Committee derived the list of potential types of appropriate experiences listed below. Contact is defined as the amount of time other boaters moving on the water are in visual contact.

- 0) 0% contact.
- 1) Personal, high nature experience. Fewer contacts. 25% maximum contact.
- 2) Some stops. A historical/cultural/scenic experience. 50% maximum contact time.
- 3) A social experience. Queues acceptable. Like the current peak use days on sections 4-5. 100% contact time.

Committee members were asked to work from the following realities:

- 1) The primary components of recreational opportunities on NPS holdings are to be education and inspiration.
- 2) The NPS has a mandate to provide opportunities for all legitimate using groups.
- 3) In the designation of New River Gorge National River it was agreed that the NPS would not call for significant departures from established uses in 1979.

Finally, committee members listed the general dimensions of experiences they sought:

Commercial Boaters: A social experience. Opportunity for overnight trips. A tendency to let the market take care of itself. Opportunity for tourism expansion.

Private Boaters: The experience on peak days is no longer pleasurable. Want to decrease the level of use on peak days. On peak use days private boaters' flow down the river is impeded by commercial boats. Object when commercial boaters are present to the extent that the commercial presence impedes the flow of private boaters.

Designated Appropriate Opportunities For River Sections

Section 1:

Weekdays-- Experience level #2.

Weekends-- Favor experience #2 during heavy fishing times
(so local people can fish without significant impact from boaters.)

Other-- Favor experience #3 during non fishing times.
When flows are greater than 16,000 Commercial industry using sections 4 & 5 may shift to sections 1,2, &3.

Section 2:

Peak Use Season (Memorial Day--labor day)

Weekdays-- Experience level #1.

Weekends-- Experience level #2.

Outside Peak Use Season:

Weekdays-- Experience level #0.

Weekends-- Experience level #0.

Section 3:

Peak Use Season

In general: Favor use by Boy Scouts, Family's,...

Weekdays-- Experience level #2.

Weekends-- Experience level #3.

Section 4 & 5
Peak Use Season

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday--Experience level #1.
Monday, Friday-- Experience level #2.
Saturdays, Sundays--Experience level #3.

Outside Peak Use Season

Weekdays-- if use surpasses a #1 experience level NPS
will review and evaluate regarding future
appropriate opportunities.

Weekends-- if use surpasses a #2 experience level NPS
will review and evaluate regarding future
appropriate opportunities.

Other Suggestions For Management:

- 1) NPS publish launch times that the commercial rafters use.
- 2) NPS and DNR need to coordinate accident forms and license applications so the industry knows who to send forms into.
- 3) NPS and DNR need to further resolve/coordinate what agency has clear authority over various aspects of river management.

BOATING COMMITTEE

Unresolved Issues:

There is a need to provide private boaters the opportunity to flow through sections 4 & 5 on weekends without having to alter their paddling for commercial trips. The Boating Committee is still discussing how this might be achieved. If the Committee cannot come to some final decision, the NPS will examine all the available information and make a decision which is in the best interest of everyone. The Committee has discussed the following solutions to the situation:

- 1) Set a lower total limit for Sundays.
 - given the history of debate over this, it is unlikely this can be done.
- 2) Let the market take care of itself.
 - Present use levels on Sundays have decreased and appear to be acceptable to private boaters. However, private users feel this does not guarantee the future opportunity they desire.
- 3) Set up launch windows on Sundays when only private users can put in.
 - Private users were willing to let Saturdays go if something could be done to guarantee their experience on Sundays.
 - Commercial representatives felt launch windows might be feasible, however private users objected to any limitations on their use of the river for an 8 hour day.
- 4) NPS organize a buy back of commercial use allocations on the river.
 - In order to provide opportunities for private boaters, NPS enter into the free market system and bid on commercial use allocations when they become available.
 - There was some question as to whether this was legal or feasible. It would require that a definitive capacity be set (and never increased) and the public provide the funds. The NPS agreed to examine this possibility.

- 5) Cunard and Babcock open only to private boaters on weekends.
 - This is easy for NPS to enforce.
 - Current road system can support this.
 - Leaves room for commercial expansion on weekdays.
 - Cunard stays in its current condition.

 - At low water this could cause more congestion.
 - Commercial users feel Cunard is needed weekends to provide a high quality trip.
- 6) No commercial use of Cunard past 11:00. Commercial only use Cunard below 3000cfs.
 - This may be the current situation.
 - Needs two separate put-ins--one for commercial, one for private.
 - Work with outfitters to make launch schedule efficient.
 - Allows for better dispersal of commercial craft.
 - Requires a ranger at the put-in.
 - Requires a better road.
- 7) Below 3000cfs all commercial launch at Cunard, all private launch at Thurmond.
- 8) On Saturday only privates are allowed to launch at Cunard. On Sundays no commercial launchings after 11:00.
- 9) On Saturday no commercial use of Cunard past 11:00. On Sunday only privates use Cunard.
- 10) Maintain sections 4 and 5 at a #2 experience Saturdays and Sundays.

Appendix B

River Management Plan Citizen Task Force Members

River Management Plan Task Force Members

1. Summers County Horseman's Association
Rte. 87, Box 20
Nimitz, WV 25978

Representative: David Harvey
Tel. (304)466-2649
2. Coastal Canoeists
Rte. 1, Box 112
Pilot, Virginia 24138

Representative: Liz Garland
Tel. (703)651-8701 (h) or (703)961-7546 (w)
3. West Virginia Wildwater Association
6702 Valley Brook Drive
Charleston, WV 25312

Representative: Kim L. Casto
Tel. (304)357-1876(w); (304)984-3879(h)
4. West Virginia Scenic Trails Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1167
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Representative: Robert Tabor
Tel. (304)574-0225
5. West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
6440-A Starlite Drive
Sissonville, WV 25320

Representative: Ann Gentry, D.V.M.
Tel. (304)984-0064

Alternate Representative: Paul Brant, P.O. Box 1842,
Princeton, WV 24740; Tel. (304)487-1405
6. Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Association
221 Mercer Street
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: Larry Cavendish
Tel. (304)253-0336

Alternate Representative: Paul Brant, 114 Gott Road,
Princeton, WV 24740; Tel. (304)487-1405
7. Save Our Mountains

523 3rd Ave.
Hinton, WV 25951

Representative: John Clark
Tel. (304)466-2288

8. Appalachain Power Company
P.O. Box 949
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: Mr. O. J. Weldon
Tel. (304)253-7331 ext. 262

9. Sierra Club
112 2nd Avenue
Fayetteville, WV 25804

Representative: Amy Kletter
Tel. (304)574-3161

10. WV Department of Natural Resources
1800 Washington St., East
Charleston, WV 25305

Representative: Bernie Dowler
Tel. (304)348-2771

Representative: Ray Shamblin
Tel. (304)348-2784

11. National Park Service
New River Gorge National River
P.O. Box 1189
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Representative: Bob Whitman
Tel. (304)465-0508

Representative: David Reynolds
Tel. (304)465-0508

12. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1278
Elkins, WV 26241

Representative: Bill Tolin
Tel. (304)636-6586

13. Fayette County Chamber of Commerce
214 Main Street
Oak Hill, WV

Representative: Doug Maddy
Tel: (304)465-5617

14. Fayette County Bass Masters
P.O. Box 2
Glen Jean, WV 25846

Representative: Paul McClung
Tel. (304)877-6207
15. Commercial Outfitter Representative
Wildwater Expeditions Unltd.
P.O. Box 55
Thurmond, WV 25936

Representative: Thomas R. Dragan
Tel. (304)469-2551
16. Commercial Outfitter Representative
Passages to Adventure
P.O. Box 71
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Representative: Benji Simpson
Tel. (304)574-1037
17. Commercial Outfitter Representative
Gauley Expeditions
P.O. Box 264
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Representative: Keith Spangler
Tel. (304)574-3679
18. New River Parkway Authority
Buck Route
P.O. Box 85-B
Hinton, WV 25951

Representative: Bill Brezinski
Tel. (304)466-5165
19. Chessie Systems Railroad
935 Seventh Avenue
Huntington, WV 25701-2313

Representative: J.J. Kern
Tel. (304)522-5000

Representative: J.A. Sims - Hinton contact
Tel.
20. Fayette Tribune
P.O. Box 139
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Representative: Rip Woodin
Tel. (304)469-3373

21. Summer Resident at Prince
Rte. 9, Box 220
Beaver, WV 25813

Representative: T.B. Pugh
Tel. (304)253-8008

22. Resident and Storeowner at Sandstone
P.O. Box 73
Sandstone, WV 25985

Representative: Mr. Jerry Bar
Tel. (304)466-0815

23. Teay's Landing, Inc.
c/o Mountain River Tours, Inc.
P.O. Box 88
Hico, WV 25854

Representative: Paul Brewer
Tel. (304)658-5817

24. Commercial Outfitters (Canoeing only)
Fire Creek Canoe Outfitters
P.O. Box AC
Beckwith, WV 25814

Representative: Roger Wilson
Tel. (304)574-3078

25. WV Department of Highways
1900 Washington Street, E
Charleston, WV 25305

Representative: Ava Zeitz
Tel. (304)348-3236

26. Westvaco
Timberlands Division
P.O. Box 577
Rupert, WV 25984

Representative: Roger Sherman
Tel. (304)392-6373

27. Southern WV Waterfowler's Association
Rte. 2, Pleasant Hill
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: John Tilley
Tel. (304)252-9227

28. Raleigh County Bassmasters
Rte. 1, Box 15
Shady Spring, WV 25918

Representative: P. Wendell Meadow
Tel. (304)763-2884
29. Mary Draper Ingles Chapter of the WV Scenic Trails Association
P.O. Box 813
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Representative: Hilarie Jones
Tel. (304)465-0491
30. Summers County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 309
Park Avenue
Hinton, WV 25951

Representative: Len Hanger
Tel. (304)466-4246
31. Beckley-Raleigh County Chamber of Commerce
c/o Southern West Virginia Health Clinic
302 Stanaford Road
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: Chas Holland
Tel. (304)252-7331
32. WV Dept. of Commerce
1900 Washington St., E
Room B451
Charleston, WV 25305

Representative: Charles Spears
Tel. (304)348-2764 or 348-2769
33. Fayette County Sportsman's Association
Route 1, Box 712
Scarbrough, WV 25917

Representative: Bill Bernath
Telephone: (304)469-2665
34. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Planning Division
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701-2070

Representative: Don Herndon
Tel. (304)529-5634

35. Wild Turkey Federation-New River Chapter
P.O. Box 1817
Beckley, WV 25802-1817

Representative: Greg Foster
Tel. (304)255-7501

36. Representative of Town of Thurmond
Box 1
Thurmond, WV 25936

Representative: William McGuffin
Tel. (304)465-5597

37. Soil Conservation Service
Area Office
483 Ragland Road
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: Butch Woodson
Tel. (304)255-9225

38. Private Rock Climbers
c/o 107 Myers Ave.
Beckley, WV

Representative: Bruce Burgin
Tel. (304)252-4060

39. Commercial Rock Climbers
c/o Westmoreland Coal Sales Co.
Gallagher Coal Research Center
P.O. Box 1227
Crab Orchard, WV 25827

Representative: Mark Stinnet
Tel. (304)255-4181

40. Marsh Fork Fish and Game Association
General Delivery
Arnet, WV 25007

Representative: Jack Honaker
Tel. (304)934-5470

41. Glade-Pinch Trout Association
P.O. Box 380
Beckley, WV 25801

Representative: Danny Sullivan
Tel. (304)255-2864

Representative: Al Cipoletti, 1504 N. Eisenhower Drive,
Beckley, WV 25801; (304)252-4001

42. The Dawn's Sportsmans Club
P.O. Box 158
Hinton, WV 25951

Representative: Maury Bryant
Tel. (304)466-4831

43. Forestry Division
WV Department of Agriculture
General Delivery
MacArthur, WV 25873

Representative: Carl Lucas
Tel. (304) 252-8585

44. West Virginia Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
217 West Maple Ave.
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Representative: David Parrish
Tel. (304)574-0961

45. Keep America Beautiful
Courthouse
Fayetteville, WV 25840

Representative: Mary Lou Schmidt
Tel. (304)574-1200 ext. 34



Wildwater Expeditions Unlimited, Inc.

P. O. BOX 55, THURMOND, WV 2593
Phone (304) 469-2551

Appendix C

April 29, 1987

Letter from Task Force Member on
Motor Use

Superintendent Joe Kennedy
National Park Service
P. O. Box 1189
Oak Hill, WV 25901

Dear Superintendent Kennedy:

As a member of the Boating Committee on the National Park Service Task Force, I would like to provide additional comment concerning the alleged vote on motors as an alternative to providing a better raft trip at flows of less than 3,000 C.F.S.

At a meeting held early in November by the Task Force Boating Committee, after spending several hours discussing the New River and its role in providing enjoyment for all user groups, the PHILOSOPHICAL question, "Do you want motors?" was asked by Jason Houck, the representative of the National Park Service. A vote of eight opposed and one in favor was recorded. I was the member casting the solitary vote. With that vote, I saw a divide and conquer strategy being implemented by the National Park Service. Time has proven me right.

Taken out of context, as it has been done so many times since that November meeting, it would appear that the discussion was over, however, when I posed the question that development of the Cunard property as an alternative would either be unacceptable or unavailable, THE VOTE WAS THEN SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED with the majority being in favor of "towing thru the flat water pools."

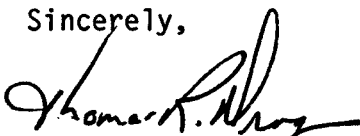
I asked how many people like to see or hear the trains travel thru the canyon, nobody at the table did. But they still do day and night, I know I live by the river. I asked how many people wanted to see the National Park Service provide for low flow augmentation as instructed by Congress in the original legislation designating the New River as a National River? They all did. BUT IT HASN'T BEEN DONE YET!

I recognize that we must deal with reality. In order to do so we must have all the facts. The fact is the Task Force Boating Committee DID NOT VOTE overwhelmingly against "towing thru the flat water pools."

Being a member of the National Park Service Task Force Boating Committee, attending every meeting, providing input, taking part in hour after hour of discussion, giving of my time, and then seeing how the information from those meetings is being used makes me question the validity of the Task Force and their findings.

Thank you for taking the time to consider this additional information concerning the misinterpretation of the "Do you want motors?" vote.

Sincerely,


Thomas R. Dragan